

MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Prayers

Entrance Antiphon Ps 18(19): 2

The heavens declare the Glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.

Collect

God our Father,
who in Christ, the firstborn of all creation,
called all things into being,
grant, we pray, that docile to the life-giving breath of your Spirit, we may lovingly care
for the work of your hands.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Father,
these fruits of the earth and of our hands:
bring to completion in them the work of your creation,
so that, transformed by the Holy Spirit,
they may be for us the food and drink of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon cf. Ps 97: 3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Prayer after Communion

May the sacrament of unity
which we have received, O Father,
increase communion with you and with our brothers and sisters,
so that, as we await the new heavens and the new earth,
we may learn to live in harmony with all creatures.
Through Christ our Lord.

25a. For the Care of Creation

(RM 37a)

942a Reading from the Old Testament

942a-1

Wisdom 13:1-9

'If they can weigh up the world, how have they still not found its Master?'

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

- 1 Empty-headed by nature are all who are unaware of God,
and who, from good things seen, have not been able to discover Him-who-is,
or by studying the works, have not recognised the Artificer,
- 2 but have thought fire or wind or the swift air,
the circle of the stars or forceful water,
the starry constellations of heaven, to be the gods of the world.
- 3 If charmed by their beauty, they have taken these for gods,
let them know how much the Master of these excels them,
since he was the very source of beauty that created them.
- 4 If struck by their power and energy, let them consider from these
how much mightier is he that formed them,
- 5 since through the grandeur and beauty of the creatures
their Author is by analogy perceived.
- 6 Small blame however attaches to them,
for perhaps they go astray only
in their search for God and their eagerness to find him;
- 7 familiar with his works, they search for him
and are seduced by the eye, seeing so much beauty.
- 8 But even so, they have no excuse:
- 9 if they are capable of knowing so much
that they can weigh up the world,
how have they still not found its Master?

The word of the Lord.

942b Reading from the New Testament

942b-1

Colossians 1:15-20

'All things were created through him and for him.'

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

15 Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God,
the first-born of all creation,
16 for in him were created all things
in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
thrones, sovereignties, rulers, authorities –
all things were created through him and for him.
17 He exists before all things,
and in him all things hold together,
18 and he is the head of the body, the Church.
He is the beginning,
the first-born from the dead,
so that he should be supreme in every way;
19 because God wanted all fullness to be found in him
20 and through him to reconcile all things to him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

942c Responsorial Psalm

942c-1

Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5. R: 2a

R: The heavens declare the glory of God.

2 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims the work of his hands.
3 Day unto day breathes forth a word,
and night unto night imparts the knowledge. R:

4 No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded;
5 their sound goes forth through all the earth,
their message to the utmost bounds of the world. R:

942c-2

Psalms 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c. R 31b

R. May the LORD rejoice in his works.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
2 wrapped in light as with a robe! R.
- 5 You set the earth on its foundation,
immovable from age to age.
6 You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak;
the waters stood higher than the mountains. R.
- 10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.
12 There the birds of heaven build their nests;
from the branches they sing their song. R.
- 24 How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
35 Bless the LORD, O my soul. R.

942d Acclamation before the Gospel

Outside of Lent, the response to the verse before the Gospel is Alleluia.

During Lent, one of the following acclamations is used instead of Alleluia as a response to the verse before the Gospel:

- a. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.
- b. Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
- c. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
- d. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
- e. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
- f. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

942d-1

Psalms 104:24

How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all.

942d-2

1 Chronicles 29:11d, 12b

Yours is the sovereignty, LORD;
you are ruler of all.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,

24 'No one can be the slave of two masters:
a person will either hate the first and love the second,
or be attached to the first and despise the second.
You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

25 'Therefore I tell you not to worry about your life, what you should eat,
nor about your body, what you should wear.
Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing!

26 Look at the birds in the sky.
They do not sow or reap or gather into barns;
yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not worth much more than they are?

27 Can any of you, by worrying,
add one single cubit to your span of life?

28 And why worry about clothing?
Learn from the flowers of the fields, how they grow;
they neither work nor spin,
29 yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his glory
was clothed like one of these.

30 Now if God so clothes the grasses of the field
which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow,
will he not much more clothe you, who have so little faith?

31 So do not worry;
do not say, "What should we eat? What should we drink?
What should we wear?"

32 It is the gentiles who strive for all these things.
Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

33 Strive first for his kingdom, and righteousness,
and all these other things will be given you as well.

34 So do not worry about tomorrow:
tomorrow will take care of itself.
Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time:

23 Jesus got into the boat
and his disciples followed him.
24 And see, a storm broke over the lake,
so violent that the boat was being swamped by the waves;
but he was asleep.
25 And they went up to him and woke him, saying,
'Lord, save us, we are lost.'
26 And he said to them,
'Why are you frightened, you who have so little faith?'
Then he stood up and rebuked the winds and the sea;
and there was a dead calm.
27 They were astounded and said,
'Whatever kind of man is this,
that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

The Gospel of the Lord.