

אל אדון

This is an ancient tefillah describing the wonders of creation—much of it in mystical terms with references to the Merkava/Chariot prophecy of Yechezkiel (all of which is beyond the scope of this siddur and my understanding). The weekday version (אל ברוך גדול העה) is a 22-word sentence that follows the aleph-beis to impress on us that Hashem's providence is evident in all (aleph to tav) aspects of creation and all areas of our lives. This expanded Shabbos version is 22 sentences following the aleph-beis.

Some shuls say the following responsively and some sing it all together:

Hashem, Who is all powerful, rules over the entire creation; He is the Source of all neshamos; His greatness and goodness is everywhere; all He does demonstrates His wisdom and insight.

אל אדון על כל המעשים, ברוך ומברך
בפי כל נשמה, גדלו וטובו מלא עולם,
דעת ותבונה סובבים אותו:

Hashem rises high above the holy Chayos; and is adorned in glory above the Merkavah; (*but that does not mean Hashem is removed from the daily running of our material world, rather*) the merits and good deeds (*of the righteous*) stand before His Throne; and He runs the world with chessed and mercy.

המתגאה על חיות הקדש, ונהדר בכבוד
על המרכבה, זכות ומישור לפני כסאו,
חסד ורחמים לפני כבודו:

The sun and moon that Hashem created are good; He formed them, (*and thus the entire solar system is evidence of*) wisdom, insight, and intelligent design; He gave them strength and power; so that they may “rule” throughout the whole world.

טובים מאורות שברא אלהינו, יצרם
בדעת בבניה ובהשכל, כח וגבורה נתן
בהם, להיות מושלים בקרב תבל:

They are full of brightness, and they radiate light that brings joy to the world; they rise and set with great joy and happiness, reverently fulfilling their Creator's will.

מלאים זיו ומפיקים נגה, נאה זיום בכל
העולם, שמחים בצאתם וששים בבואם,
עושים באימה רצון קונם:

They (*the very essence of the sun and moon*) gives glory and honor to His name; they bring joy and song to (*us, because as they rise and set, we daven and speak of*) Hashem's majesty;

פאר וכבוד נותנים לשמו, צהלה ורנה
ליזכר מלכותו: קרא לשמש ויזרח אוה
ראה והתקין צורת הלבנה:

Hashem called out to the sun and it began to shine; Hashem formed and regulated the phases of the moon.

All the “hosts on high” praise Hashem; the Serafim, Ofanim, and holy Chayos all ascribe splendor and greatness...

שבח נותנים לו כל צבא מרום, תפארת
וגדלה, שרפים ואופנים וחיות הקדש: