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# *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* *1 September 2015*



## *Celebration of the Word of God:* *A Sample for Parish, School, and Community Use*

### *Foreword*

- Pope Francis has announced that Catholics throughout the world will observe September 1, 2015 as *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. Pope Francis selected this day, because the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had established the first day of September as a day of prayer for creation among the Orthodox Churches. Catholics will join together with other Christians in a communion of prayer for what the recent encyclical *Laudato si'* calls “our common home”, the earth.
- FRANCIS, Letter for the Establishment of the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,” 6 August 2015:  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2015/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150806\\_lettera-giornata-cura-creato.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150806_lettera-giornata-cura-creato.html)
- FRANCIS, **Encyclical Letter** *Laudato Si'*, on care of our common home, 24 May 2015:  
[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)
- USCCB Resource, *Prayers to Care for Creation* can be found on the USCCB website:  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecologyresource-all.pdf>
- USCCB Resources, *Human Life and Dignity: Environmental Justice Program*  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>
- Eastern Orthodox Information – Message by H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew upon the Day of Prayer for the Protection of Creation, 1 September 2013. Direct link:  
[Message by H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew upon the Day of Prayer for the Protection of Creation \(01/09/2013\)](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/upload/ecologyresource-all.pdf)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### *Opening Song*

- *See suggestions listed on page 7 as well as the USCCB Resource.*

### *Greeting*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

- *The Leader makes an introduction to prayer in these or similar words.*

My brothers and sisters,  
we gather on this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation  
in faith and in hope  
to pray for our world and the great gifts of creation  
that our God has given us.  
May our prayers for creation inspire all  
to care and to cultivate responsibly,  
what the Lord has given us to steward.

### *Opening Prayer*

Let us pray.

O Lord, good Father, who in your providence  
have entrusted the earth to the human race,  
grant, we pray, that we may care for all of creation  
and with your help restore all that has been marred,  
so that you may cause the seeds of justice and the fruits of charity  
to spring up in our hearts.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

- *Readings and Psalm may be taken from the Lectionary for Mass, Volume IV. Masses for Various Needs and Occasions:*
  - *no. 14 [LM, nos. 887-891] – For Peace and Justice*
  - *no. 19 [LM, nos. 912-916] – For Productive Land,*
  - *no. 20 [LM, nos. 917-921] – After the Harvest,*
  - *no. 26 [LM, nos. 943-947] – In Thanksgiving to God,*
  - *no. 28 [LM, nos. 953-956] – For the Promotion of Charity or to Foster Harmony....*
  - *See also suggested readings in the USCCB Resource.*

### ***First Reading***

### ***Responsorial Psalm***

- *See additional suggestions listed on page 7 as well as the USCCB Resource.*

### ***Second Reading***

### ***Acclamation before the Gospel***

### ***Gospel***

### ***Homily or Reflection***

## *Litany or Intercessions*

### **Leader:**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of all creation,  
for through his goodness he sustains all the earth.  
Let us call upon him in faith:

- *Chose one of the options below or use the USCCB Resource.*

### **A. Litany**

#### **Reader:**

**R: Deliver us, O Lord**

From despair in times of draught:

From wastefulness of natural resources:

From neglect of those in need:

From blindness to your presence in all of creation:

From hunger and thirst:

From forgetting that our vocation is to be protectors of your handiwork:

**or**

### **B. Intercessions**

#### **Reader:**

You have called us, as Saint Paul says, a field under your cultivation;  
grant that by doing your will in all things,  
we may protect your gift of creation  
and so mirror your love for all of us,  
we pray to the Lord.

You bless the earth and abundance flows in its pastures;  
grant that through our care of all you have given us,  
all may know your goodness,  
we pray to the Lord.

You have made the world abound in the works of holiness;  
grant that, living with your Christ,  
we may share in his fullness of life and bear much fruit,  
we pray to the Lord.

You planned that all your children  
should share in the goods you have provided  
and the gifts of all the earth;  
grant that all those who are in need and want  
may be provided for,  
we pray to the Lord.

Your praise is sung throughout the great hymn of all creation:  
Through your providence may our voices one day join in that hymn,  
so that as you intended from the beginning,  
you may be all in all,  
we pray to the Lord.

**Leader:**

God our Father,  
in your wise and loving care,  
you made the heavens and the earth.  
You created all creatures  
and you blanketed the earth with all forms of flowers and trees.  
In your goodness hear our prayers for the earth and all you have created.  
Help us to continually see you in your handiwork  
and help us to be grateful and caring for what you have made.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## CONCLUDING RITES

### *Lord's Prayer*

- *The Leader makes an introduction to the prayer in these or similar words.*

Let us pray together for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Savior taught us:

Our Father...

### *Closing Prayer*

- *The Leader prays in the usual way without using "Let us pray."*

Merciful God,  
hear the prayers of your people;  
reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation,  
and to thank you for the wonderful handiwork  
which you have entrusted to our care.  
Send us your help for the protection of creation  
as well as your pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Song**

## RESOURCES

### Hymns and Songs

- Also see the index of your worship resource, especially the thematic sections on creation and justice, for more ideas.

All Creatures of our God and King/Oh Criaturas del Señor

Canticle of the Sun

Canto de Toda Criatura

Dios Es Amor

Go, Do Justice

For the Beauty of the Earth

Let All Things Now Living

Praise and Thanksgiving

The Peace of the Earth/La Paz de la Tierra

This Day God Gives Me

Touch the Earth Lightly

### Psalms and Canticles

Psalm 66: Let All the Earth Cry Out in Joy to the Lord

Psalm 67: The Earth Has Yielded its Fruit; God, our God, Has Blessed Us

Psalm 104: Lord, Send Out Your Spirit and Renew the Face of the Earth

Psalm 136: Your Love is Never Ending

Daniel 3: Canticle of Daniel

### Prayers for Good Stewardship of the Environment and in Thanks for God's Many Gifts in Other Parish/School/Community Activities

#### *Book of Blessings*

Chapter 26: Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks

Chapter 28: Order for a Blessing on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest

Chapter 70: Order for a Blessing in Thanksgiving

Chapter 71: Order for a Blessing to be Used in Various Circumstances

#### *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

Part III.; Days and Seasons, Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens

Part V.; Prayers for Catholic Living; Prayers for School, Work and Other

Endeavors: Blessing of Farms and Farmworkers; Blessing on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest

Part V.; Blessings for Objects: For the Products of Nature