Sing a Song of Creation

Call to Prayer

L: In the name of the Father, Font of All Goodness,
All: Who brings all creation to life and enfolds it in goodness;
L: And of the Son,
All: Who is our brother, and calls us into fraternitas with all creation;
L: And of the Spirit,
All: Who energizes us to care for and protect creation. Amen.

Ritual and Litany of Gratitude for God's Creation

L: When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi: (L.S. 87) How often do we thank the Lord for His beautiful creation of which we are a part, or pray for the grace to become more caring towards His creation?

L: Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water,
All: who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

R: Water is the source of all life. It is pure and refreshing. It flows, cleans, and nourishes. Water is a vital element which we must take care of. Through the water cycle we are intimately connected to all of creation.

L: As we offer this vessel of water, let us remember how essential it is to all life on our planet.

All: Let us be grateful for the gift of water and resolve to use it with reverence and justice.

Sing: Sacred Creation Refrain (Rufino Zaragoza)

Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true.
Sacred all life, sacred each other; all reflect God who is good.
L:  Be praised, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light.

All:  And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor; and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

R:  The track of the sun across the sky leaves its shining message, illuminating, strengthening, warming us who are here, showing us that we are not alone, we are yet ALIVE! And this fire…Our fire…Shall not die.

L:  Open and close your hands, aware that your ability to do so is fueled by the sun’s energy that is captured by the plant life that we eat.

All:  Let us rejoice in the energy of the sun and resolve to use our energy to face climate change, one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.

Sing:  Sacred Creation Refrain (Rufino Zaragoza)

Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true. 
Sacred all life, sacred each other; all reflect God who is good.

L:  Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

All:  

R:  The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, God’s boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. Sometimes we forget that the earth we walk on is, like water, another source of life. From it, plants, trees, and all living creatures are nourished.

L:  We offer up this pot of soil to remind us of all the minerals and unseen resources the earth harbors within.

All:  Let us remember to care for our earth and harvest its resources in moderation.

Sing:  Sacred Creation Refrain (Rufino Zaragoza)

Sacred the land, sacred the water, sacred the sky, holy and true. 
Sacred all life, sacred each other; all reflect God who is good.

AND ALL CREATION IS SHOUTING FOR JOY!
Reading: from Book of Job (12: 7 – 10)

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; 
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; 
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; 
or let the fish in the sea inform you.
Who among all these does not know 
that the hand of the Lord has done this? 
In his hand is the life of every creature 
and the breath of every human being.

Contemplation and Reflection Option 1

Sister Mother Earth – As followers of Jesus, we know we are called to stand in awe and wonder of God’s gift of the Universe.

➢ Do I let my mind and imagination be filled with Awe and Wonder? In what ways does this bring me to contemplation?

➢ How do I live my baptismal commitment to Gospel living by being counter cultural, by not participating in the “throw away” attitude of society towards people and creation?

Brother Sun – As followers of Jesus, we know that God’s generosity is reflected in the constant outpouring of the sun/Son.

➢ How do I graciously respond to God’s awesome love by the way I care for others and creation?

➢ As Brother Sun “bears a likeness” of God, how do I bear God’s likeness in my actions toward others and creation?

Sister Water – As followers of Jesus, we know water is a tremendous gift from God to all God’s creation. We also know how scarce fresh water is becoming in our world.

➢ How do I respect the gift of Sister Water as I use it for drinking, washing, and enjoying her beauty?

➢ How do I share the knowledge I have of the importance of respecting Sister Water with others?
Contemplation and Reflection Option 2

Mercy2Earth Examen
This Examen is an ecological examination of conscience offered by the Global Catholic Climate Movement based on Pope Francis’ message “Show Mercy to our Common Home” (Sept. 1, 2016)

1. **Rest** in the presence of God.

2. **Give thanks** for God’s creation and creatures.

3. **Reflect** on the ways you have heard both “the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor.”

4. **Ask forgiveness** for the ways you’ve fallen short in caring for God’s creation and creatures.

5. **Make amends** by committing to concrete ways to show mercy to creation and your neighbors.


Sharing of Reflections and Prayer

**Closing Prayer: A Prayer for our Earth**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJz0ZuxxMI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJz0ZuxxMI0)

We thank you for being with us every day…for being with us in every way…

Text by Pope Francis I, from the encyclical, Laudato Si Adaptation
Music by Hazzan Steve Klaper & Br. Al Mascia, OFM
Song and Spirit Institute for Peace, Berkley, MI