grace poems

"Renascence"

The world stands out on either side
No wider than the heart is wide;
Above the world is stretched the sky,—
No higher than the soul is high.
The heart can push the sea and land
Farther away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two
And let the face of God shine through.
(Edna St. Vincent Millay)

The title of chapter 1 of the textbook for this course is "Sacraments: Encountering the Sacred." How does this poem suggest that we find the sacred in our life?

How is the concept of sacramental awareness found in this poem?

"The World Is Too Much with Us"

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not.
(William Wordsworth)

What is sacramental blindness?

What does this poem suggest is the reason for this blindness?

What "powers" do we all possess as members of the human family?

How could a person get his or her heart back?

What other connections can you make between this unit and this poem?