

November 6, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

AWESOME BEAUTY OF GOD

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

*Oh, the depths of riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgements and how unsearchable his ways!*

ROMANS 11:33

Reflection

During this week I will be using the word AUTUMN as an acronym to reflect on each day's readings. For today, the word is AWE. For the rest of this week, the following words will be used.

AUTUMN

A: Awe

U: Understanding

T: Trust

U: Underneath

M: Mighty

N: Nature

Awe. A three-letter word packed with mystery, astonishment, joy, and so many other emotions. When I listen with my heart, my whole being draws quiet to capture the hidden awesomeness of God! When I read the sentence, “Oh, the depths of riches and wisdom and knowledge of God,” it flows from the word “awe.” Our God is an awesome God, one who continually surprises us with new insights into his presence within and around us.

Reflecting on “the depths of riches” immediately stops me in my tracks. What are the depths of riches in my own life? Using stream of consciousness thinking, these words occur to me: faith, personal relationship with God, prayer, spirituality, family, community, friends, health, gifts and skills, education, opportunities to co-create with others – every day. This list seems endless. Why don’t you pause and try naming some of the riches in your own life.

Then moving on to the next few words, “...of wisdom and knowledge of God,” I’m again awed by the wisdom and knowledge God gifts each of us within our very diverse and varied lives. We have the opportunity for insight, wisdom, and knowledge each time we break open the Word of God. We have similar opportunities when we share our faith with others in the ordinary unfolding of our lives. This, in itself, fills me with awe because God’s invitation for a personal relationship with each of us is there – how readily do we accept it?

Each time we read, reflect, and pray with the scriptures, we have the opportunity to be awed. Do we approach scripture this way? Do we prepare our minds and hearts to receive what God will gift us whenever we spend time pondering the mysteries within scripture?

Awe

Life, O life that can dim without our realizing it, let our hearts and minds remain open to the “awe” moments that are too many to absorb.

Being, O being so preoccupied with matters of little importance; release what is no longer needed and unnecessarily burdens my heart.

Hope, O hope in the awesomeness of the Beloved. Allow the child-like curiosity and openness of expecting the unexpected to resound within me.

Lift high the banner of awe, celebrating the gift of simply being on this planet. Unfurl all that impedes my ability to embrace the mysteries of life.



Vermont
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- What does the word “awe” inspire in you?
 - How might you approach scripture with the mindset of being awed?
 - As your day unfolds, expect to be awed by the mystery of God unfolding in your life.
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For Prayer

*Oh God whose power to awe us is unbounded,
may we open ourselves to the insights you reveal to us this day.*

*May we be instruments of your presence
as we encounter others as we go about our day.*

*We pray for the grace to open ourselves
to the unexpected moments of awe that await us!*

Amen.

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