

# LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2020

“everything is connected”



## About Laudato Si' Week

Laudato Si' Week honors the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The theme of the week is “everything is connected.”

This week launches a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow.

Following Pope Francis' invitation to join Laudato Si' Week, Catholics everywhere will reflect and prepare for action 16-24 May.

We'll put our preparation into action during the Season of Creation this September, when Pope Francis has invited Catholics to pray and act for our common home.

(<https://laudatosiweek.org/>)

*As we continue to shelter-in-place and practice social distancing, let us draw ourselves together in spirit as we pray for our common home. Everything is connected. We are connected in spirit and intention even though we are physically apart.*

*Each day you are invited to meditate on this year's theme: everything is connected. You can begin each day with the greeting (below) and then recite a small portion of the Canticum of the Creatures and read a quote. I've also included a couple music selections for each day. The first song is intended to be more familiar and one that you could sing, especially if you are praying this with others, and the second selection you might enjoy listening to using the website link.*

*If possible, enjoy some moments with Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, and Sister Mother Earth. Also, if these connect with you, spend some time reflecting on the questions below throughout the week. The last two pages of this resource include an Earth Day Prayer: In the Spirit of Indigenous Traditions. You are invited to pray this however it best fits for you: in sections, all at once, each day, etc.*

*And lastly, please know you are most welcome to adapt the prayer for your needs. Add your own questions, desires and readings as you wish. Above all, let us continue to pray for one another with our Franciscan heart as we believe that everything is connected.*

*Peace and all good, Lynn Karnati*

## Greeting

O Hidden Life vibrant in every atom;  
O Hidden Light! shining in every creature;  
O Hidden Love! embracing all in Oneness;  
May each who feels herself as one with Thee,  
Know she is also one with every other.

(Annie Besant)

## Reflection Questions

- ☞ How can I not simply recycle, but reduce, refuse (the wasteful bag, straw, etc.) and reuse?
- ☞ How can I live gratefully and simply today?
- ☞ How are my actions for Earth an expression of my faith?

(<http://www.sistersofmercy.org/blog/2020/04/01/mercy-earth-challenge-commit-year-change/>)

## **Saturday, May 16, 2020**

*Most High, all-powerful, good God,  
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing.  
To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no one is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Praised be You, my God, with all Your creatures, especially Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.*

May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope. God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give our all, offers us the light and the strength to continue on our way. God needed does not abandon us, and God's love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.

*(Laudato Si', #244 & #245)*

### **Music**

☞ *Canticle of the Sun* by Marty Haugen, #495

☞ *Praise Be to You* by Tony Alonso (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsMToWI0LtY>)

## **Sunday, May 17, 2020**

*Praise be You, my God, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

Let ours be a time remembered  
for the awakening of a new reverence for life,  
the firm resolve to achieve sustainability,  
the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace,  
and the joyful celebration of life.

*(Earth Charter, The Hague, 29 June 2000)*

### **Music**

☞ *Sacred Creation* by Rufino Zaragoza (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4XsVzr2x9M>)

☞ *Tend the Ground* by Curtis Stephan (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pCJYsUkjJw>)

## Monday, May 18, 2020

*Praise be You, my God, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy, serene,  
and every kind of weather,  
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

May we take “time to recover a serene harmony with creation,  
reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals,  
and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us.”  
(*Laudato Si'*, #225)

### Music

- 🌀 *Come and Join Creation's Song* by Cathy Tisel Nelson
- 🌀 *Litany for the Earth* by Barbara Bridge (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlWlthGJdok>)

## Tuesday, May 19, 2020

*Praise be You, my God, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal right,  
since it is essential to human survival and, as such,  
is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.  
(*Laudato Si'*, #30)

### Music

- 🌀 *Rain Down* by Jaime Cortez, #505
- 🌀 *Every Creature Is Sister and Brother* by Bob Hurd  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EZkZqVNrbk>)

## Wednesday, May 20, 2020

*Praise be You, my God, through Brother Fire,  
through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.*

Interdependence obliges us to think  
of one world with a common plan.  
(*Laudato Si'*, #164)

### Music

- 🌀 *Sing Out Earth and Skies* by Marty Haugen, #497
- 🌀 *God of Might and God of Mercy* by Michael Joncas  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8qpxYOUGjg>)

## Thursday, May 21, 2020

*Praise be You, my God, through our Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*

Hail Mother, who art the earth,  
Hallowed be thy soil, rocks and flora that nourish and support all life.  
Blessed be thy wind that gives us breath  
and thy waters that quench, bathe and refresh all living things.  
Holy Earth—as one—we praise your majesty, grace and wonder.

(Bill Faherty)

### Music

- 🌀 *Abundant Life*, #703
- 🌀 *Show By Your Life* by Lori True (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yrsou8jv8F0>)

## **Friday, May 22, 2020**

*Praise be You, my God,  
through those who give pardon for Your love,  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace  
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.*

Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life.

*(Laudato Si', #225)*

### **Music**

✪ *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, #721*

✪ *Litany of Peace* by Barbara Bridge (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OfY0tf5Gcw>)

## **Saturday, May 23, 2020**

*Praised be You, my God, through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no one living can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.  
Praise and bless my God,  
giving thanks and serving God with great humility.*

...bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it...

*(Laudato Si', #246)*

### **Music**

✪ *How Great Thou Art, #496*

✪ *Take These Ashes as a Sign* by Sarah Hart  
(<https://www.ocp.org/en-us/blog/entry/take-these-ashes>)

## **Sunday, May 24, 2020**

May “we regain the conviction that we need one another,  
that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world,  
and that being good and decent are worth it.”  
(*Laudato Si'*, #229)

Let us bring solidarity to our world in a shared moment of prayer at noon today.  
All participating in Laudato Si' Week across the globe will be united in spirit because  
“everything is connected.”

### **Common Prayer for the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Laudato Si'**

Loving God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them, You created us  
in your image and made us stewards of all your creation, of our common home.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be  
nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of  
creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all  
future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it. May we help  
each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and  
those most at risk of being left behind. Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings  
of isolation into hope so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global  
pandemic. Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in  
search of the common good. Now more than ever may we feel that we are all  
interconnected, in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

We make our prayer through Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Music**

*♫ For the Beauty of the Earth, #548*

*♫ Revolution of Tenderness* by Jeanne Cotter (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5VdkuH73OQ>)



## EARTH DAY PRAYER: IN THE SPIRIT OF INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS



Infinite Spirit,  
We gather to praise your creation,

to honor the swimmers and crawlers,  
the four-leggeds and the winged ones;  
we give thanks for the beauty and glory of creation  
and open our hearts to new ways to understand  
our place in the universe—not the center or focus,  
but a humble and balanced place,  
where every step we take becomes a prayer,  
where every word we say  
makes harmony with the vast, vibrating cosmos,  
and where we know we are singing the song of life.

We pray to know more deeply that we are in the Garden  
where every plant and animal and speck of dust  
is a living prayer.

Without our brothers and sisters  
of the plant and animal and mineral kingdoms,  
the human family would end.  
So we want to bless them, as they bless us.

We pray for humility—  
to humble ourselves before the ants and trees—  
for if we cannot be in true relation to the ants and the trees,  
we shall be outcasts of the garden.

Let us cast the pollution from our eyes  
so we can see the glory and live with thanksgiving.



Great Spirit, let us remember  
it is not how we talk but how we walk.  
When we say we love animals, let us protect them.  
When we say that we love the plants,  
let us honor them by living lightly on Earth.  
When we say we love the minerals,  
let us use them only in necessity,  
and remember their rightful places.  
Oil belongs in the ground,  
not in the air through our wasteful machines.

Wondrous trees, breathing life into the atmosphere:  
your gifts of fire and shelter, fruit,  
and sailing are precious to us.  
And in many ways you offer us leaves of knowledge.

May the vision of mutual interrelatedness,  
cosmic interdependence,  
the seamless process of generations,  
not end in cough-filled skies blotting the sun,  
but rather may clear air, healthy forests,  
wholesome water, expansive prairie, and pungent earth  
nourish paths for all creatures  
through mountain and valley, and the salt sea,  
and through a protective atmosphere,  
as we rejoice in the inhabitants.

With thanks for the surprise and mystery of it all,  
we pray in the name of the Creator,  
and all our relations.

So be it.

By Vern Barnet