

# A Thanksgiving Service to Celebrate St Francis Day during the Season of Creation

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Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,  
the love at our beginning and without end,  
in our midst and with us.

**God is with us,  
here we find new life.**

## *Hymn*

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

**Jesus Christ is good news for the poor,  
release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind  
and liberty for those who are oppressed.**

## *Lament*

Drought turns farmland to dustbowl, drains rivers, lays bare the soil. Gardens wither, livestock die, people lose heart, communities crumble.

**How long, O Lord, how long?  
Refresh the parched and thirsty earth.  
Revive our flagging spirits.  
When will you give us the water of life?**

Deforestation shreds the landscape, leaches soil, poisons rivers. Smoke hangs in the air, rainfall patterns change, birds and animals lose their habitat, cultures and people die.

**How long, O Lord, how long? Rebuke the greed for land.  
Regenerate the stricken forests.  
When will the trees clap their hands at your salvation?**

Floods wash away soil, flatten crops, ruin homes. Drinking water fails, disease spreads, fear clings, livelihoods lie buried in mud, animals and people drown.

**How long, O Lord, how long?  
Restore the soaked and tattered land. Relieve the suffering people.  
Are you not our strong rock and refuge?**

*Silence may be kept*

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Saviour died and rose again, so that for all who live in him there is a new creation. Therefore I declare to you:  
your sins are forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Send out your Spirit, O Lord.  
Renew the hearts of your people.  
Renew the face of the earth.  
Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

*Readings & Message*

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,**

**is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### *Prayers*

#### *Laudato Si*

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature  
in your risen glory.  
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you! **Amen**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

As Christ teaches us 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### *The Peace*

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

### *Hymn*

## *Thanksgiving & Communion*

God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**All you have made is good.  
Your love endures for ever.**

The Spirit of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts to heaven

**where Christ in glory reigns.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,  
the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation,  
who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.  
For with your whole created universe,  
we praise you for your unfailing gift of life.  
We thank you that you make us human and stay with us even when we turn  
from you to sin.

**God's love is shown to us:  
while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save,  
you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord.  
You make all things new.

In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory  
and reconcile all peoples to yourself, their true and living God.

In your mercy you are now our God.

Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart.

We entrust ourselves to you, for you alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

**Now is the acceptable time,  
now is the day of salvation.**

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets,  
with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and say:

**Holy, holy, holy:  
God of mercy, giver of life;  
earth and sea and sky and all that lives,  
declare your presence and your glory.**

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation.

Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ,

the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed,  
took bread, and when he had given thanks,  
broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;

and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant

which is shed for you, and for many, to forgive sin.

Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation,

in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory.

We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name.

Here and now, with this bread and wine,

we celebrate your great acts of liberation,

ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,

who was and is and is to come.

**Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way,  
our access to you, Father, and source of all new life.  
In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,  
feed us with your life, fire us with your love,  
confront us with your justice,  
and make us one in the body of Christ  
with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Creator God. **Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,

**for we all share the one bread.**

The cup of blessing for which we give thanks  
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

*Please come to the front, either to receive communion if you choose, or to receive a blessing - in which case keep your hands down and bow your head as an indication.*

### *Closing Prayer*

O God, by whose gift Saint Francis was conformed to Christ in poverty and humility, grant that, by walking in Francis' footsteps, we may follow your Son, and, through joyful charity, come to be united with you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

## *Blessing*

Creator God, may we see,  
Your love reflected in our common home,  
Your joy in the bouncing kangaroo,  
Your peace in the placid koala,  
Your patience in the mighty humpback whale,  
Your kindness in the quizzical Quokka,  
Your goodness in the Rainbow Lorikeet,  
Your faith in the ancient Cassowary,  
Your gentleness in the Leafy Seadragon,  
Your self-control in the Saltwater Crocodile.  
Now with the fruits of the spirit, and all of creation,  
Go in truth, justice, love, and hope. **Amen**

## *Hymn*

Go in peace

**To love and serve the Lord**