All Praise Be Yours My God

Gathering: We pause and remember God’s presence within each of us and in all of creation.

Leader: We gather as sisters and brothers in the Name of our God who created us, of Jesus, our brother, who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit, who continues to mold and form and free us.

Reflective Music / Youtube: Canticle of Creation ~ Salt & Light Media

Reader 1:

Our natural world is a profound reflection of the beauty, truth and goodness of our God. To Francis, nature was a means of reverencing and experiencing God’s beauty. His Canticle of Creation, is a summary of all creation coming together in a single hymn of praise, surrender and thanksgiving.

Antiphon: Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.
Canticle of Creation

Pray antiphonally

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing.
to You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light.
and he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and very kind of weather
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruits and colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by you, most High, shall they be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape,
woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
so the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.
Reader 2:
In the story of the heavens and earth at their creation, Genesis 1-2 tells of God’s hand on each and every piece of our world and his delight to find it good. God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good.

Pause

Reader 3:
Who would be able to tell of the sweet tenderness Francis enjoyed while contemplating in creatures the wisdom, power and goodness of the Creator? From this reflection he often overflowed with amazing, unspeakable joy as he looked at the sun, gazed at the moon, or observed the stars in the sky… Fields and vineyards, rocks and woods, and all the beauties of the field, flowing springs and blooming gardens, earth and fire, air and wind. All these he urged to love of God and to willing service.

Thomas of Celano, The Life of Saint Francis (1C 80-81)

Pause

Reader 4:
Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si, says of St. Francis, that he is, “the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically…St. Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of His infinite goodness and beauty…The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, His boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.

Pause

Personal Reflection:
As you reflect on the beauty of our created world around you, what do you want to nurture and preserve in yourself and for those who will come after you?

Name one simple act that you can take in response to what you see and what you hear in creation that serves our world.

Intercessions: Pray antiphonally

Leader:
St. Francis teaches us that each day we humbly bring our needs before God and trust in His mercy and Providence. And so, aware of our needs and the needs of our world, we pray:
▲ be faithful followers of Francis and live in simplicity and love.

▲ to nurture a contemplative heart and a contemplative spirit that honors time spent in communion with God and holds sacred the gift of Eucharist

▲ to be in right relationship with God, with others, with ourselves and all creation

▲ to open our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters

▲ to live and proclaim the Good News by sharing life with those in need

▲ to move deeper into God’s ways when the good of our sisters and brothers and all creation depend on it.

**All:** God of life and love, You call us as followers of St. Francis, to be women and men of passion and courage to live and proclaim your Word. Sustain us with Your grace that we may faithfully live our commitment.

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**Closing Prayer**

**Prayer of St. Francis**

*Most high, glorious God,*

*enlighten the darkness of my heart*

*give me true faith, firm hope, and perfect charity*

*with wisdom and knowledge, Lord,*

*that I may carry out your holy and true will.*

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Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 2020