

St. John's Church, 44 Temple Street, Worcester, MA

Friday, October 1, 2021 – 6:30 pm

- Celebrant:** Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester
- Deacon:** Dcn Don Pegg, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Our Lady of Loreto, Worcester, MA
- Organist:** Sean Redrow, St. John's Church, Worcester, MA
- Cantor:** Monica Hatch, St. John's Church, Worcester, MA
- Readers:** Joseline Pérez, St. Louis Parish, Webster, MA– First Reading (Spanish)
Makaisha Gonzalez, St. Francis of Assisi, Fitchburg, MA – Second Reading (English)

Prayers of the Faithful:

Esther Njonge **School/Parish, Town** – Swahili
Kemp Nguyen, Our Lady of Vilna Parish, Worcester, MA – Vietnamese
Gianna Tan, St. Mary's Parish, Shrewsbury, MA – Tagalog
Cecilia Guadalupe, St. Louis Parish, Webster, MA – Spanish
Cristefanie Marie, Saint Paul Holy Family, Worcester, MA – French
Nana Afia Poku, **School/Parish, Town** – Twi
Ivonka Warnajtys, St. Joseph School, Webster, MA – Polish
Lillian Colón-Usowicz, All Saints Academy, Webster, MA – English

Altar Servers: Jomar Cintrón-Pérez, St. Louis Parish, Webster, MA
Marianelys Cintrón-Pérez, St. Louis Parish, Webster, MA
Yanaidy Lopez, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fitchburg, MA
Glenn Mayou, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fitchburg, MA

As stewards of God's creation, we are reminded of the need to respect the Earth's resources. Our care of the environment impacts the well-being of all humanity, in particular the poor and marginalized in society.

We pray together, for one another as a human family, that our care of the Earth's resources will bring healing to the damage we caused to God's creation and nourish all people now and always.

Opening Hymn
For the Beauty of the Earth

Piermont, Kocher, Monk

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all to you we raise this our gift of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all to you we raise this our gift of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all to you we raise this our gift of grateful praise.*

*For each perfect gift divine to our world so freely given,
Joys bestowed by love's design, flowers of earth and fruits of heaven:
Lord of all to you we raise this our gift of grateful praise.*

Introduction

Penitential Rite

Collect

First Reading (Read in Spanish)

Isaiah 58:6-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

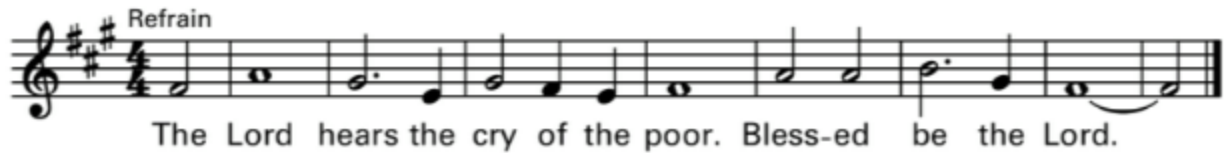
Thus says the LORD: This is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: "Here I am!" If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; then the LORD will guide you always and give you plenty on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 34 (arr. John Foley, SJ)



*I will bless the Lord at all times,
with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord,
who will hear the cry of the poor.*

*Let the lowly hear and be glad:
the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken God is near,
who will hear the cry of the poor.*

*Every spirit crushed God will save;
will be ransom for their lives;
will be safe shelter for their fears,
and will hear the cry of the poor.*

*We proclaim your greatness, O God,
your praise ever in our mouth;
every face brightened in your light,
for you hear the cry of the poor.*

Second Reading (Read in English)

Colossians 1:15-17

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers;
all things were created through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 25:34

Come, you who are blessed by my Father, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

For Pope Francis, and all leaders in the Church, as they strive to work for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Swahili)**

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in government and positions of authority: that they may lead with wisdom and foresight, guided always by the light of God...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Vietnamese)**

For us that we may be attentive to the needs of the planet and of our brothers and sisters...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Tagalog)**

For our Earth besieged by the effects of climate change and for the people who suffer due to wildfires, drought, hurricanes, and earthquakes ...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Spanish)**

For the people of Afghanistan and Haiti – that migrants and refugees be accorded safe havens and be treated with compassion and love...we pray to the Lord **(Read in French)**

For all those who have died seeking to escape war, destitution, and hopelessness in their countries of birth, and for those who have died due to natural disasters ...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Twi)**

For the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death...we pray to the Lord **(Read in Polish)**

For peace and understanding among all people that we might live in right relationship with God and all creation...we pray to the Lord **(Read in English)**

Offertory

Offertory Hymn

For the Fruits of This Creation

Fred Pratt Green

*For the fruits of this creation, thanks be to God;
For the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor, God's will be done;
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done;
In the worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, god's will be done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that will confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.*

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Communion Hymn

Pan de Vida

Bob Hurd and Pia Moriarty

Refrain:

*Pan de vida, cuerpo del Señor
Cup of blessing, blood of Christ the Lord
At this table the last shall be first
Poder es servir, porque Dios es amor*

*We are the dwelling of God
Fragile and wounded and weak
We are the body of Christ
Called to be the compassion of God
Ustedes me llaman "Señor"
Me inclino a lavarles los pies
Hagan lo mismo, humildes
Sirviendo los unos a otros
There is no Jew or Greek
There is no slave or free
There is no woman or man
Only heirs of the promise of God*

Post-Communion Meditation Song

Make me a Channel of your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis)

Temple

Blessing of the Seedlings

Pledge of Commitment to Protect and Heal God's Creation

We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in
Christ Jesus, our Lord.
We pledge to protect God's creation.
We pledge to work for an end to injustice and poverty.
We pledge to stand together against all threats to life.
We pledge to be mindful of the beauty of Nature from the sky to the birds,
flowers, trees, and all forms of life.
We pledge to become better stewards of what God created.
We pledge to see the Lord in the poor and downtrodden, to work for climate
justice, and to live in harmony with God's creation.

Solemn Blessing

Dismissal

Recessional Hymn

How Great Thou Art

Boberg, Hine

*O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,*

*I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.*

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!*