

L'ma-kei mitz-ra-yim biv'kho-rei-hem, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
Va-yo-tzei yis-ra-el mi-to-kham, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
B'yad kha-za-ka u'viz-ro-a n'tu-ya, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
L'go-zeir yam suf lig-za-rim, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
V'he'e-vir yis-ra-el b'to-kho, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
V'ni-eir par-o v'khei-lo v'yam suf, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
L'mo-likh a-mo ba-mid-bar, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
L'ma-kei m'la-khim g'do-lim, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
Va-ya-ha-roq m'la-khim a-di-rim, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
L'si-khon me-lekh ha-e-mo-ri, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
U-l'og me-lekh ha-ba-shan, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
V'na-tan artz-am l'nakh-a-la, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
Nakh-a-la l'yis-ra-el av-do, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
She-b'shif-lei-nu za-khar la-nu, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
Va-yif-r'kei-nu mitz-a-rei-nu, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
No-tein le-khem l'khol ba-sar, ki l'o-lam khas-do.
Ho-du l'eil ha-sha-ma-yim, ki l'o-lam khas-do.

Thank God for God is good. God's kindness endures forever.
Thank the God of gods. God's kindness endures forever.
Thank the Master of masters. God's kindness endures forever.
God alone performs great wonders. God's kindness endures forever.
God makes the heavens with understanding. God's kindness endures forever.
God spreads the earth over the waters. God's kindness endures forever.
God made the great lights. God's kindness endures forever.
The sun to rule by day. God's kindness endures forever.
The moon and the stars to rule by night. God's kindness endures forever.
God struck down Egypt through their firstborn. God's kindness endures forever.
And God brought Israel out from their midst. God's kindness endures forever.
With a strong hand and an outstretched arm. God's kindness endures forever.
God divided the Sea of Reeds into parts. God's kindness endures forever.
God passed Israel through it. God's kindness endures forever.
God threw Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds. God's kindness endures forever.
God led God's people through the wilderness. God's kindness endures forever.
God struck down great kings. God's kindness endures forever.
God destroyed mighty rulers. God's kindness endures forever.
Sikhon, king of the Amorite. God's kindness endures forever.
And Og, king of Bashan. God's kindness endures forever.
And God gave their land as a heritage. God's kindness endures forever.
A heritage for Israel, God's servant. God's kindness endures forever.
In our lowliness God remembered us. God's kindness endures forever.
And God freed us from our tormentors. God's kindness endures forever.
God gives food to all flesh. God's kindness endures forever.
Thank the Almighty of the heavens. God's kindness endures forever.

D'rash

Thank God for God is good—*We have the Creator to thank for implanting goodness in the world, even while we must hold ourselves accountable to choose it over evil.* **God's kindness endures forever**—*Adonai unflaggingly*

refreshes our spirit, so that within us there is an irrepressible urge to do good, if only we will allow ourselves to respond to it. **Thank the God of gods**—We shall never be satisfied except by God's gifts, and all else that we worship, material or intangible, shall fail to fulfill us. **God alone performs great wonders**—It is Adonai alone Who directs us to reach within ourselves to find miraculous powers we don't believe we possess. **God makes the heavens with understanding**—What appears to us as unfathomable mystery, the shape and size and systemization of the universe, is but the recreation of the Creator. **God spreads the earth over the waters**—Had the Creator not created the dry lands and all that thrives upon them, we would have had no place or patrimony to sustain us. **God made the great lights. . . . The sun to rule by day. . . . The moon and the stars to rule by night**—They illuminate our landscape, shape our seas, and guide us on our way—and without them we would truly be lost. **God struck down Egypt through their firstborn. . . . And God brought Israel out from their midst. . . . With a strong hand and an outstretched arm. . . . God divided the Sea of Reeds into parts. . . . God passed Israel through it. . . . God threw Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Reeds**—God transformed the ancient world from its rigid patterns of social, political, and economic life; the Exodus allowed for the possibility of liberation and personal as well as national development *l'shei m shamayim* (for the sake of heaven, i.e., in the service of God). **God led His people through the wilderness. . . . God struck down great kings. . . . God destroyed mighty rulers. . . . Sikhon, king of the Amorite. . . . And Og, king of Bashan**—The improbability of the survival of Am Yisrael (the Jewish people), in the face of impossible odds, dates from our earliest beginnings and continues throughout our history, confirming for all but the most incredulous that human forces alone fail to adequately explain our miraculous story. **And God gave their land as a heritage. . . . A heritage for Israel**—Even when not in our possession, we passed it down from generation to generation; although incapable of possessing it, we refused to let go of it; and to claim it as our birthright remains our implacable tradition. **In our lowliness God remembered us. . . . And God freed us from our tormentors**—Repeatedly, when by all reason our peoplehood should have ended, we outlasted our enemies, rising again and again. **God gives food to all flesh. . . . Thank the Almighty of the heavens**—Our food, whether for the body or the spirit, bread or Torah, has but a single Source; what sustains us comes not from the supermarket or the television. We have God and Torah to thank for the gift of life, both the seeds from which life springs and our notions of righteousness, truth, and justice, freedom, peace, and kindness that make life worth living.

Iyun Tefilla

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF THE LEAF-CUTTER ANT?

If I forget
The Hand
That feeds me,
Let me remember
That my own hand
Could not even imagine
The smallest
Of Your creations.
Let me remember
That last night
While I lay sleeping,
The ant,
Deep in his jungle,
Climbed up
Into the tree
Above his home
And carried down
A harvest of leaves
Far larger
Than himself
On his back,

Into a tiny room
In the ground
Under the tree.
Last night
While I lay sleeping,
The smallest farmer
Was sustained in
Farming fungus
In the dark
By the same One
Who let me sleep.
Let me remember
The Hand that sustains
My own
With kindness.
With kindness,
Let my own hand
Remember to sustain.

* Psalm 136.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.

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