

# Sunday 18th April 2021

## The Gift of Creation

### ¶ PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

As we rejoice in the gift of creation;  
**let us give you thanks and glory.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

You create us in your image;  
you gift us with the universe in all its wonder,  
and all good things in earth and sky and sea.

You are our creator, the source of love and hope;  
all creation sings to you.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*This opening prayer may be said;*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### ¶ THE WORD OF GOD

#### Psalmody: Psalm 8

**O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!**

- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them;  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
- 6 You have made them little lower than the angels  
and crown them with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under their feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!**

### Canticle: The Canticle of the Sun

**Praised be my Lord by all his creatures.**

- 1 O most high, almighty, good Lord, God:  
to you belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing.
- 2 Praised be my Lord by all his creatures:  
and chiefly by our brother the sun,  
who brings us the day and brings us the light.
- 3 Fair is he, and shines with a very great splendour:  
he points us, O Lord, to you.
- 4 Praised be my Lord by our sister the moon:  
and by the stars which you have set clear and lovely in heaven.
- 5 Praised be my Lord by our brother the wind:  
and by air and clouds, calms and all weather,  
by which you uphold life in all creatures.
- 6 Praised be my Lord by our sister water:  
who is very useful to us  
and humble and precious and clean.
- 7 Praised be my Lord by our brother fire,  
through whom you give light in the darkness:  
and he is bright and pleasant and very mighty and strong.

- 8 Praised be my Lord by our mother the earth,  
who sustains us and keeps us:  
and brings forth fruit of different kinds,  
flowers of many colours, and grass.
- 9 Praised be my Lord by all who pardon one another  
for your love's sake:  
and all who endure weakness and trials.
- 10 Blessed are they who calmly endure:  
for you, O most high, shall give them a crown.
- 11 Praised be my Lord by our sister the death of the body,  
from which no one escapes:  
blessed are those who are found waking by your most holy will.
- 12 Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks to him:  
and serve him with great humility.

*St Francis of Assisi*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Praised be my Lord by all his creatures.**

## Scripture Reading

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

*Genesis 2.5-9*

## Responsory

In God all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
**all things have been created through him and for him.**

Christ is the image of the invisible God.

**In God all things in heaven and on earth were created;**  
things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers.

**all things have been created through him and for him.**

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**In God all things in heaven and on earth were created,**  
**all things have been created through him and for him.**

*from Colossians 1.15-17*

## Gospel Canticle

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord:  
and renew the face of the earth.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord:  
and renew the face of the earth.**

## ¶ PRAYERS

*Intercessions are offered, and may conclude;*

God of awe and wonder,  
creator of both night and day,  
you count the number of the stars  
and call them all by their names.  
Help us to share and conserve earth's resources,  
that we may grow in reverence for all creation  
and live in harmony with one another;  
through him who is the firstborn of all creation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Joining our voices with all creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## ¶ THE CONCLUSION

We bless you, king of the universe,  
for the wonderful order which enfolds this world;  
grant that your whole creation  
may find fulfilment in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

The Lord our God,  
from whom comes every good and perfect gift,  
bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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