



ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

LAUDATO SI'

“Praise be to you, my Lord.”

This series of bulletin inserts will focus on the SUNDAY SCRIPTURES in light of LAUDATO SI'

The scripture readings of this Sunday invite us to reflect on the deep connection between human beings and the rest of God’s creation. Through his contemplation of the natural world around him, the prophet Isaiah was able to discern the revelation of God’s Logos. Today’s passage from Isaiah stands out as one of the many examples of how, in our Judeo-Christian tradition, God speaks to human beings through two books: the Book of Creation and the Book of Sacred Scriptures. The two are distinct but yet related and inseparable.

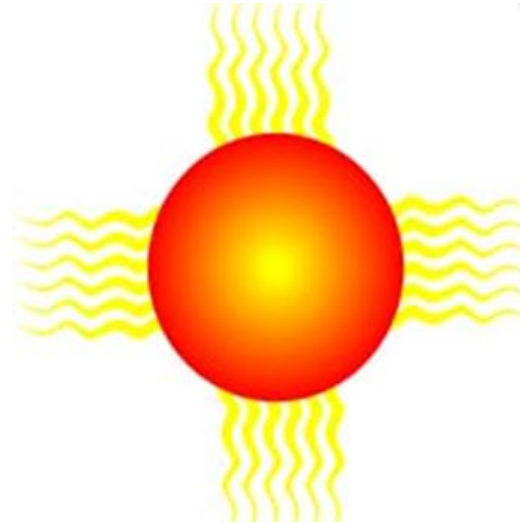
In speaking about God and God’s Kingdom, Jesus often drew his parables from the Book of Creation. That is the case in our Gospel for this day, in which Jesus begins by invoking the image of a sower who went out to sow. Jesus then ends by praising those who have eyes that truly see and ears that truly hear.

Today the Christian community faces a significant spiritual challenge facing, namely recovering our ability to see and hear more deeply the voice of God speaking to us through the Book of Creation. What are some of the concrete steps that we can take as individuals, families and faith communities to give ourselves the time and space we need to be touched and transformed by the wonder and awe of God’s creation? What can we do to open our eyes and ears to peace, gratitude and joy that come from a renewed sense of connection with God and God’s creation? This is not something peripheral, reserved for a small group of people who love the outdoors. Growing into a deeper communion with God and God’s creation is essential to our human survival as a species. It is also a profoundly religious and spiritual challenge.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul asserts that our ultimate destiny as Christians is profoundly intertwined with that of the rest of God’s creation. Pope Francis echoes that ancient teaching by saying that, together with all Earth community of life, we are fellow pilgrims on a journey to a fuller life in Christ Jesus. It is a moral imperative that we ponder that truth as we make collective political and economic decisions that impact the poor and the future generations, the land and oceans, forests and countless species of fellow creatures.

† **Scripture passages to note:**

Romans 8: Creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God...in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.



This resource is provided by the Integral Faith Team in collaboration with the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), the [Association of U.S. Catholic Priests](#), and the [Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO blessedtrinitymissoula.org (Click on the LAUDATO SI page). The complete text of the encyclical is available there, as well as other information and videos.

ALSO AVAILABLE on the Laudato Si page...



THE COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED: Caring for Creation and the Common Good.

Released in 2001 but still valid today, this document is an international pastoral letter by the **Catholic Bishops of the Pacific Northwest** addressed to all people of good will in hopes the “we might work together to develop and implement an integrated spiritual, social and ecological vision for our watershed home, a vision that promotes justice for people and stewardship of creation.”

[You can view a short video reflection on the document.](#)

[THE COMPLETE PASTORAL LETTER](#) is also available on the website.