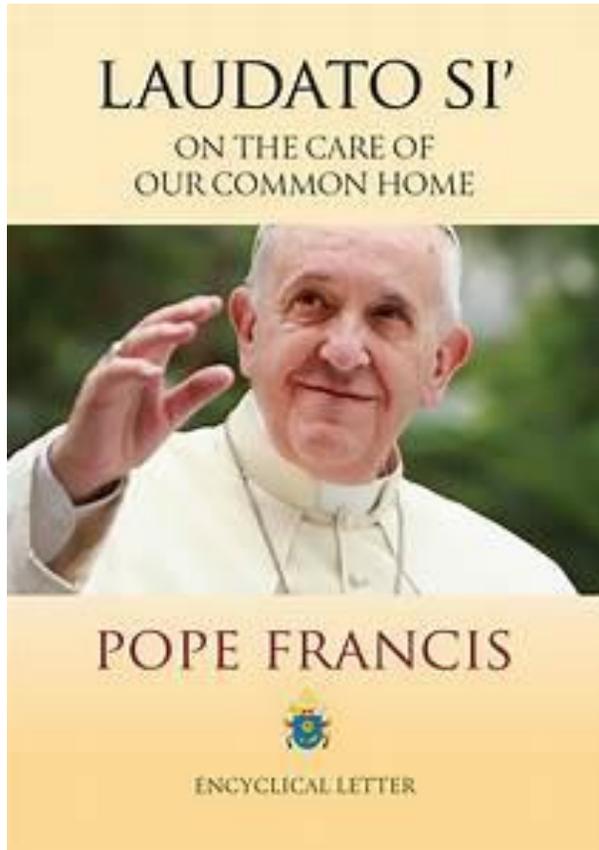


The New Way of the Cross in the Light of Laudato Si



Opening Prayer

Leader: In the presence of God, our Loving Creator,

All: we have come for renewal.

Leader: In the presence of Jesus, our Compassionate Savior.

All: we have come for mercy.

Leader: In the presence of the Holy Spirit, our Divine Counselor,

All: we have come for wisdom.

Leader: Loving and compassionate God, we praise and thank you for the gift of life; for your providence that sustains us; and for your wisdom that directs the course of our days. Forgive our sins against your love, against each other, and against your creation. Make us responsible members of the Earth-community. Loving and compassionate God, as we come together to journey the Way of the Cross with Jesus, your Son, in the light of Laudato Si, renew our spirits and awaken in us that we are all part of a single sacred Earth-community also journeying the Way of the Cross because of our crucifying ways. We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: Amen



STATION I – INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 1)

“Laudato si’, mi’ 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. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.”

(short silence)



STATION I
INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, we thank you for your Son Jesus, who was not satisfied enough to become one of us and share our humanity, but in great love for us did even more by transforming himself into bread and wine, which we continue to receive in the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, he continues to nourish our spirit and stays in us and with us as our constant companion. Like Jesus, Mother Earth also continues to nourish and sustain us with life. Teach us to be like Jesus as well and make of us channels of your life-giving love to one another and to all of creation.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION I
INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST



STATION II – JESUS' AGONY AT GETHSEMANE

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 2)

Earth now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22).

(short silence)



STATION II – JESUS' AGONY AT GETHSEMANE



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, Earth groans in agony as Jesus did in Gethsemane, hands clasped in prayer, in a desperate attempt to gather strength to do your will. Those he asked to watch and pray with him that night did not seem to care; just as many of us seem not to care about the agony of Mother Earth. Forgive us and grant us a heart as loving and caring as yours that we may hear both the cry of the poor and the cry of Mother Earth.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION II – JESUS' AGONY AT GETHSEMANE



STATION III - JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 104)

Yet it must also be recognized that nuclear energy, biotechnology, information technology, knowledge of our DNA, and many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power. More precisely, they have given those with the knowledge, and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used.

(short silence)



STATION III - JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, you were condemned to death by the misuse and abuse of power of the Sanhedrin. Touch and renew the hearts of those who are now in power, that instead of looking only for gain at the expense of the poor and Mother Earth, they may use their power to empower the poor and to preserve the beauty of creation.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION III - JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



STATION IV – THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 23, 24)

A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity. As these gases build up in the atmosphere, they hamper the escape of heat produced by sunlight at the earth's surface.....The problem is aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system.

(short silence)



STATION IV – THE CROWNING WITH THORNS



JUST 90 Big Polluters
including major oil, coal and gas producers
are responsible for **63%**
OF GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, as Jesus was crowned with thorns by the people in his time, we are now crowning Mother Earth with air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect and crown the world with beauty and wellbeing, not pollution and disease.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION IV – THE CROWNING WITH THORNS



STATION V- THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 21, 22)

Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish.....These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture.

(short silence)



STATION V- THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, as Jesus carried the weight of the cross on his shoulders, Mother Earth is also now carrying on her shoulders the millions of tons of waste we are generating. Deliver us from our throwaway culture and teach us to live more simply and responsibly.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son , who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION V- THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS



STATION VI – JESUS FALLS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 27)

Other indicators of the present situation have to do with the depletion of natural resources. We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels. The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits.

(short silence)



STATION VI – JESUS FALLS



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, our species has been exploiting the gifts of Mother Earth for so long and our exploitative ways of living is now going beyond the capacity of Mother Earth to carry us and sustain life for us. Like Jesus who fell from the heaviness of the cross he was carrying, so does Mother Earth from carrying the impacts of our exploitative ways. Have mercy on us and help us discover new ways of living that are mutually-enhancing for one another and the entire Earth-community.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION VI – JESUS FALLS



STATION VII -SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 13, 14)

I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home of which we share.

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

(short silence)



STATION VII
SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, it must have been heavy for Simon to see Jesus carrying the weight of the cross. He did not hesitate to take it upon his shoulders to relieve Jesus of its material weight. We join Pope Francis in thanking you for all those who are striving to guarantee the protection of Earth, our Common Home. Awaken more people to do the same.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION VII
SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS



STATION VIII - JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM (optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 159, 160)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?

(short silence)



STATION VIII
JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, the women of Jerusalem were really sincere in their sorrow at seeing Jesus suffering and in pain. They knew his goodness and innocence. But Jesus told them not to weep for him but for themselves and their children. In the same way, you are telling those of us who are now hearing the cry of the Earth to be more concerned with what kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. As we listen to your voice, grant us the grace to commit ourselves to care for our Common Home so that we may leave a beautiful world to all children of all species and of all time.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION VIII
JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



STATION IX - JESUS NAILED ON THE CROSS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 53)

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years.

(short silence)



STATION IX - JESUS NAILED ON THE CROSS



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, the loving hands of Jesus which blessed the children and cured the sick, were mercilessly nailed to the wood of the cross. The wounds caused by the nails must be terribly painful. Our species is also hurting and mistreating Mother Earth as you had been hurt and mistreated in your time. She, too, is feeling terribly the wounds that we are inflicting on her. Have mercy on us, O God, and grant us the grace to heal the wounds we have caused our dear Mother and the wounds we caused each another.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION IX - JESUS NAILED ON THE CROSS



STATION X – THE REPENTANT THIEF

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 205)

Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good and making a new start despite their mental and social conditioning.

(short silence)



STATION X – THE REPENTANT THIEF



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, we see the left hand of the repentant thief desperately trying to reach out to Jesus as his last hope and we see Jesus' right hand trying to reach out to him in a merciful embrace. But the nails prevented both of them from touching each other. Yet, Jesus' sorrowful voice and reassuring words, "Today you will be with me in paradise," reached the heart of the man. The man was saved on the last lap of his life! We come to you, repentant as that man, of the sins we have committed against you, against Mother Earth, against one another and against ourselves. We thank you for the hope that you have in our innate goodness. Keep us in your love as we strive to renew our lives.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



STATION X – THE REPENTANT THIEF



STATION XI – MARY AND JOHN AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



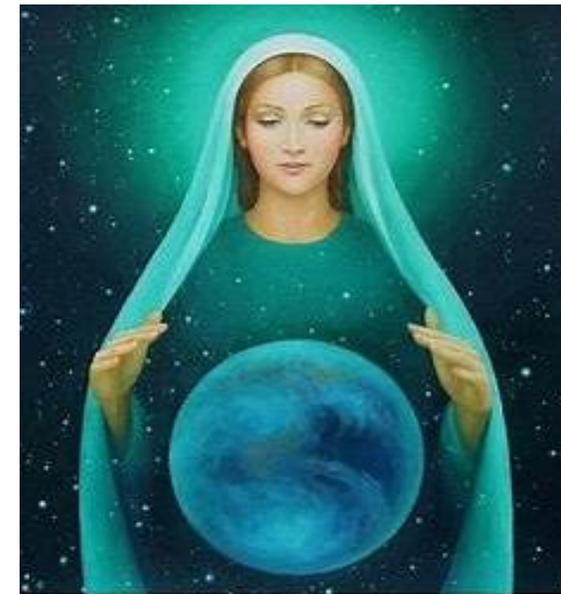
Reading from Laudato Si (LS 241)

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world. Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of this world laid waste by human power.....Hence, we can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.

(short silence)



STATION XI
MARY AND JOHN AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



Let us pray:

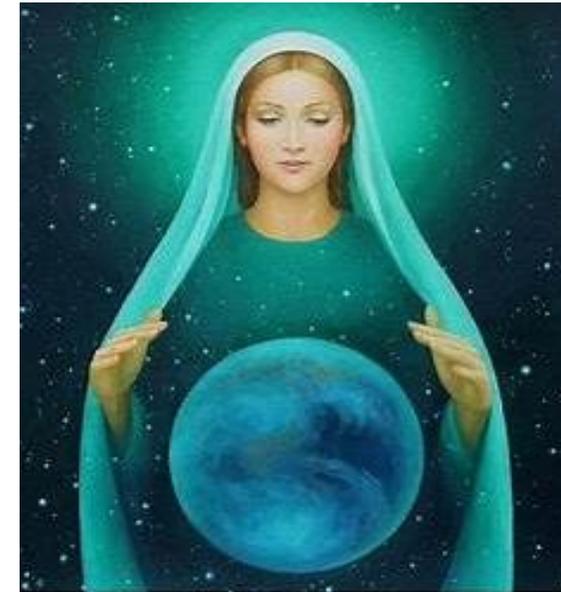
Loving and compassionate God,
we thank you for entrusting us
all to the motherly care of Mary.

Mary, Mother of God, and our
Mother too, we come to your aid
especially in this time of ecological
crisis. Through your wisdom and
inspiration, teach us to change our
ways of relating to one another and to
the rest of God's creation. Teach us to
reverence and respect all life.

Mary, Mother of God. Pray for us.
Mary, Queen of the Cosmos. Pray for us



STATION XI
MARY AND JOHN AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



STATION XII - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS (optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 33)

Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

(short silence)



STATION XII - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



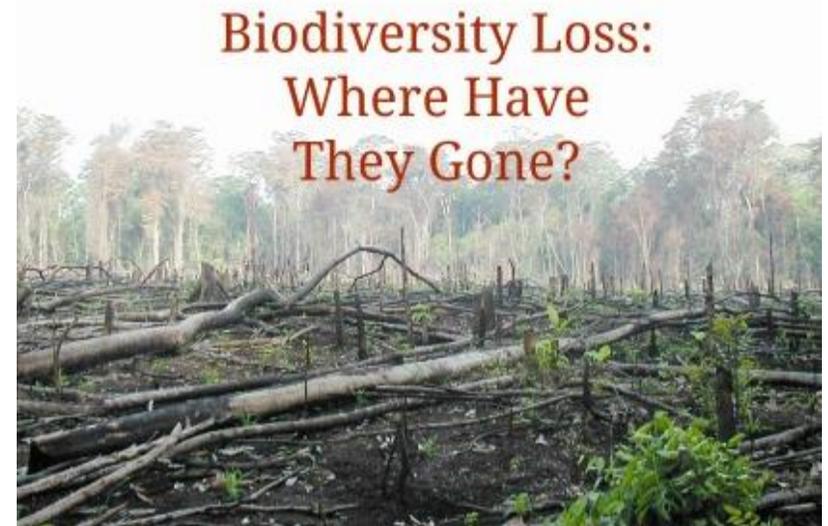
Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, out of love, Jesus offered himself even unto death.....a death he did not deserve. When he reached the end of his agony, he called on you only with words of forgiveness, "Forgive them Father for they know not what they are doing; and with hope and trust: "Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit." Many of our fellow human beings and fellow Earthlings have also suffered death that they did not deserve and still many are suffering the same. Pardon us for being the cause of their death, whether directly or indirectly; consciously or unconsciously. Fill us with hope and trust in your great mercy and unconditional love.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen



STATION XII - JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



STATION XIII – JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 80)

The Holy Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge...

(short silence)



STATION XIII – JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, Jesus was laid to rest like a seed entrusted to the womb of Mother Earth to bring forth new life. We now place as well the seed of our commitment to be responsible members of the Earth-community in the womb of Mother Earth. Bless this seed, let it grow and let it bring forth new life on Earth.

We ask this through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen



STATION XIII – JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



STATION XIV – THE RESURRECTION

(optional: mention your particular intention)

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.



Reading from Laudato Si (LS 207)

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning...Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

(short silence)



STATION XIV – THE RESURRECTION



Let us pray:

Loving and compassionate God, we rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. With hope in this cosmic event, we believe that we will rise from the grave of sin to the life of grace, reverencing and celebrating anew the life of all creation. By your grace, we shall awaken a new beginning with the entire Earth-community. Our waters will again be viable and healthy. Trees will again abound and provide us with good oxygen. Air will again be clean and free of pollution. Mother Earth will be well again and all beings will experience the fullness of life that you have promised us, through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen



STATION XIV – THE RESURRECTION



Closing Prayer

A Prayer for Our Earth

by Pope Francis

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 our Mother Earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each being,
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.



Terra Sisters of the Trinity

Prayer to Our Loving and Compassionate God Amidst the Current Global Health Crisis



Loving and compassionate God,
we praise and thank you for the gift of life;
for your providence that sustains us;
and for your wisdom that directs the course of our days.

Forgive our sins against your love,
against each other, and against your creation.
Make us responsible members of the Earth-community.

Loving and compassionate God,
we come to you today as one community in need
faced with a global health crisis.
The threat of COVID-19 is upon us today.
This disease poses fear among us
and has already claimed many lives.

Loving and compassionate God,
We humbly beg you to deliver us from this and other diseases.
Heal those who are afflicted and restore their health soon.
Grant eternal rest to those who have died of this disease,
and comfort their loved ones in their sorrow and grief.

Strengthen us all in love to care for each other.
Protect all the healthcare workers and other frontliners.
Guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease.
Give all nation leaders foresight to act with true concern
for the wellbeing of the people.

Loving and compassionate God,
we implore you to stop the spread of this virus
and to help us move on with renewed love and reverence for life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

Final Blessing

