



Liturgy Notes for Laudato Si Week (21st-28th May)

Seventh anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis Letter on

“Care for our Common Home”

Theme: *“Hope for the Earth; Hope for Humanity”*

In Laudato Si Pope Francis makes clear his conviction that our only viable future is a shared future, that creation is a continuous revelation of the divine, and that we all need an ecological conversion.

Sacred Space

Preparation: Create a simple sacred Space....stand with cloth covering/candle/globe of the world/plants/flower. If possible prepare some suitable music).

“Imagine the transformation that would result if we truly believed that all the earth was sacred- every inch and mile and mountain-and every land a holy land”.

“Earth is crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God; but only those who see take off their shoes”. (Elizabeth Barrett Browning).

“Hope begets hope. Hope can heal illness, broken relationships, inspire a nation. Hope explodes in acts of love and service, often against overwhelming odds”

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer” (Romans).

Opening Prayer: Creating God, in you everything on earth and in the heavens is bound together in perfect harmony. Open our eyes to behold your creation. Create in us a new spirit of awareness of our place in your delicate balance; transform our hearts that we may reclaim our sense of awe and wonder. Quicken our understanding that we may acknowledge our responsibility and strengthen our resolve to work with you for the healing of our creation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (Job 12)

Every life is of value for its own sake and has its own place in creation. All created things can teach us.

“Ask the animals and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. He gives to the animals their food, and to young ravens when they cry. Mountains and hills all fruit trees and cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord”

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 8)

Response: *O God, how full of wonder and splendour you are!*

I see the reflection of your beauty

And hear the sound of your majesty wherever I turn.

Even the babbling of babes and the laughter of children

Spell out your name in indefinable syllables. **R/**

When I gaze into the star studded skies

And attempt to comprehend the vast distances,

I contemplate in utter amazement my creator's concern for me.

I am dumbfounded that you

Should care personally about me. **R/**

And yet you have made me in your image,

You have called me your child.

You have chosen me as your co-creator.

You have assigned to me the fantastic responsibility

Of carrying on your creative activity. **R/**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 12:54-56

Jesus said to the people, "When you see a cloud coming up in the west, at once you say that it is going to rain-and it does. And when you feel the south wind blowing, you say it is going to get hot-and it does. You can look at the earth and the sky and predict the weather; why, then, don't you know the meaning of this present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

Introduction: O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in respecting and caring for your creation.

1. Lord, we thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth that you have given us to cherish and protect.

Lord hear us.

2. Lord, help us to recognise your all your creatures as signs of your wondrous love

Lord hear us.

3. Spark our imaginations so that we might find new ways to live harmoniously with creation and new technologies to reverse the damage we have done to your creation.

Lord hear us.

4. Help us to turn from selfish consumption of resources meant for all and see the impacts of our choices on the poorest and most vulnerable on our planet.

Lord hear us.

5. Lord, be who all who work to bring peace hope and love to humanity.

Lord hear us.

Conclusion: Holy God, set us on paths of peace. Forever keep your earth in grace and splendour. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, may our earth continue to produce the food by which we live and may this bread and wine which will become our spiritual nourishment feed the longings of our minds, hearts and spirits. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection

To have HOPE is to believe that history continues open to the dream of God and to human creativity.

To have HOPE is to be a messenger of God, breaking down barriers and building bridges.

To have HOPE is to leave the door open so that the Spirit can enter and make all things new.

To have HOPE is to believe that life wins over death.

To have HOPE is to begin again as many times as necessary.

To have HOPE is to know the hope cannot die.

To have HOPE is to live. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

O God, you are the hope of the earth. Look with compassion on the whole human family that in your good time, all nations and peoples will leave behind everything that estranges and divides us and serve you in harmony and in hope. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.