

## *Our Father*

Lord, we all suffer varying degrees of blindness. We are blind to love, to justice, to grace, and to life. Help us not to condemn one another in our blindness, but rather to work together to help one another see more clearly by your light. Amen.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.

## **January 23**

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you  
as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Come, let us sing to the LORD : let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

*Song* "All Creatures of Our God and King"

May our feet skip with the mountains : as we sing and dance your praise.

### *Psalm 114*

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt : the house of Jacob from a  
people of strange speech,

Judah became God's sanctuary : and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled : Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams : and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? : O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? : you little hills like young  
sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord : at the presence of the God of  
Jacob,

who turned the hard rock into a pool of water : and flint stone into a flowing  
spring.

May our feet skip with the mountains : as we sing and dance your praise.

Genesis 16:1–14    Ephesians 2:11–22

May our feet skip with the mountains : as we sing and dance your praise.

William Law, an eighteenth-century English cleric, wrote, "All that is sweet, delightful, and amiable in this world, in the serenity of the air, the fineness of seasons, the joy of light, the melody of sounds, the beauty of colors, the fragranciness of smells, the splendor of precious stones, is nothing else but Heaven breaking through the veil of this world."

### *Prayers for Others*

#### *Our Father*

Lord, it is fitting to rejoice in your beauty and to gaze upon your handiwork. While others may call this a waste of time, we recognize that unless we sit in adoration of you, we will forget whom we serve and for what purpose. Remind us why worship is always our first response to you. Amen.

**May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you;  
may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm;  
may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you;  
may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors.**



## **January 24**

On January 24, 1848, James Marshall discovered gold in the American River, setting off the California Gold Rush. Prior to the discovery of this precious metal, one hundred and fifty thousand Native Americans lived in California. White settlers in search of gold brought with them genocide through both disease and violence. In 1851, the government of California endorsed the extermination of Native people. Offering five dollars per head in some places, they invested a total of a million dollars in the systematic murder of men, women, and children. By 1870, only an estimated thirty-one thousand California Natives had survived.

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you  
**as the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee : let us kneel before the LORD our  
Maker.

*Song* "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

**Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening : give us life according to your word.**