

**Theme:** Followers of Jesus, Caring for Creation

Mass (Eucharist) for Feast of Creation Sept 1<sup>st</sup> or for any other day in Creation Time 1<sup>st</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Introduction**

“Laudato Si’ mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord” is the name of the recent letter of Pope Francis that invites us to consider our shared responsibility for the world in which we live and our connectedness with all living beings and all the gifts of creation. The letter begins in this way: ‘In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs” (LS1)

### **Opening Hymn**

#### **All creatures of Our God and King**

All Creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia! , Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest us both warmth and light,

Dear mother earth; who day by day  
Unfoldest blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,  
Let them his glory also show;

Let all things their creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness;  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One;

### **Procession**

To the altar with locally grown plants, flowers, vegetables and fruit. Use spoken commentary or suitable background music.

### **Penitential Rite/Kyrie**

Priest/Leader: O God, your fertile earth is slowly being stripped of its riches,

All: Open your eyes to see.

Priest/Leader: O God, your living waters are slowly being choked with chemicals,

All: Open your eyes to see.

All: **Kyrie eleison/Lord have mercy**

Priest/Leader: O God, your clear air is slowly being filled with pollutants,

All: Open your eyes to see.

Priest/Leader: O God, your creatures are slowly dying and your people are suffering,

All: Open your eyes to see.

**Christe eleison/Christ have mercy**

Priest/Leader: God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation,

All: That we repent and care more deeply.

Priest/Leader: So move us to grieve the damage to the climate and the loss of life,

All: That we learn to cherish and protect your world.

**Kyrie eleison/Lord have mercy.**

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Let us pray:**

Most provident God, You graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for the earth: to till the soils responsibly, to keep the air pure, to free the waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of the sun, to protect the climate and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with all. We ask this of you, God of the universe, through Christ Our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

**Homily** – Suitable homily or Reading from Laudato Si.

This Sister Mother Earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth. Our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. (L.S.2)

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

Choose from some of the following and from the additional list:

We pray for Pope Francis and all leaders in the Church as they strive to work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation

Lord hear us.

Creator of God, you showed us how to live on this earth when you were present among us in the person of Jesus. May we live out the values he embodied, especially in his appreciation of the ordinary wonders of life: the lilies of the field, the sparrows that fall, the way the wind blows.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, in Christ you walked among us, attuned to the earth and its elements, the plants, trees and animals as well as human beings. May we have the same sense of connection and interdependence with the whole of creation.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, the parables Jesus used to teach are full of care for creation: The shepherd seeking the lost sheep, the farmer allowing the ‘weeds’ and the wheat to grow together until harvest time or the mustard seed growing into a plant that will shelter the birds of the air. May we follow him in having that same care for creation today.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.

Lord hear us.

Add further prayers from the additional list.

### **Let us pray:**

Creator God, we confess that the way we are using fossil fuels and other destructive forms of energy today is destroying the forests, changing the climate, the seas, the soils, the biodiversity and the balance of life on our fragile planet, dispossessing the poor and future generations. Help us to choose life for all that is at risk – for neighbours near and far and for those who came after us. Give us the knowledge to learn what we do not know but long to understand, so that we may honour and nurture all that makes us one with you. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

**Offertory**

Instrumental music or a suitable hymn

**Eucharistic Prayer** – (Choose suitable one for creation)

**Suggested Communion Hymns**

1. O the love of my Lord is the essence
2. Bring forth the Kingdom (Haugen)
3. For the beauty of the Earth (John Rutter)

**The Lord's Prayer**

Confident that God hears the cry of the Earth and of the cries of all who live on it we unite our voices with theirs, and pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father****Communion Reflection.****A Prayer for our earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
And in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
That we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace that we may live  
As brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
Help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of the earth,  
So precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
That we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
That we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts  
Of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
To be filled with awe and contemplation,  
To recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature,  
As we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for  
Justice, love and peace.

**Amen**

(Pause for reflection.)

### **Concluding Prayer**

Let us pray,

Creator God, Joined to the incarnate Son Jesus, present in this Eucharist, the whole universe gives thanks to you. May this celebration today be a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to care for all creation (LS 236) we ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### **Suggested Ritual**

Distribute a bulb or seeds to each person to plant at home  
And/or have a planting ceremony at the church.

### **Blessing**

Bless us, + in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as we walk gently upon the earth, in right relationship,

- **Nurtured by your love**
- **Taking only what we need**
- **Giving back to the earth in gratitude**
- **Sharing what we have**
- **Honouring all with reverence**
- **Reconciling and healing**
- **Mindful of those who will come after**
- **And of the poor today**
- **Recognising our proper place as part of your creation.**

**Final Hymn** – How great thou Art,

### **Hymn**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Russian Hymn based on Psalm 8, Romans 5 and 1 Thessalonians 4