

A Prayer Service proposed for a Holy Hour or Benediction*

Second World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

1 September 2016

* Prepared by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Audio-visuals

A mini-video (5 minutes) of images, music, and sub-titles in English, Italian and Spanish from *Laudato Si'* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOIqvpqg&feature=youtu.be>

Pope Francis Asks Us to Pray for Creation on September 1st. A mini-video (1.5 minutes) in Spanish with sub-titles in English. <https://youtu.be/19v0A19DDXs>

Introduction

Despite our sins and the daunting challenges before us, we never lose heart. “The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us... for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward” (*Laudato Si'*, 13; 245). Let us pray today, and indeed throughout the year, for the grace to show mercy to our common home.

Collect from the Orthodox Office of Vespers for the Preservation of Creation

Almighty God, who created all things with wisdom and who watches over and guides them by your all-powerful hand, grant well-being that all creation may prosper and remain unharmed by hostile elements; for you, Master, commanded that the works of your hands should remain unshaken until the ends of the age; for you spoke and they came into being and they receive from you mercy for the turning away of all harm, and for the salvation of the human race which glorifies your name which is praised above all. Amen.¹

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Scripture readings

Genesis 2:4-9, 15, “When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ...”

Psalm 51 (50), 1-14 “Have mercy on me, O God ...”

Luke 20:9-13, “Someone planted a vineyard and lent it out to tenants”

Selections from the Holy Father’s Message, “*Show Mercy to our Common Home*”

¹ http://www.goarch.org/chapel/liturgical_texts/vespers_creation

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Homily

Music

“All Creatures of Our God and King”, the Prayer of St Francis, *Laudato si*’, translated into English by William Draper. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0d3gO6qDLNA>

Intercessions/ Prayers of the Faithful

O God all-powerful, who are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures, who surround with your tenderness all that exists, hear our prayer as we say: *Kyrie, eleison*

- You brought all things into existence from nothing and gave to each one to accomplish unerringly the goal which you laid down in the beginning: pour out your blessing on the whole of creation.

Kyrie, eleison.

- You laid down laws for all creation for the unalterable maintenance and governance of the universe: guide all nations to peace in your laws.

Kyrie, eleison.

- In you we live and move and have our being: preserve unharmed the earth and rescue the abandoned.

Kyrie, eleison.

- In you we, your servants, have set our hopes for the new creation, by your healing mercy direct us to sow beauty.

Kyrie, eleison.

- You sent Christ Jesus into the world to touch the hearts of sinners: put an end to evil designs seeking only benefits at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Kyrie, eleison.

- You instruct our hearts to contemplate your creation with wonder: give us the breath of the winds and the flow of the waters.

Kyrie, eleison.

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Pater Noster / Our Father

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Concluding Prayer

“O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
who are so precious in your eyes...
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth” (*Laudato Si*, 246),
God of mercy, may we receive your forgiveness
and convey your mercy throughout our common home.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Concluding Blessing (Book of Blessings #983)

May God, the source of every good, bless + you and give success to your work, so that you may receive the joy of his gifts and praise his name now and forever. R/: Amen.

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Letter of Pope Francis to Cardinals Koch and Turkson, 6 August 2015

As Christians we wish to contribute to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing. In doing so, we must first rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation. We need always to keep in mind that, for believers in Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for our sake, “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us” (*Laudato Si*, 216). The ecological crisis thus summons us to a profound spiritual conversion: Christians are called to “an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them” (*ibid.*, 217). For “living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (*ibid.*).

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