

SEASON OF CREATION 2019 PRAYER SERVICE FOR CATHOLICS
(September 1, 2019 is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation)

SET UP NOTE:

Optional: Place symbols or other natural items representing the biodiversity of your local community (ex. locally grown plants, flowers, vegetables, fruit, etc.) as part of the environment) or walk outside for this prayer

INTRODUCTORY RITES *All stand*

SIGN OF THE CROSS/WELCOME

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

Leader: As we gather to praise God for the diversity of all creation, we acknowledge that in our self-centeredness we have sometimes forgotten our responsibility to care for nature and our fellow creatures. As we call this to mind, we ask for God's forgiveness.

For the times we have helped to destroy the natural diversity of God's creation, Lord have mercy **All: Lord, have mercy**

For the times we have hurt the earth by our contributions causing change in its climate, Christ have mercy **All: Christ, have mercy**

For the times we have polluted the earth's waters, land and air, Lord have mercy **All: Lord, have mercy**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray, O Creator God, open our hearts and our eyes to the wonders of your presence among us. May we see the signs of your beauty within and about us and ever be in awe of the simple gifts of life. Help us to reach beyond ourselves and to give thanks for all of your creation that shares this universe with us: peoples of every nation, animals of every species, all forms of vegetation, the planets, stars, and all the elements. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **All:** Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD *All are seated.*

FIRST READING: Book of Wisdom 11:24-26-12:1

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

For you love all things that exist and detest none of the things that you have made,

For you would not have made anything if you had hated it.

How would anything have endured if you had not willed it?

Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?

You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

For your immortal Spirit is in all things. The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 104 :

Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! **R.**

You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age. You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak: the waters stood higher than the mountains. **R.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys: they flow in between the hills. On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song. **R.**

From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift. You make the grass grow for the cattle and the plants to serve people's needs. **R.**

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. Bless the Lord my soul! **R.**

All stand

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-5

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all the people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

SILENT REFLECTION *All are seated*

INTERCESSIONS *All stand*

Leader: Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust

we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

Reader:

Our response is “Creator God, hear our prayer:”

1. That we may receive the grace to respect and care for God’s creation, let us pray. **R.** Creator God, hear our prayer.
2. That all creatures may be blessed as a sign of God’s wondrous love, let us pray. **R.** Creator God, hear our prayer.
3. That we may work to end the suffering of those in poverty and bring healing to all of God’s creation, let us pray. **R.** Creator God, hear our prayer.
4. That we may use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to God’s creation and to sustain God’s gift of nature, let us pray. **R.** Creator God, hear our prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH (L.S. 246)

Leader :All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

All: Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Leader: O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of the earth, so precious in your eyes.

All: Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Leader: Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature, as we journey towards your infinite light.

All : We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle For justice, love and peace. Amen