

Suggestions for Liturgy and Prayer



Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving from Scripture

Gn 1:1-28	Creation Story
Gn 9:8-17	God's Covenant with Noah and All Creation
Ps 8	The Majesty of God
Ps 65	Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104	Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146	Trust in God Alone
Ps 147	Zion's Grateful Praise to Her Bountiful Lord
Ps 148	Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator
Dn 3:52-90	Praise of God; Praise of God's Creation
Jn 1:1-5	In the Beginning Was the Word
Rev 21:14	New Heavens and New Earth

Prayers for Special Occasions

The *Book of Blessings*¹ and *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*² (the latter is available from USCCB Publishing: www.usccbpublishing.org or 800-235-8722) contain complete services for special occasions. These services provide an excellent opportunity to integrate worship and prayer with your daily environmental justice activities.

Rogation Days—Normally the three days before the Solemnity of the Ascension

Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, religious—October 4

World Food Day—Week of October 16

Fast for World Harvest—Thursday before Thanksgiving

World Day of Peace—January 1

Earth Day—April 22

World Environment Day—Early June

Arbor Day—Varies by state

Blessings for Special Occasions from the *Book of Blessings*

Order for the Blessing of Animals

Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks

Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

Order for the Blessing on the Occasion of Thanksgiving for the Harvest

Hymns

One of the following may be used to conclude the service:

All Creatures of Our God and King

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Come Rejoice Before Your Maker

Earth and All Stars

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the Fruits of This Creation

For the Healing of the Nations

God We Praise You

God Whose Firm Is All Creation

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Great God Our Source and Lord of Space

His Voice Is the Thunder and the Storm

How Marvelous God's Greatness

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Let All the Earth Their Voices Raise

Let All Things Now Living

Let the Heavens Be Glad

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

Morning Has Broken

O God Beyond All Praising

Over the Chaos of the Empty Waters

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Sing Out, Earth and Skies

The Works of the Lord Are Created in Wisdom

This Is My Father's World

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

NOTES

1 *Book of Blessings* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press; New York: Catholic Book Publishing Company, 1989).

2 USCCB, *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1989).

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Suggested Scripture Readings for Worship

Old Testament

- Gn 1; 2:4-7 God's Wonderful Creation Is Good
Gn 2:15 God Instructed Us to Tend Creation
Gn 9:8-17 God's Covenant with Noah and
All Creation
Lv 25:23-24 The Land Is God's
Ps 8 The Majesty of God
Ps 65 Thanksgiving for God's Blessings
Ps 104 Praise of God the Creator
Ps 146 Trust in God Alone
Ps 147 Zion's Grateful Praise to Her
Bountiful Lord
Ps 148 Hymn of All Creation to the
Almighty Creator

New Testament

- Mt 6:25-34 Learning to Trust in God as Does Nature
Jn 1:1-5 Through Him All Things Came into Being
Rom 8:18-25 From the Beginning until Now, the
Entire Creation Has Been Groaning
in One Great Act of Waiting for Redemption
Col 1:15.23 In Christ All Things Have Their Being
Rev 21:1-5 Promise of the New Creation

Mass texts are given in the *Sacramentary* and readings in the *Lectionary for Mass* for the following:

Masses for Civil Needs

For Peace and Justice

Is 57:15-19 • Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Masses for Various Public Needs

Beginning of the New Year

Gn 1:14-18 • Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 • Lk 12:35-40

Blessing of Labor

Gn 2:4-9, 15

For Productive Land

After the Harvest

Those Suffering from Famine or Hunger

Mass for Thanksgiving Day

Dt 8:7-18 • 1 Kgs 8:55-61

1 Tm 6:6-11, 11-19 • Lk 12:15-21

Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

Respect for life and the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.

John Paul II

1990 World Day of Peace Message
