

FROM ASCENSION TO PENTECOST:
INVITATION TO PRAYER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Between Ascension and Pentecost, the Scriptures tell us: *“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers...”* (Acts 1:14) while they awaited to be *“clothed with power from on high.”* (Luke 24:49).

We are invited to pray these reflections on the account of creation in the book of Genesis, and to respond in prayer and action to the urgent climate change issues that we all face.



Monday after the Ascension. (May 17)

Introduction and opening prayer.

Show Mercy to our Common Home

Despite our sins and the daunting challenges before us, we never lose heart. “The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us... for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward.” (*Laudato Si'*, 13; 245).

In a particular way, let us pray ...

“O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
who are so precious in your eyes...
God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth” (ibid., 246),

God of mercy, may we receive your forgiveness
and convey your mercy throughout our common home. Praise be to you!
Amen.

Scripture Reading and Prayer.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear." And the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind on earth." And so it was. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

(Genesis 1:9-13)

Bless the Lord, fire and heat,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer
heat, sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, dews and snows,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, nights and days,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, light and darkness,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, ice and cold,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, frosts and snows,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever. Bless the Lord, lightnings and clouds,
sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever.

(Prayer of Azariah and his Companions, Daniel 3:66-73)



**A reading from the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Querida Amazonia, 'to
the beloved Amazon region.'** **Pope Francis, 2nd February 2020.**

The Amazon is also the spinal column that creates harmony and unity: "the river does not divide us. It unites us and helps us live together amid different cultures and languages". While it is true that in these lands there are many "Amazon regions", the

principal axis is the great river, the offspring of many rivers: "From the high mountain range where the snows are eternal, the water descends and traces a shimmering line along the ancient skin of the rock: the Amazon is born. It is born every second. It descends slowly, a sinuous ray of light, and then swells in the lowland. Rushing upon green spaces, it invents its own path and expands. Underground waters well up to embrace the water that falls from the Andes. From the belly of the pure white clouds, swept by the wind, water falls from heaven. It collects and advances, multiplied in infinite pathways, bathing the immense plain... This is the Great Amazonia, covering the humid tropic with its astonishingly thick forest, vast reaches untouched by man, pulsing with life threading through its deep waters... From the time that men have lived there, there has arisen from the depths of its waters, and running through the heart of its forest, a terrible fear: that its life is slowly but surely coming to an end". N.45.

Prayer

Loving God,
Creator of Heaven, Earth,
and all therein contained.
Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.
Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.

Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good.
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord, under the loving gaze of Mary, Help of Christians.
Amen



{This Novena, (slightly edited) is promulgated by the Bishops of England and Wales}

