

# Suggestions for Liturgy and Prayer



## Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving from Scripture

Gn 1:1-28	Creation Story
Gn 9:8-17	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Ps 8	The Majesty of God
Ps 65	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator
Dn 3:52-90	Praise of God; Praise of God's Creation
Jn 1:1-5	In the Beginning Was the Word
Rev 21:14	New Heavens and New Earth

## Prayers for Special Occasions

The *Book of Blessings*<sup>1</sup> and *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*<sup>2</sup> (the latter is available from USCCB Publishing: [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org) or 800-235-8722) contain complete services for special occasions. These services provide an excellent opportunity to integrate worship and prayer with your daily environmental justice activities.

**Rogation Days**—Normally the three days before the Solemnity of the Ascension

**Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, religious**—October 4

**World Food Day**—Week of October 16

**Fast for World Harvest**—Thursday before Thanksgiving

**World Day of Peace**—January 1

**Earth Day**—April 22

**World Environment Day**—Early June

**Arbor Day**—Varies by state

## Blessings for Special Occasions from the *Book of Blessings*

Order for the Blessing of Animals

Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks

Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

Order for the Blessing on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest

## Hymns

One of the following may be used to conclude the service:

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*Come Rejoice Before Your Maker*

*Earth and All Stars*

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*For the Fruits of This Creation*

*For the Healing of the Nations*

*God We Praise You*

*God Whose Firm Is All Creation*

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

*Great God Our Source and Lord of Space*

*His Voice Is the Thunder and the Storm*

*How Marvelous God's Greatness*

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

*Let All the Earth Their Voices Raise*

*Let All Things Now Living*

*Let the Heavens Be Glad*

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

*Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works*

*Morning Has Broken*

*O God Beyond All Praising*

*Over the Chaos of the Empty Waters*

*Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens*

*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

*Sing Out, Earth and Skies*

*The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom*

*This Is My Father's World*

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

## NOTES

1 *Book of Blessings* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press; New York: Catholic Book Publishing Company, 1989).

2 USCCB, *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1989).

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## Suggested Scripture Readings for Worship

### Old Testament

Gn 1; 2:4-7	God's Wonderful Creation Is Good
Gn 2:15	God Instructed Us to Tend Creation
Gn 9:8-17	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Lv 25:23-24	The Land Is God's
Ps 8	The Majesty of God
Ps 65	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator

### New Testament

Mt 6:25-34	Learning to Trust in God as Does Nature
Jn 1:1-5	Through Him All Things Came into Being
Rom 8:18-25	From the Beginning until Now, the Entire Creation Has Been Groaning in One Great Act of Waiting for Redemption
Col 1:15.23	In Christ All Things Have Their Being
Rev 21:1-5	Promise of the New Creation

Mass texts are given in the *Sacramentary* and readings in the *Lectionary for Mass* for the following:

### Masses for Civil Needs

*For Peace and Justice*

Is 57:15-19 • Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

### Masses for Various Public Needs

*Beginning of the New Year*

Gn 1:14-18 • Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 • Lk 12:35-40

*Blessing of Labor*

Gn 2:4-9, 15

*For Productive Land*

*After the Harvest*

*Those Suffering from Famine or Hunger*

*Mass for Thanksgiving Day*

Dt 8:7-18 • 1 Kgs 8:55-61

1 Tm 6:6-11, 11-19 • Lk 12:15-21

Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

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Respect for life and the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.

John Paul II  
*1990 World Day of Peace Message*

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