

## For this world A prayer

Walter Rauschenbusch

**O** God, we thank thee for this universe, our great home;  
for its vastness and its riches,  
and for the manifoldness of the life which teems upon it  
and of which we are part.

We praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds,  
for the driving clouds and the constellations on high.

We praise thee for the salt sea and the running water,  
for the everlasting hills, for the trees,  
and for the grass under our feet.

We thank thee for our senses  
by which we can see the splendor of the morning,  
and hear the jubilant songs of love,  
and smell the breath of the springtime.

Grant us, we pray thee,  
a heart wide open to all this joy and beauty,  
and save our souls from being so steeped in care  
or so darkened by passion  
that we pass heedless and unseeing  
when even the thornbush by the wayside  
is aflame with the glory of God.

Amen.

Excerpted from "For this world," in Walter Rauschenbusch, *Prayers for the Social Awakening* (Boston: The Pilgrim Press, 1910), 47.