



## 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'**

**T**oday's readings remind us of the boundless love of God, and it's good to have such a reminder, for we too often take God's love for granted. In urging the people of Jerusalem to give praise to God, the prophet Zechariah speaks of God's endless saving love in terms of the created world: God's love is from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth – in other words, as far as human imagination can conceive. St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, marvels at the boundless love of God, which conquers even death and which invites us humans into His infinite life. And Jesus, in Matthew's gospel, again speaks of the Father as the Lord of heaven and earth, of all that exists.

Indeed, as Pope Francis points out in *Laudato Si'*, it is that same love that brought our entire universe into existence, God's boundless love spilling out into all of creation. We can see God's love in God's creation, and we, as creatures born of that same love, are called to care for all of the creation that God so loves. We are called not to material wealth, not to power, not to domination, but to love – for God, for our brothers and sisters, and for all of God's creation.

**The global coronavirus pandemic** is opening our eyes to new ways of seeing, new possibilities for loving our neighbor and for loving God's creation. Over these past few months, we've often heard the expression: “We're all in this together.” That's true of the pandemic, and it's certainly true of the ecological crisis Pope Francis is warning us of in *Laudato Si'*. We are all in this world together – the world created out of God's boundless love, the world we can all help to heal through our acts of love.

#### † **Scripture passages to note:**

**Zech 9** His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

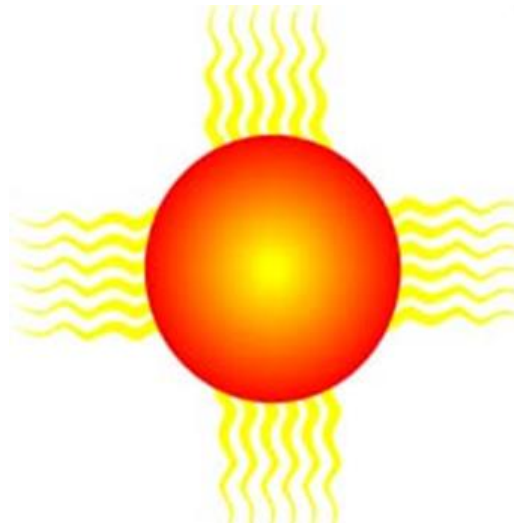
**Romans 8** If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**Matthew 11** At that time Jesus exclaimed: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.”

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:**

The universe did not emerge as a result of arbitrary omnipotence, a show of force or a desire for self-assertion. Creation is the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things. (#77)

If we acknowledge the value and the fragility of nature and, at the same time, our God-given abilities, we can finally leave behind the modern myth of unlimited material progress. A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing and limiting our power. (#78)



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](http://blessedtrinitymissoula.org) (Click on the LAUDATO SI page). The complete text of the encyclical is available there, as well as other information and videos.**