

23rd Sunday Ordinary Time (b) 8th September 2024

the Season of Creation continues

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people, acknowledge visitors, and welcome them.
Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ????
Announce the Sunday of the Year, (see heading above)
and announce the theme of the liturgy (see next heading)*

Theme – Be strong and don't fear

*leader: Today is the Second Sunday of the Season of Creation.
The season is a time of prayer and action
celebrating God as Creator of the vast cosmic universe,
God's revelation in Creation
and our calling to care for Creation.
We are invited to protect Creation's rich diversity
and to address the urgent, destructive crises
threatening its health and future
– including our own.
This year's theme calls us to address
the growing discouragement as the climate crisis,
biodiversity loss and pollution worsen.
The global human response is falling short
and the urgency is growing.
The Scriptures urge us not to lose hope
in the face of the urgent and complex climate crisis facing us.
They remind us to trust in God, Who is faithful
and is even now working to save us.
They challenge us to confront the false values
of wealth and consumption that are so common
and so destructive; and to pray for Christ
to open our eyes, our ears, our hearts.
(Announce the opening hymn:)*

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: /
In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us:
all: **And with your spirit.***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*leader: As we begin our celebration by becoming aware of the Earth, our common
home and home to the other living and inanimate creatures:
Loving God, we often lose hope in the face of the widespread devastation
of climate change; the threats of far worse to come; the urgency of the
needs and the slowness of our response: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:
all: **Lord, have mercy:***

leader: Christ Jesus, You warned us how hard it is for the rich to enter the realm of God and yet we hold up wealth as a sign of success and pursue it in ways that are destroying our common home: - (pause) - Christ, have mercy:

*all: **Christ, have mercy:***

leader: Holy Spirit of God, You call us to be the voice of the voiceless of Creation suffering among us, working with them for their healing and rescue: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

*leader: May God, Who gave fiery birth to all time and space and to the vast Web of Life in which we live, have mercy on us, free us from our sins, and guide us into the fullness of divine Life: all: **Amen***

GLORIA *invitation*

leader: With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.

Opening Prayer

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Loving Creator,
You have been faithful through billions of years,
patiently preparing Earth to be the nurturing home
for all that dwell on it and in it.*

*As we come to recognise the urgent threats
to its well-being from the values and actions
of our human community,
we ask You to deepen our hope in Your faithful love,
Your power to save us, and Your action
in us, among us, and through us.*

*Send the healing power of Christ to open our eyes,
our ears, and our hearts.*

Unite the human family and teach us

to recognise and embrace Your Wisdom;

Wisdom that suffers, guides, heals and renews our Common Home.

We make our prayer in the name of Christ,

Your Word, and in the power of the Holy Spirit,

the Wisdom at work renewing all things in Creation, now and always:

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Isaiah 35 : 4 – 7a)*

leader: In the first reading the Prophet Isaiah urges his people to “Be strong, fear not” because God is faithful and is engaged in their history to save them. The prophet sees the work of God in the eyes that are opened, the ears that hear again, in the lame and the mute being healed and Earth being restored to fruitfulness and life.

Introduction to the second reading: *(James 2 : 1 – 5)*

leader: The apostle James focuses on the widespread human temptation to honour wealth as a sign of success and value. That temptation feeds the greed, exploitation and systematic degradation of the richness of Creation. The apostle pleads for right treatment for the poor, because for

the most part, the early Christians belonged to the powerless classes of the Roman Empire.

Gospel Acclamation:

all: ***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Jesus preached the good news of God's realm; and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(Mark 7: 31 – 37)*

leader: *Jesus struggles – with groans – to give healing to a deaf person with a speech impediment. The work over the next decade of restoring the household of God, our Common Home, will be difficult and challenging.*

Homily Notes *(presider)*

- *In last week's reflections, we summed up, that the Earth community is in crisis. Can the Scriptures help us to walk the fine line that will help us as people of faith, to face and embrace the urgency of the situation threatening Earth and all its creatures, with hope and a ready commitment to the transformations so desperately required?*
- *In the reading from Isaiah, the Prophet urges his people to "Be strong, fear not" because God is faithful. The prophet sees the work of God in the eyes that are opened, the ears that hear again, in the lame and the mute being healed and Earth being restored to fruitfulness and life.*
- *This is essential to growth in an Ecological Spirituality: the ability to discern and identify positive qualities and actions towards a healthy, integral ecological spirituality. The faithful presence and work of God Who raised Jesus from the dead, are the surest foundation against discouragement.*
- *The apostle James focuses on the human temptation to honour wealth as a sign of success and value. That temptation feeds the greed, exploitation and degradation of the richness of Creation. The apostle pleads for right treatment for the poor, because for the most part, the early Christians belonged to the powerless classes of the Roman Empire.*
- *Modern economic developments are based on unlimited growth fed by production, consumption and competition for wealth on a limited planet. These have driven exploitation of Earth and the rapid diminishment of Earth's ability to renew itself and remain a nurturing home for all its inhabitants. These economic patterns must be transformed. Such transformation flows from a strong Ecological Spirituality including the adoption of sustainable lifestyles which promote a sense of sufficiency.*
- *James also reminds us that God chooses the poor of the world to be rich in faith. This reminder echoes Pope Francis's call in Laudato Sí, to listen to the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of Earth. The poor are most often the first to suffer and, in their suffering, to reveal the injustices and unsustainable ways of living of our societies.*

- *Responding to the Cry of the Poor, we are called to promote eco-justice and to defend human life and all forms of life on Earth. Pope Francis has often spoken of the wisdom and faith of indigenous peoples and the poor as rich resources for learning to live sustainably on Earth and contribute to its healing restoration. Are we ready to pray for the healing power of Christ to be at work in us and through us so that we may hear and speak clearly the Word of God given us to share in this critical time?*

Statement of Faith

all: I believe in God, who through billions of years has evolved Earth as a nurturing home for all creatures; all members of the Earth family.

I believe in God who is bringing forth all Creation, cherishing every creature and inviting us to care for each other, wisely and with love.

I believe in Jesus, God become flesh and blood; a human part of the Earth, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross.

I believe in Jesus, who through his dying and rising bears faithful witness to God's loving care for all human beings and for all Creation.

I believe in Jesus, the risen Christ, who is at the heart of the new Creation, reconciling all things to God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who renews life in Creation, groans in empathy with suffering Creation, and is working with us, to renew the face of the Earth.

This is our faith; through it we see God's revelation emerging in new ways among us.

Through it we embrace the promise of God's saving Love and our mission to restore our Common Home. Amen

Intercessions - 23rd Week Ordinary Time [Sun 8th – Sat 14th September 2024]

invitation to pray:

leader: God of Faithfulness, as we begin to recognise the threats to our well-being we ask You to deepen our trust in Your faithful love:

1: *For an ever-deepening trust in the faithful presence and loving work of God among us and through us, to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor: - (pause) - Protector of the Poor, hear us:*

*all: **Protector of the Poor, hear us.***

2: *For the success of the work of ecumenical and interfaith communities to promote global unity and restore Earth as a nurturing home to all its creatures: - (pause) – God of Unity, hear us:*

*all: **God of Unity, hear us.***

3: *That we may take up our prophetic responsibility at this time to speak God's Truth to each other and to call each other into ways of living on Earth wisely, sustainably, justly and reverently:*

- (pause) - God of Regeneration, hear us:

*all: **God of Regeneration, hear us.***

4: *That we may hear and respond in faith and in hope to the Cry of the Poor among us and around the planet:*

- (pause) – God of the Poor and Vulnerable, hear us:

*all: **God of the Poor and Vulnerable, hear us.***

5: *For the sick: we pray for: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:

- (pause) - God of Healing, hear us:

*all: **God of Healing, hear us.***

6: *For those who have died: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)

Number them among Your saints: - (pause) - God of new Life, hear us:

*all: **God of new Life, hear us.***

Concluding Prayer:

leader: May we take up our responsibilities to live respectfully. We ask this through Christ, the Way the Truth and the Life:

*all: **Amen***

(If no priest, the leader/presider introduces Lord's Prayer.)

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Creator God,
You inspire awe in our hearts.
Through Your love this Universe flared forth
from You in fiery birth billions of years ago.
Through all that time, You have patiently prepared
and provided us these gifts and so much more to share.
We offer them in gratitude as signs of Your faithful care
for all our needs. Through them we offer our lives, our talents,
and our commitment to care for all in need on planet Earth
and to work for the renewal of our Common Home itself.
Receive them and transform our gifts and our energies
into Your true Bread of Life for our world.
We ask this in the name of Christ, Jesus:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface

presider: The Lord be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

presider: Holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

*All things are of Your making,
all times and seasons obey Your law.
But You fashioned the human family in Your own image
and set us over the world in all its wonder,
that we might be stewards of Your creation,
praising You day by day
for the marvels of Your might and wisdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And so, with all the angels and saints
and with the whole of Creation
we sing the joyful hymn of Your praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – IV

Memorial Acclamation

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

presider: Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,*

*that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress, as we await
the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:

Lamb of God

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you. *all: **Amen****

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life;
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Gracious, Loving God,
we have shared this Eucharist in thanksgiving
for Your sacred Creation in which we share
and where we find our Common Home.
Now may the power of Christ's body and blood*

*reach deep into our hearts, our minds, and our bodies.
Heal our wounds, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts,
and renew all Earth's communities.*

We make our prayer in Jesus' name:

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God,
the Creating Spirit, Who is above all and in all.
May that Loving Spirit, fill us with knowledge
of God's faithful presence and healing work:*

*all: **Amen***

*leader: We are sent in the name of Christ Jesus,
Who opens eyes and ears and tongues for the healing of Earth.
May Christ open our eyes and ears, minds and hearts
to love and care for each other and for Creation:*

*all: **Amen***

*leader: We are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit
Who is at work around Earth to raise up communities
working together to renew the face of the Earth.
May the Spirit nourish hope and unity in our hearts,
until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, ✠ e te Tamaiti e te Wairua Tapu. /
May the blessing of God, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us now and always:*

*all: **Amene***

leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace. To love and serve the Lord.

*all: **Thanks be to God.***

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