

A photograph of Pope Francis speaking at a podium outdoors. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and glasses, and has a large cross necklace. He is gesturing with his right hand while holding a paper in his left. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

LAUDATO SI

LET US BE PROTECTORS OF CREATION,
PROTECTORS OF *God's plan*
INSCRIBED IN NATURE, PROTECTORS OF
ONE ANOTHER AND OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

- POPE FRANCIS

WORD
on FIRE

OPENING PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

Canticle of Creation (Saint Francis of Assisi)

Leader: “*Laudato Sí, mí Signore*’ – ‘*Praise be to you, my Lord*’. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.” (*Laudato Sí #1*)

All: *O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory, honor and all blessing.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.
O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,
and for the stars which you have set
shining and lovely in the heavens.*

*Be praised, my Lord,
for our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather by which you, Lord,
uphold life in all your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.*

*Be praised, my Lord,
for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us,
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colors.*



Canticle of Creation... (continued)

*All: Be praised, my Lord,
for those who forgive for love of you;
and for those who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience –
you will grant them a crown.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.
I praise and bless you, Lord,
and I give thanks to you,
and I will serve you in all humility.*

Amen.



A Prayer for Our Earth (Pope Francis, *Laudato Sí* #246)

Leader: “This sister now cries out to us ... from her waters.” (*Laudato Sí* #2)

*All: All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray,
in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Amen.*

MID SESSION PRAYER

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: As we pray in gratitude for God's blessing upon all of creation and the work of our hands, let us not forget that we must do the works of holiness in our lives. Let us, then, pray to God, saying:

Response:

Lord of Creation, hear our prayer.



Leader: All provident God, your care has given us food from the earth; grant that the crops we harvest may sustain us in body and help us to grow in spirit, we pray to the Lord...

Leader: You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us to seek first your kingship over us and teach us your way of holiness, we pray to the Lord....

Leader: Through Jesus Christ you have made the world abound in works of holiness; grant that, living in him, we may share in his fullness and life and bear much fruit, we pray to the Lord....

Leader: You planned that all your children should share in the goods of your creation; grant that all those who are in need may come to enjoy an untroubled life and to glorify you and praise your holy name, we pray to the Lord...

Leader: You govern creation with your wisdom and grace: we pray that our world and national leaders may learn from you and do all it takes to protect, promote, and foster harmony in creation, we pray to the Lord...

Leader: You are the great healer of heart and mind, restorer of all creation; we pray that you bring healing to our suffering world torn and wounded by the pandemic, that you give solace to the suffering, hope to the dejected, help to the unemployed, and reinvigorate all who call on you for grace and strength, we pray to the Lord...

Leader: Let us pray together in the words the Lord has taught us.

All: Our Father...

Leader: May your blessing act in us, O Lord, and transform us with your renewing power, so that we might be wholly disposed to heed the cry of the poor and the earth and give ourselves wholeheartedly to their care and protection. And may we receive the joy of your gifts and praise your name, now and forever.

All: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

A Christian Prayer In Union with Creation (Pope Francis, *Laudato Sí* #246)

Leader: “At the end, ... *Praise be to Him!*” (*Laudato Sí* #2)

Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe:

You entrusted your world to us as a gift.

*Help us to care for it and all people,
that we may live in right relationship--*

*with You,
with ourselves,
with one another,
and with creation.*

Christ our Lord:

both divine and human,

You lived among us and died for our sins.

*Help us to imitate your love for the human family
by recognizing that we are all connected—*

*to our brothers and sisters around the world,
to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,
and to future generations.*

Holy Spirit:

giver of wisdom and love,

You breathe life in us and guide us.

*Help us to live according to your vision,
stirring to action the hearts of all—*

*individuals and families,
communities of faith,
and civil and political leaders.*

Triune God:

*help us to hear the cry of those in poverty, and the cry of the earth,
so that we may together care for our common home.*

Amen.



SEASON OF
CREATION 