

Journeying through Easter





## A BLESSING OF GRATITUDE

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

## **Today's Responsorial Psalm**

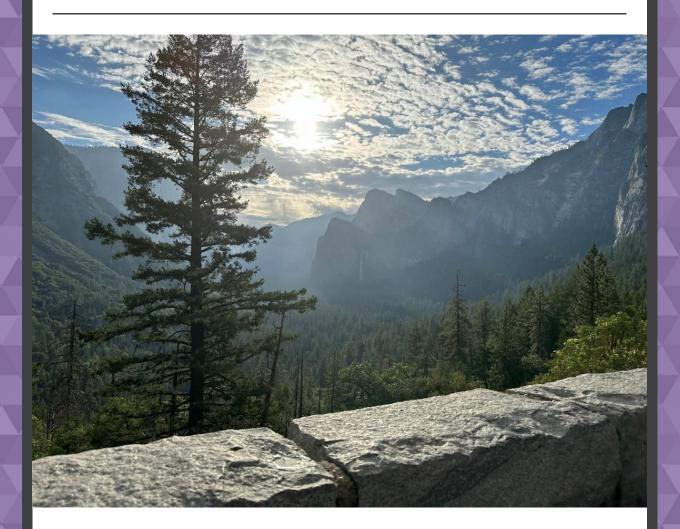
R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Bless our God, you peoples,
loudly sound his praise;
He has given life to our souls,
and has not let our feet slip.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare
what he has done for me.

When I appealed to him in words,
praise was on the tip of my tongue.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. Blessed be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness! PSALM 66:8-9, 16-17, 20



Yosemite, CA Photo by Sonya Longbotham

## Reflection

The beginning of this psalm invites the whole world to recognize Israel's God as the Holy One who has given life and safety to all. The combined verses of Psalm 66 offer both a hymn of praise and an individual thanksgiving. The psalm is ultimately a prayer of the community acknowledging God's activity. Perhaps the strongest verse is the final one: *Blessed Be God who refused me not my prayer or his kindness!* It proclaims a blessing of gratitude for God who has not refused the people's requests nor denied them Divine kindness. Are they perhaps one and the same experience? What do you think?

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