

When ye glorify the Lord, exalt Him as much as ye can;
for even yet will He far exceed: and when ye exalt Him,
put forth all your strength, and be not weary;
for ye can never go far enough.

Who hath seen Him, that he might tell us?
and who can magnify Him as He is?
There are yet hid greater things than these be,
for we have seen but a few of His works.

Ecclesiasticus, 43:30-32

THE WHOLE UNIVERSE
cannot give us a right idea
of the greatness of God.

Saint Basil the Great, Hexaemeron VI:11
NPNF, Second Series, Vol. VIII, p. 89

CONCERNING PRAISE. The soul involuntarily longs to give praise when we gaze upon the starry sky; but still more when, in looking upon the sky and the stars, we represent to ourselves God's providence towards men, how infinitely He loves men, cares for their eternal blessedness, not having even spared His only-begotten Son for our salvation and our repose in the Heavenly Kingdom! It is impossible not to praise God when you remember that you were created from nothing, that you were foreordained from the foundation of the world for eternal blessedness, quite without cause, not in accordance with your merits – when you remember what grace God has bestowed upon you for your salvation during all your life-time, what an innumerable multitude of sins are forgiven you, and this not once or twice but an incalculable number of times, what a multitude of natural gifts are bestowed upon you, beginning with health down to the current of air, down to the drop of water. We are involuntarily incited to praise when we see with wonder the infinite variety of things created on the earth, in the animal kingdom, in the vegetable kingdom, and in the mineral kingdom. What wise order in all, both in great and small! We involuntarily praise and exclaim, "How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: Glory to Thee, Lord, Who hast created all!"

St John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ*, pp. 96–97

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

JULY 22–28, 2013

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY Brookline, MA www.htmp.org