



Resources for Liturgy

On Caring for God's Creation

Dear Reader,

As Catholics, we have a rich heritage of faith, tradition, and social teaching to draw upon as we seek to live the Gospel faithfully in our own time and situation. As a community of faith, we seek to protect the dignity of every person and promote the common good of the human family, particularly the most vulnerable among us. The Church champions the rights of the unborn, seeks to bring dignity to the poor, works to overcome the scourge of racism, and welcomes the stranger among us.

In parishes, diocese and other Catholic organizations, we encourage efforts to bring about discussion on issues affecting the environment (climate change, consumption, pollution, stewardship of the land) that is civil and constructive, that invokes the virtue of prudence in seeking solutions, and that is more responsive to the needs of the poor, both here in the United States and abroad. As Catholics, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in addressing the impacts these issues present, particularly on those least able to endure the burdens.

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Liturgical Aids: Scripture, Prayer and Song for the Parish and Home

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FROM SCRIPTURE

Gn 1:1-28	Creation Story
Gn 9:8-17	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Ps 8	The Majesty of God
Ps 65	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator
Dn 3:52-90	Praise of God; Praise of God's Creation
Jn 1: 1-5	In the Beginning Was the Word
Rev 21:14	New Heavens and New Earth

SPECIAL OCCASIONS FOR PRAYER

Rogation Days: Traditionally the three days before the Solemnity of the Ascension
Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi: October 4
World Food Day: Week of October 16
Fast for World Harvest: Thursday before Thanksgiving
World Day of Peace: January 1
Earth Day: April 22
World Environment Day: Early June
Arbor Day: Varies by state

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Gn 1; 2:4-7	God's Wonderful Creation Is Good
Gn 2:15	God Instructed Us to Tend Creation
Gn 9:8-17	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Lv 25:23-24	The Land Is God's
Ps 8	The Majesty of God
Ps 65	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator

New Testament

- Mt 6:25-34 Learning to Trust in God as Does Nature
Jn 1:1-5 Through Him All Things Came into Being
Rom 8:18-25 From the Beginning until Now, the Entire Creation Has Been Groaning in
One Great Act of Waiting for Redemption
Col 1:15-23 In Christ All Things Have Their Being
Rev 21:1-5 Promise of the New Creation

APPROPRIATE MASSES FOR VARIOUS NEEDS AND OCCASIONS IN THE ROMAN MISSAL

- 25. At the Beginning of the Civil Year
- 26. For the Sanctification of Human Labor
- 27. At Seedtime
- 28. After the Harvest
- 30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice
- 33. In Time of Famine or for Those Suffering Hunger
- 36. For Fine Weather
- 49. For Giving Thanks to God

Consult the *Lectionary for Mass* for the various Scripture readings assigned to these Masses.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may receive the grace to respect and care for God's creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all creatures may be blessed as a sign of God's wondrous love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may work to end the suffering of those in poverty and bring healing to all of God's creation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to God's creation and to sustain God's gift of nature, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

ST. FRANCIS'S CANTICLE OF THE SUN

O most High, almighty, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory, honor, and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all creatures;
and especially our brother the sun,
which brings us the day, and the light;
fair is he, and shining with a very great splendor:
O Lord, he signifies you to us!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon,
and for the stars,
which God has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind,
and for air and cloud, calms and all weather,
by which you uphold in life all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water,
which is very serviceable to us,
and humble, and precious, and clean.

Praised be my Lord for brother fire,
through which you give us light in the darkness:
and he is bright, and pleasant, and very mighty,
and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth,
which sustains us and keeps us,
and yields diverse fruits,
and flowers of many colors, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon
one another for God's love's sake,
and who endure weakness and tribulation;
blessed are they who peaceably shall endure,
for you, O most High, shall give them a crown!

Praised be my Lord for our sister,
the death of the body,
from which no one escapes.
Woe to him who dies in mortal sin!

Blessed are they who are found walking
by your most holy will,
for the second death shall have no
power to do them harm.

Praise you, and bless you the Lord,
and give thanks to God, and serve God
with great humility.

(St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226)

BLESSINGS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS FROM THE *BOOK OF BLESSINGS*

Order for the Blessing of Animals
Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks
Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time
Order for the Blessing on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest

HYMNS

All Creatures of Our God and King
All Things Bright and Beautiful
Come Rejoice Before Your Maker
Earth and All Stars
For the Beauty of the Earth
For the Fruits of This Creation
For the Healing of the Nations
God We Praise You
God Whose Form Is All Creation
God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Great God Our Source and Lord of Space
His Voice Is the Thunder and the Storm
How Marvelous God's Greatness
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Let All the Earth Their Voices Raise
Let All Things Now Living
Let the Heavens Be Glad

*Let the Whole Creation Cry
Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works
Morning Has Broken
O God Beyond All Praising
Over the Chaos of the Empty Waters
Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens
Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Sing Out, Earth and Skies
The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom
This Is My Father's World
We Plow the Fields and Scatter*