

Climate Change: A Challenge, Our Concern

EVENING PRAYER - Season of Creation – Week II

Preparation: mustard or small seeds mounted on little cards, enough for everyone in the congregation.

Introduction

Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to “reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”

Opening Verse: O God come to our assistance...

Hymn: [Listen – ML III #448](#)

Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer

Leader: We gather today in thanksgiving for the glorious gift of creation, and we ask for the Lord’s help to care for our world. We say together:

All: God of all creation, your spirit dances throughout the earth. You give drink to the trees, shade for the birds, bread for the hungry. You bring life and make all things holy. Flood our hearts with your grace, so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty, and reflect your kingdom here on earth. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Psalm / Call to Repentance

Leader: From the rising sun to the smallest of creatures, all of the earth is good.

Psalmist: Yet, we see how our fragile world is being robbed by the hand of greed. In many countries, water is no longer safe to drink. Forests are stripped bare. And parents fear for their children’s future.

Reader: Under the scorching sun, the crops are withering from a lack of water. The earth groans as if to say, “These poor little plants, when they are just seedlings, how can they survive? The plants are suffering.”

All: We perceive other changes, too. The river nearby is littered with plastic bags. Sadly, this waste is poisoning the fish. From a distance we say, “There are people in the world who don’t care for the earth, who need to collect their rubbish, who shouldn’t make the earth cry.”

Song: What Have You Done? – ML III #492

Psalmist: In his encyclical letter *Laudato Si’*, Pope Francis reflects on the cry of the earth. “Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. (*Laudato Si’* #33)

All: The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.” (*Laudato Si’* #33)

Leader: We recognize our part in harming the earth and our neighbors, and we ask for the Lord’s forgiveness. With sincerity in our hearts, let us enter into a commitment to change our lives and care for God’s wonderful gift of creation.

Song: Climate Change – ML III #500

Word of God (*Matthew 13: 1-3; 31-33*)

That same day, Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the shore, and he told them many things in parables. He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and

sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and shelter in its branches.'

Responsory: When I See – ML III #446 or
Like Mustard Seed – ML I #65

Canticle of Mary

Leader: Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world.

All: In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty. (*LS 241*)

My Soul Proclaims – ML III #399

Intercessions

Leader: A mustard seed; small enough to hold in the palm of your hand. Yet, Jesus tells us that this precious little seed is like the kingdom of Heaven. We ask the Lord our God to open our eyes to the wonders of creation, and we offer our hearts in hope that all things may flourish.

GOD OF NEWNESS, MAKE OF US A NEW CREATION

Reader: We pray for the Church, that she may bring healing to the earth and to people living in poverty. Sanctified by the love of God, may She guide us all on the path of wisdom. We pray...

- We pray for world leaders, that the Lord may move them to act with respect and urgency for the sake of the earth and the most vulnerable. We pray...
- We pray for all our sisters and brothers who are affected by the changing climate. May the Holy Spirit inspire communities to hold onto hope for the goodness of creation. We pray...
- We pray for our local community, that we may sow gestures of love and friendship for each other and the world around us, ever grateful for the gift God has entrusted to us. We pray...

Leader: We ask these prayers through our Lord Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all creation. **All:** Amen.

Our Father...

Act of Commitment

Leader: We remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world who work tirelessly to mitigate the effects of Climate Change. We give thanks to God for the call to give our share of “Mustard Seeds,” – our small efforts to recreate, heal, and make our common home a safe dwelling place for all creatures.

All: We think of the birds who sing in the trees, and the fish who swim through the waters. By opening our hearts to God’s grace, we are able to cherish the goodness which surrounds us.

Leader: Now, as a sign of commitment, please come up to the front and take a mustard seed. As you do so, think of one action you can do this week, to make a step towards our vision of creating a heavenly place to call home.

[Quiet music plays while everyone takes a seed-card and writes on it her plan of action]

Closing prayer and Final blessing

Reader: Lord, allow my ears to listen to the cry of the earth, the voices of my sisters and brothers, those who face the harsh reality of climate change.

LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

- Lord, allow my eyes to see the beauty of creation, in flowers, creatures, forests, and cities alike.
- Lord, allow my voice to speak out for justice and ensure people living in poverty are heard.
- Lord, allow my hands to care for the earth, to toil, to reap, to celebrate.
- Lord, allow my feet to take the path less trod, to walk the extra mile, to take your message out to the world.

[After the response, everyone lines up to place their seed-card inside the bowl that sits beside a lighted candle]

Leader: Through the blessing of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, may we all go forth with joy to care for creation. **All:** Amen.

Marian Hymn: Maria Ginigiliw na Ina – ML III # 367