

## God's Awesome Creation: Life renewing

The crow that says "hello" (honest!) called from the tree by the house, so I answered back. A song sparrow sang its heart out at the entrance to the Landing and I smiled. The bald eagle soared lazily over the marsh and to my great joy a heron, legs streaming out behind, appeared from over the hill. A black bird had me wondering if it was red winged or not until its call gave it away.

I surprised a muskrat preening itself - if that is what muskrats do. When I stopped, it did also, tensing up then silently slipping into the stream. Minnows ruffled the waters as they darted about with great exuberance and speed.

Blossoms were fresh on the chokecherry and Saskatoon berry bushes. Dandelions lined the path and soft purple flowers peeked out now and again from under green cover. Each tree seemed to be pushing out little bouquets of flowers from newly quickened limbs, making room for leaves to unfurl.

The warmth of the sun was pure delight.

After winter, the sounds and sights of life that had left and were now back, created great excitement in my heart. It was like having a chance to welcome old friends that I had not seen for a while. It was a celebration walk!

Now, can you guess what image came to mind as I was enjoying this celebration walk? The promise of the messianic banquet that is found in Isaiah, the one we often read at funerals! *On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, or rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. (25: 6,7)*

The Landing is not a mountain and what I was feasting on was not food and yet it fit. I was getting a small taste of what it means to experience life after death. The song my heart sang on the trip home was, "Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Oh taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord".

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