

25th Sunday Ordinary Time (b) 22nd September 2024

the Season of Creation: Week 4

Introduction

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

Theme – I HAVE COME TO SERVE

*leader: Mark is the evangelist who reminds us most often of how difficult it was for the apostles to believe in Jesus and to accept the demands of discipleship. Mark says they didn't understand what Jesus was saying and they were afraid to ask. Their concern was what would their position be in the change that Jesus was promising. Each sought their own advantage!
(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*

either (cXonfer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: 'I confess'.)

leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.

*all: **I confess: . . .***

and/or

leader: Today's readings suggest the destructive power of divisions, jealousies, greed and competition. That's in contrast with the what James in his letter calls, 'the wisdom from above' – a wisdom that embraces the importance of turning our energies to true service:

Lord God, we have become alienated from each other and from Earth:

- (pause) - Lord, have mercy:

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

leader: Christ Jesus, the human family has pollluted Earth's air land and waters, made countless species extinct, turned our greed into global warming, devalued human life, and loved what was called 'progress' more than the planet and each other:- (pause) - Christ , have mercy:

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

leader: Holy Spirit of God, You are at work in us and among us, teaching us of Your presence in Earth, calling us to take part in Your new Creation:

- (pause) - Lord, have mercy:

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

leader: May God, the Creator, have mercy on us, free us from our sins and guide us into the fullness of divine life:

*all: **Amen***

GLORIA *invitation*

leader: The Word of God reveals to us, a God of unimaginable Beauty, Creativity, Vibrancy of Life and Love. Let us join our voices with all Creation to sing our praise to God.

Opening Prayer

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Loving Creator God,
You have been faithful, patiently preparing Earth
to be the nurturing home for all that dwell on it and in it.
As we come to recognise the threats to its well-being
from some of the values and actions of our human community,
we ask You to deepen our trust in Your faithful love.
Send the healing power of Christ.
Give us strength of faith and courage
to speak Your prophetic Word of truth and transformation,
ready to face resistance, rejection, and suffering
with love, creativity, and perseverance.
We make our prayer in the name of Christ Jesus:*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Wisdom 2 : 12, 17 – 20)*

leader: Faithful Israelites living in Alexandria (about 50 b.c.e.) are the objects of mockery and persecution by renegade Israelites and hostile non-Israelites. The wisdom author has their experience in mind when writing about the sufferings of 'the just'.

Introduction to the second reading: **dcx** *(James 3 : 16 – 4 : 3)*

leader: James asks the Christian disciple to discern when legitimate debate crosses over the line and degenerates into contentiousness, by looking at the persons involved. Are they jealous and selfishly ambitious? Or are they pure, peaceful, gently, open to reason, merciful, full of good acts, simple and sincere?

Gospel Acclamation:

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

**God has called us with the Gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!**

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(Matthew 00 : 00 – 00)*

leader: At Caesare Philippi, Peter had declared that Jesus was the Messiah. As they pass through Galilee, Jesus instructs the disciples further. They are on their way towards Jerusalem.

Homily Notes (*presider*)

- *In the reading from the Book of Wisdom, the wicked are preparing to torture and kill the just one whom they experience as a living condemnation of their ways. They tell themselves, "If the just one be the son of God, God will defend him." This is the assumption that Peter made in last Sunday's gospel, the assumption which Jesus rejected, telling Peter that he was thinking not as God does but as humans do. [Mark 8:27-35]*
- *Hearing this in the Season of Creation raises a disturbing question. If God does not intervene to save God's beloved sons or daughters from suffering and death, could it true that God will not protect Earth either, no matter how precious it is, from the destructive effects of humanity's actions? God is certainly not protecting people from martyrdom who are working to defend Earth. But what of Earth herself?*
- *The warnings of scientists about the devastation that would come from the dangerous tipping points in the near future because of climate change, press that question upon us. From what we are already seeing in more devastating storms, heat waves, droughts, fires, floods, the looming threat of dramatic sea level rise, the increasing frequency of extinctions of species globally, and the continuing rise of average annual global temperature, there is no denying that the risks and threats are real. And it is hard to imagine the extent of their widespread destructive power. Could Earth be facing what Jesus was trying to teach his apostles in today's gospel: "I will be handed over to people who will kill me..."? From the evidence of the five great extinctions etched in our planetary history and the mysterious remnants of vast lost civilizations of the past, Earth has and could again endure vast and terrible death. That history also bears witness that Earth could rise again, but that "resurrection" would, without doubt, as it has in past recoveries from major extinctions, take thousands and tens of thousands, if not, millions of years.*
- *The reading from the Letter of James in today's liturgy warns of the destructiveness of selfish competitive patterns of action. Those are the behaviors that Pope Francis identified in *Laudato Si'* as driving the destructive dynamics now threatening the life of the planet, including the human community. The global economy is structured on competition that drives consumption and requires constant economic growth on a planet with limited resources.*
- *Recall that less than two months ago on August 1st Earth Overshoot Day was commemorated, highlighting the fact that the human community had consumed in just 7 months the renewable resources that it will take the planet a full year to replenish. And Earth Overshoot Day is coming earlier every year. Those economic systems,*

structures and patterns of living are also the drivers of growing inequality around the planet that promises increasing social crises and conflict.

- *When the average worker for a major corporation in a wealthy nation makes about \$28,000 a year while its CEO makes \$28,000 every nine seconds, social crisis seems inevitable. While that may be an extreme example, the competitive structures of the global economy are aggravating what Pope Francis has described as one complex and inter-related global crisis.*
- *Finally, in the gospel, Jesus catches the Twelve arguing among themselves, competing to be recognised as the greatest in the group. Most all of us have to acknowledge a competitive streak in ourselves. It may show itself in different situations and ways. Some people's competitive juices flow when the issue is recognition. Some instinctively compete for power and control. The economy is driven when people compete for wealth. Others compete to be most helpful....*
- *What is worth noting in this gospel passage is that Jesus does not tell the Twelve to stop competing. The drive to compete can provide powerful energy to drive action. Jesus tells them that his disciples need to channel their competitive energies into service, service of the least.*

Apostles' Creed

Intercessions - 25th Week Ordinary Time [Sun 22nd – Sat 28th September 2024]*invitation to pray:*

leader: *Let us pray that God's Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, may inspire our prayer to the benefit of all:*

1: *For the Christian community. That they may be a sign of tolerance in the world. In the midst of the nations, may Christians sow justice in peace:
- (pause) - God of Peace, hear us:*

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

2: *For an ever-greater attentiveness to the Wisdom from above, guiding us to respond effectively to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor:
- (pause) - God of Creation, hear us:*

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

3: *For those who are today suffering most from the effects of the changing climate and for generous response to their needs from the rest of the human community: - (pause) - God of Community, hear us:*

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

4: *For Christian leaders; remove the spirit of ambition; replace it with a spirit of humility and service: - (pause) – God of Faithfulness, hear us:*

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

5: *For the sick: we pray for:*

Mangawhai: **Matteo Gray, Petronella Brom, Tina & Sharvita MeHarry, Lorna Bockock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Maureen Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, Colleen Griffith, Teresa McCarthy, Kathy Brokliss (Hokianga), Lee McCarthy, Emelia Brockliss, (Mexico), Jayden Wilson, Eric Caulton,**

Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Adolph Layec,**

Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, Theresa Graham, Caroline Milner,**

Restore their health, that they may offer You joyful thanks in the midst of Your Church: - (pause) - God of Well-being, hear us:

all: **God of Well-being, hear us.**

6: *For those who have died recently, Tom Ryan, And those whose death anniversaries occur about now: Joan Brown, Bernard Chaffe, Nicola McHugh, Rick Donnelly, Robert Scelly, Valmay Baily, Robert Tayler,
Number them among Your saints: - (pause) - God of New Life, hear us:*

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

Concluding Prayer:

leader: *May we speak God's Truth to each other and call each other into ways of living on the Earth sustainably, and reverently. We ask this through Christ, the Way the Truth and the Life:*

all: **Amen**

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

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Loving Creator God,
 You planted the seeds of life on Earth.
 You have prepared and given us
 a rich diversity of Earth's gifts to share.
 From among them we offer this bread and wine,
 grateful for Your faithful care for our needs.
 Through them too we offer our commitment
 to care for all in need on planet Earth
 and to work for the restoration of our Common Home itself.
 Receive 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 (*Christ the Ruler of Creation*)

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.

*You anointed Christ the Lord, with the oil of gladness
 as eternal priest and ruler of all Creation.*

*As priest, he offered himself on the altar of the cross
 and redeemed the human race
 by this perfect sacrifice of peace.*

*As ruler, he claims dominion over all creatures,
 that he may present to Your infinite majesty*

a realm of truth and life,

a realm of holiness and grace,

a realm of justice, love, and peace.

And so, with angels and archangels,

with all the heavenly host,

we proclaim Your glory

and join their unending chorus of praise:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

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***

either

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

or

*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 to heal our wounds, to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts. Strengthen and protect us in the prophetic mission to heal and renew all of Earth's communities that You have entrusted to our care. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus and in the power of Your Holy Spirit where we live and move and have our being now and forever: *all: **Amen.****

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

Dismissal

*leader: May God the Father, bless us with deep reverence and love for Creation: . . . all: **Amen***
*May Christ Jesus, our brother, guide us in caring for the gifts of Creation: . . . all: **Amen***
*May the Holy Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to care for Creation wisely and well, 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.***