



Today we celebrate Francis of Assisi, the thirteenth-century Italian whose greatest honour was to be known as il Poverello, "the little poor one of Christ."

Sunday, October 4, 2020

St. Francis of Assisi

BAS Service of the Word for Creation Time

Sing Praise to God CP 424

***Sing praise to God on mountain tops and in earth's lowest places,
from blue lagoon to polar waste, from ocean to oasis.
No random rock produced this world, but God's own will and wonder.
Thus hills rejoice and valleys sing and clouds concur with thunder.***

***Sing praise to God where grasses grow and flowers display their beauty,
where nature weaves her myriad web through love as much as duty.
The seasons in their cycle speak of earth's complete provision.
Let nothing mock inherent good, nor treat it with derision.***

*Sing praise to God where fishes swim and birds fly in formation,
where animals of every kind diversity creation.
All life that finds its home on earth is meant to be respected.
Let nothing threaten, for base ends, what God through grace perfected.*

*Sing praise to God where humankind its majesty embraces,
where different races, creeds, and tongues distinguish different faces.
God's image in each child of earth shall never pale or perish.
so treat with love each human soul, and thus God's goodness cherish.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

We give thanks to you, Lord God, that we are gathered together
on the traditional territory of the Sto:lo, the people of the river.
Guide us with your spirit of reconciliation
as we work to build relationships and tear down stereotypes.

Let us pray. **God of unchangeable power,
when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together
and the host of heaven shouted for joy;
open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good,
to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.
We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Creator, we are sorry for the times
when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.
Creator, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.
We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Creator, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.
We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Creator, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and take for granted for the world you have made.
Creator, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.
We store up goods for only ourselves, as if there were no God and no heaven.
Creator, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
May the Peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

God of the Sparrow CP 414

***God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise.***

***God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save***

***God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks***

***God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life***

***God of the neighbour God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace***

***God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home***

Let us pray. **Grant us, Almighty God,**
after the example of your holy servant Francis, to do what you would have us do,
and always to desire what is pleasing in your sight, that cleansed by your love,
enlightened by your truth, and kindled with the fire of your Holy Spirit,
we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son and make our way to you,
O God most High; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226 — Memorial

Today we celebrate Francis of Assisi, the thirteenth-century Italian whose greatest honour was to be known as *il Poverello*, “the little poor one of Christ.” He grew up in a very wealthy family and seemed to have not a care in the world until he was twenty years old, when a chance encounter with a leper left him appalled by his own uselessness. Soon afterwards he heard Jesus speaking to him from a painting of the crucifixion over the altar of a local church. He threw away his wardrobe and renounced his father’s wealth in order to care for the poor and the crippled. In 1208 he heard the commission which the risen Lord gave to his apostles, “Go, make all nations my disciples,” and knew that it was also addressed to him. Francis began to train his followers for the task of making Jesus truly known and loved among the ordinary people of Italy. Out of this movement developed the Order of the Lesser Brethren, commonly called the Franciscans. Francis cared deeply for his new Order, but he also grew restless as it became an established institution of the Church. He distanced himself from its day-to-day life and eventually went his own way as he strove to imitate Christ’s total obedience to God. Two years before his death he was granted a sign which manifested this desire. One September day in 1224, he had a vision of the Crucified borne on the wings of a seraph. As the vision withdrew, the wounds of Jesus appeared in Francis’s own flesh — the scars like nail-wounds on his hands and feet, and in his right side a scar like a spear-wound. These marks, called the stigmata, remained on Francis’s body until his death two years later.

Psalm 148:7-14

A Bm7 A D Esus4 E A Dmaj7 (C#m) Dmaj7 Bm7 Esus4 E E6 A

mf

We join the whole world to praise the Ho - ly One.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;

mountains and all hills, **fruit trees and all cedars;**

wild beasts and all cattle, **creeping things and winged birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, **princes and all rulers of the world;**

young men and young women, **old and young together. R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for this people and praise for all loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord. Hallelujah! R**

2nd Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Listen for God's word. **Our hearts are open.**

May God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Let us confess our faith as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Blessing the Animals

God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; **we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us.** We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and

moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings.
Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, we bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life: Let your blessing be upon these and all animals. May our love and care for them reflect your compassion and safekeeping of all creation. Grant these animals health, peace, and safety. Strengthen us to love and care for them following the good example of Francis of Assisi, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.
Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for everything that you have made.
Give us the grace to perceive that we are connected to everything that is.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God.**

God whom we love, we stand before you with open and humble hearts.
In our imagination, allow us to see and hear and feel
the beautiful expressions of the earth, that speak to each of us -
Mountains, rivers, prairie, oceans, Forest, meadows, trees, flowers.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of love, show us our place in this world,
as kin to all the non-human creatures with whom we share the earth.
They came forth from your hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
and not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God.**

Saving God, we give thanks for all human beings on the earth,
Created from dust, yet crowned with glory, Those we know and those who are strangers;
Those near to us and those far away; All of us beautiful, all of us flawed.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the sun, for water, for soil, for air,
On which our lives depend moment by moment.
In silence we are aware of our frailty, our complete dependence
On our beloved Mother Earth who nurtures us and sustains our every breath.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God**

Creator God, we enjoy the abundant fruits of the earth,
Yet, we acknowledge that we in the developed world,
have often wasted the gifts of the earth, taking more than our share,
leaving our sisters and brothers in other places in poverty and need.
Renew our minds and transform us into servants of the earth,
so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us,
but generations to come after us.
In gratitude let us pray to the Lord **We give you thanks, O God.**

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.
Grant our requests as may be best for us.
This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All Creature of Our God and King CP 355

***All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing:
alleluia, alleluia!***

***Bright burning sun and golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams,
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Great rushing winds and breezes soft, you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,
O sing now, alleluia!***

***Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice; stars nightly shining, find a voice,
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Swift flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!***

***Fire, so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Earth ever fertile, day by day unfold your blessings on our way,
O sing now, alleluia!***

***All flowers and fruit that in you grow, God's glory let them also show:
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part,
alleluia, alleluia!***

***All you that pain and sorrow bear, sing praise and cast on God your Care:
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***And even you, most gentle death, waiting to hush our final breath,
O sing now, alleluia!
You lead back home the child of God, for Christ our lord that way has trod:
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***Let all things their creator bless, and worship God in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:
alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

*please remember to send your offering to the church
or consider using the Pre-Authorized Debit system*

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen
Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

May God who created the world give you the grace to be wise stewards of the creation.
May God who redeemed the world inspire you to go out as labourers into the harvest.
May God whose breath fills the whole creation help you
to bear the fruits of love, joy and peace
and the blessing of God almighty, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Christ Is Atonement, the Paschal Victim CP 243

***Christ is atonement, the Paschal victim;
he gave his life that we might live forever.
We for redemption sing in exaltation "Glory to God, glory to God on high."***

***Christ is the great priest who sets a table,
making of bread and wine a sacred banquet.
We for this manna sing in exaltation "Glory to God, glory to God on high."***

***Christ is compassion, with us in sorrow;
he bears our burdens, shares our inmost darkness.
We for such caring sing in exaltation "Glory to God, glory to God on high."***

***Christ is our freedom, true liberation;
in freeing us he bids us live for others.
We for his challenge sing in exaltation "Glory to God, glory to God on high."***

Readings for next Sunday – October 11, 2020

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Book of Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19