

ISAIAH 45:6C-8, 18, 21C-25

*I am the LORD, there is no other;
I form the light, and create the darkness,
I make well-being and create woe;
I, the LORD, do all these things.*

*Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from
above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it
down.*

*Let the earth open and salvation bud forth;
let justice also spring up!*

*I, the LORD, have created this.
For thus says the LORD,
The creator of the heavens, who is God,
The designer and maker of the earth who
established it,
Not creating it to be a waste,
but designing it be lived in:
I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

*Who announced this from the beginning
and foretold it from of old? Was it not I, the
LORD, besides whom there is no other God?*

*There is no just and saving God but me.
Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the
earth, for I am God; there is no other!*

*By myself I swear,
uttering my just decree
and my unalterable word:
To me every knee shall bend; by me every
tongue shall swear, Saying, "Only in the LORD
are just deeds and power.
Before him in shame shall come
all who vent their anger against him.
In the LORD shall be the vindication and the
glory of all the descendants of Israel."*

PSALM 85:9AB AND 10, 11-12, 13-14

*R. (Isaiah 45:8) Let the clouds rain down the
Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.*

*I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his
people.*

*Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear
him,
glory dwelling in our land.*

*R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and
the earth bring forth a Savior.*

*Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.*

*Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.*

*R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and
the earth bring forth a Savior.*

*The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.*

*Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.*

*R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and
the earth bring forth a Savior.*

LUKE 7:18B-23

*At that time, John summoned two of his
disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask,
"Are you the one who is to come, or should we
look for another?"*

*When the men came to the Lord, they said,
"John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask,
'Are you the one who is to come, or should we
look for another?'"*

*At that time Jesus cured many of their diseases,
sufferings, and evil spirits; he also granted sight
to many who were blind.*

*And Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you have seen and
heard: the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf
hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the
good news proclaimed to them.*

*And blessed is the one who takes no offense at
me.*

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What is above?
What is below?
Where is it real?
Where to find love?

pjh

I was tossed from high to low as I prayed with our Scripture Readings for today. I won't fault myself for not understanding, but I still try.

The tossing reminds me of a thunderstorm, in particular, lightning. Now this is something we are familiar with.

We see it; we hear it, we feel it; we avoid it.



The typical cloud-to-ground lightning flash culminates in the formation of an electrically conducting plasma channel through the air in excess of 5 km (3.1 mi) tall, from within the cloud to the ground's surface. The actual discharge is the final stage of a very complex process. This is a naturally occurring electrostatic discharge during which two electrically charged regions (the atmosphere and ground) temporarily equalize themselves, causing the instantaneous release of as much as one gigajoule of energy.ⁱ

Aren't you glad that I started focusing on something as simple as physics and chemistry?

What I understand is that a negative charge builds up in the cloud with a positive charge building up in the ground which joins and equalizes with a BIG BANG. That, my friends, is a reality from above AND from below.

Stretched that far, can I understand life with God above and us below? God reaches down and we stretch to reach up. That's when we get the BIG BANG, the divine expression of union and love.

Let us pray again with our Readings.

*Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above,
like gentle rain let the skies drop it down.*

*Let the earth open and salvation bud forth;
let justice also spring up! (Isaiah)*

R. *Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.* (Isaiah)
*Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.* (Psalm)

R. *Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.*
*The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.* (Psalm)

R. *Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.*

Justice and peace shall kiss.

Jesus shows us what it is like when God comes to us as one of us.

*the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.* (Luke)

This forms the heart of what we preach as the Works of Corporal Mercy:

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give water to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To shelter the homeless.
5. To visit the sick.
6. To visit the imprisoned, or ransom the captive.
7. To bury the dead.ⁱⁱ

That is the Big Bang, the love that moves the universe. Can you imagine the *electrostatic discharge*? It is nothing less than, *By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.*ⁱⁱⁱ

Justice and peace shall kiss.

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ⁱ Uman, Martin A. (1986). *All About Lightning*. Dover Publications, Inc. pp. 103–110.

ⁱⁱ Catechism of the Catholic Church #2447

ⁱⁱⁱ *The Liturgy of the Eucharist, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Roman Missal 3rd Revision, USCCB*