

LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The just live in the presence of the Lord Ps 14

READ LECTIONARY ECOLOGICALLY

[Dt 4; Ps 14; Jm 1; Mk 7]

*Take note of the laws and customs that I teach
Take possession of the land that the Lords is giving
Who will dwell on your holy mountain?
Near as the Lord is whenever we call
Made us his children by the message of the truth
The word which has been planted in you
Coming to the help of orphans and widows
The first fruits of God's creation
What comes out of man makes him unclean
This people honours me only with lip service
You put aside the commandment of God
From human hearts, evil intentions emerge*

GREETING

Today's Scripture reminds us to live planted in the truth of God. We are warned that evil springs from inside. We ask forgiveness for choosing just lip service to God's commands.

By virtue of our unique dignity and our gift of intelligence, we are called to respect creation and its inherent laws, for "the Lord by wisdom founded the Earth" (Prov 3:19).

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #69

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Law - God guides us through the teachings and customs of our forebears. That Church Synods listen and guide believers into ways of goodness needed for our times ... we pray
2. Hope - God never gave up on the People of Israel. That our nation never fall into despair about our times but foster hope though just and compassionate laws ... we pray
3. Liturgy - We remember the great acts of God in our liturgical prayers. That our parish worship never become lip service but challenge and nurture us to grow as missionary disciples ... we pray
4. Journey – God as Creator began the evolutionary journey of the Universe and made us co-creators of Earth. That our parish help Catholic Earthcare usher in a new creation in the Cosmic Christ Jesus ... we pray
5. Animals – God told Job to find God presence in the diverse animals of Earth. That we enjoy their company of nature and help preserve the habitat of threatened animals ... we pray
6. World – God loves the material world. That we rejoice with scientists and understand their fascination with unravelling the inner workings of the world of matter ... we pray

DISMISSAL

Nourished as God's children and living in God's truth, we can go forth to show compassion for the unfortunate and find God present in the world.

SEASON OF CREATION

The post-Vatican II liturgical reform is a wonderful gift to the Church in our time. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II mandated that the treasures of the Bible be opened up more lavishly #51. God's presence in all parts of a liturgical celebration was better recognised. The reform was a collaborate work of teams of scholars and bishops organised over a decade under Father Annibale Bugnini. It offered worshippers a deeper pastoral and communal experience of God present in the human spiritual journey. In 1969 a new order of Readings (Lectionary) for each Sunday was published as a three year cycle to offer a richer diet. Now Scripture scholars are digging deeper to retrieve the hidden voice of the Earth in the Bible along with that of women. These voices have often been ignored so that even Mary's Magnificat is not proclaimed on a Sunday (Lk 1:46–56).

One authoritative source of oversight and coordination is the law, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #177

HYMNS

1. A new heart for a new world
2. Psalm 34: Taste and see
3. For the beauty of the Earth
4. Be still, for the presence of Lord
5. Praise God from whom all blessings flow



WHAT CAN I DO?

- Ask your local council about its climate change policies
- Calculate your household's environmental footprint
- Attend a credible talk on the environment

COVENANT

God's ongoing 'Covenant of Presence' is shown in all its closeness when Jesus ate the Last Supper with his friends (Jn 15:12-17). God loves us, living in us so we can love one another (1Jn 4:11-12). God stayed close to the Chosen People; leading them as a pillar of fire to a new land (Ex 13:21); guiding Israel with the teaching of the Decalogue (Si 29:8-13). Jesus summarised the ever present guiding action of God in two commands of love: love God and love neighbour (Mt 22:36-40). God blesses town and country, soil and livestock, households and their comings and goings (Dt 28:3-6). There is joy living daily in God's presence (Ps 16:11). God upholds all creatures and systems of Earth (Jb 26:7-9), created all that exists so that we live, and move and exist within the divine presence (Ac 17:24-28).

Honesty and truth are needed in scientific and political discussions; these should not be limited to the issue of whether or not a particular project is permitted by law.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #183

CHAMPIONS AND SAINTS

Hymns ranging from Luke's Magnificat to St Thomas Aquinas's Eucharistic poems, from Charles Wesley hymns to Eleanor Farjeon's Morning has Broken have nourished Christian life over two millenniums. These hymns move our hearts and minds to feel the presence of God. Australians James McAuley and Richard Connolly's hymn Cosmic Praise puts God the Creator within our ecologically aware world, even naming the obscure diatoms plankton resident of the ocean. Sing a new song they ask, a line totally at one with Thomas Berry's New Story of Cosmic Salvation. Quality lyrics and music bring care for Earth to the heart.



MYSTICISM

To constantly offer short mantra-prayers recalling God's presence is a style of spiritual practice. It celebrates creation all around us – praise be to God in the tree, the flower, the breaking wave. St Francis of Assisi practiced this way of prayer – sister moon, brother donkey. These mantra-prayers join us with God and Earth in a particular place. They help celebrate the place where we are as sacred because God is present there as creator and as a revelation. The whole planet community of people and events becomes an opportunity to remember God present there. <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/ecourses/course/filter/on-demand/practicing-spirituality-e-courses-with-master-teachers>

ECOLOGICAL INSIGHT

U-Tube clips on the evolution of cosmos are many and vividly show the gradual flowering of life on Earth. Scientists love the story of Earth unfolding. It is exciting. Looking with the eyes of faith, the clips lead believers to fall in love with God's Earth, to respect science and accept the reality of evolutionary change in the Cosmos. Ecological processes work methodically as they evolve. Nature tests new emergences over eons but sometimes dramatically with asteroid showers and volcanic action, geological upheavals and life extinctions. Nature has its own time scales. The first to challenge nature's time scale are modern humans in the Anthropocene period. Their actions may even derail nature's processes and force a new epoch.

[rest] protects human action from becoming empty activism; it also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation ... The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day.

Pope Francis Laudato Si' #237

LOCAL CULTURE

Murujuga, the Burrup Peninsula in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, contains the world's largest collection of petroglyphs – ancient Aboriginal rock carvings dating back into the last ice age. They witness to presence beyond ourselves. But this Rock Art Precinct is at risk from infrastructure for off-shore natural gas wells as national heritage contends with economic interests. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murujuga>

*A field that's like the battle grounds
in France before the November
Armistice is laid out with mounds
and metal plaques –*

Jamie Grant *The Slain*

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/grant-jamie/the-slain-0046021>

