

# Sermon Starter – Praise: You Visit the Earth and Water It

*Psalm 65*

Praise is “our duty and delight,” in the words of the Westminster Catechism. In this psalm, praise is offered for God’s awesome deeds in the past—creation and deliverance (vv. 5-6); for God’s daily gifts of abundance that nourish the earth and bring forth food (vv. 9-13); and for forgiveness of sin (v. 3). What are the gifts of praise? What difference does it make whether we remember our Creator and live with gratitude? Invite the congregation to experience the refreshment of life and vision that is the fruit of praise. (For more on the formative nature of praise, see *Israel’s Praise; Doxology Against Idolatry and Ideology*, by Walter Brueggemann [Fortress Press, 1988]).

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