



October 4, 2026

The Conclusion of the Season of Creation

.... The Feast of St. Francis

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

And Blessed be God's Kingdom, both now and forever. Amen

The Collect for Purity (said in unison)

– Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Song of Praise

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it. Let us confess our failure to receive with gratitude God's gift of creation, and repent of the ways in which we have caused it harm.

Kyrie Confession

You laid the foundations of the earth, but we have claimed your world as our own.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you, but we have not lived as those who belong to you.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new, but our hope has grown dim . Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May Almighty God...

Collect

Holy and eternal God, you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
We ask you that following the example of Francis of Assisi
we may be drawn into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Job 39:1–18

A Reading from the Book of Job

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the deer?

Can you number the months that they fulfil,
and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their
offspring, and are delivered of their young?

Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;
they go forth, and do not return to them.

"Who has let the wild ass go free?
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,

to which I have given the steppe for its home,
the salt land for its dwelling-place?

It scorns the tumult of the city;
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

It ranges the mountains as its pasture,
and it searches after every green thing.

"Is the wild ox willing to serve you?
Will it spend the night at your crib?

Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?

Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?

Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

"The ostrich's wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.

For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,

forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.

It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labor should be in vain, yet it has no fear;

because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.

When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider."

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

The Response: **The Canticle of the Creatures** (*written by St. Francis in 1224*)

Leader: Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praise, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name. [1]

All: Praise be to You, my Lord, with all Your creatures!

Leader: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Brother Sun,
who brings the day and through whom You give us light.
He is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor;
of You, Most High, he bears the likeness. [1]

All: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the Stars!
In the heavens, You have shaped them—bright, precious, and beautiful. [1, 2]

Leader: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, the clouds, the stormy and the serene weather,
by which You give nourishment to all Your creatures. [1]

All: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Sister Water!
She is deeply useful, humble, precious, and pure. [1, 2]

Leader: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
by whom You illuminate the night.
He is robust, joyful, powerful, and strong. [1, 2]

All: Praise be to You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth!
Who sustains us and governs us,
producing varied fruits with colorful flowers and herbs. [1]

Leader: Praise be to You, my Lord, through those who grant pardon for love of You,
and who bear sickness and trial in patience.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by You, Most High, they will be crowned. [1]

**All: Praise be to You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living creature can escape.
Blessed are those found doing Your most holy will. [1]**

Leader: Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks. [1]

All: And serve Him with great humility. Amen.

The Second Reading Acts 4:32-35, 5:1-11

A reading from the Book of Acts

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things.

All **Alleluia, Alleluia., Alleluia**

The Gospel John 1: 1-4

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Praise to you Lord Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[\[a\]](#) it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Prayers of the People

Priest God of all creation, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis and conclude our Season of Creation, we bring our petitions before you saying Creator God, hear our prayer

Leader: For the Church, that we may be faithful stewards of your handiwork, advocating for the protection of the Earth and living with the simplicity and humility modeled by St. Francis, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For world leaders and those in positions of power, that they may be moved by the urgency of our climate crisis to enact policies that restore the balance of nature, protect biodiversity, and ensure justice for all who suffer from environmental degradation, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the vulnerable, the displaced, and the impoverished, who bear the heaviest burden of a changing climate, that they may be supported by our actions and that their voices may be heard in the halls of power, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all creatures great and small, and for the delicate ecosystems that sustain life, that we may recognize our kinship with all that you have made and act with reverence toward every living being, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our local community, that this Season of Creation may not end today, but may mark a new beginning in our commitment to live sustainably, to consume with gratitude, and to protect the common home we share, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who are ill, isolated, or grieving, that they may find comfort in your presence and strength in the support of their neighbors, we pray to the Lord.

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer.

For the needs and hopes of all those on our parish's prayer list, and those we now name silently or aloud...*pause*... And so we pray

Congregation: Creator God, hear our prayer

Priest: Loving God, you who spoke the universe into being and saw that it was good: hear these prayers and grant us the grace to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis, that we may be instruments of your peace and healers of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Introduction to the Peace

**You shall go out in joy and be led back into peace; the mountains and the hills before
you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;

by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty.

As we set before you this bread and wine,

teach us gratitude for your gifts

and make us faithful stewards of your creation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Creator

Let us thank the Giver of Life

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you on this island, where the rising bay meets our creeks and inlets.

We praise you in this time of sorrow, when the body of the earth is broken and bruised. We give you thanks for our place on this land, and in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in desert and in wilderness, displaced and displacing, frightened and welcoming, all the while searching for home. They knew you on mountains and by wells, in tents and in cities, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who saw you in a burning bush, followed you in cloud and fire, and were fed by ravens on the mountains. Together with angels and ancestors, osprey and raven, silver maple and red cedar we join our voices with all of creation as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest

We give thanks to you for Jesus, born among the animals. He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, nourished and tested in the wilderness, travelled on the lakes, and knew the mysteries of seeds and growth.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth. He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land and work of human hands, gave thanks and gave it to his friends, saying, This is my blood, which is shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and awaiting his coming to renew all things, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts, that we who eat and drink at this table may be one with all who hunger and thirst for justice, and be joined with all of creation, our kin. Pour out your Spirit on the whole earth, that it may become your new creation, and that we, along with your people, of every language, race and nation, may share the banquet you have promised with Mary of Nazareth and Francis of Assisi, and all the saints who rest in the wisdom of sparrow and lily, raven and mustard seed, now and on the new earth. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Saviour, and Spirit, now and in the world to come. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,
All: **Our Father...**

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us, **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia!**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The gifts of God for the People of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Post Communion

**God our Creator, by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Savior's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.**

Blessing

May God the Father, whose glory is proclaimed in the heavens, awaken in you a delight and wonder in this good creation.

All Amen.

May God the Son, the Word made flesh, through whom all things were made, fill you with his risen life.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation and formed the world from chaos, form you in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth.

All Amen.

and the blessing.





We pray this week for Daria Serkov's family. Andrew Belt-Cappellino teaches the twin sister of Daria. Daria was struck and killed in an accident Friday night in NYC. Please pray for her family.

We continue to pray for Judy Hoffman who has been diagnosed with advanced abdominal cancer.

We also pray for Bill Ferris' brother-in-law, John G. Bacon, who has been Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

For the continuing recovery of Mary Ann Blados, Andy Visconti, Margaret MacLean, Joanne Calabro, Joe Canning, John Stadenraus, Walter Brigham, Steve Giannitelli, Betianne Morritt, Mark Capellino's Parents, Cindy Belt's mother, Lois Corbett, Barbara Brigham for continued recovery , for Bob Fisher, Sharon Gibbs, Barbara Allen Lieblein, Kathryn James, Peter Gulluscio, Bob and Virginia Springsteen, Ethan Pae, Valerie Capon, Louie Cicero, Linda Armbruster, Andrew Kuhn, Sr. Joy Wright

We pray for, Ukraine, the Sudan, Syria and the countries of the Middle East for peace and for safety. For all those in the midst of war or natural disasters.

We pray for peace and the end of divisions in our own country
For those grieving loved ones, especially those interred in our cemetery, for those who are ill, for all those who serve the sick, the needy and those in prison, for those who are anxious or fearful.

For all our parishioners living with cancer, known or undetected & for all who live with addictions, for those who participate in a 12 step group here at St. Mary, and those who have visited our Prayer Wall.



The Season of Creation is an annual ecumenical celebration dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of our common home. Held from September 1st to October 4th, it invites Christians worldwide to reflect on their relationship with the natural world and to commit to stewardship and ecological justice.

The observance began in 1989 when Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I of the Orthodox Church proclaimed September 1st as a day of prayer for the environment. The initiative grew significantly over the following decades:

- * 2008: The World Council of Churches (WCC) extended the celebration to a full month, culminating on October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology and peace.

- * 2015: Pope Francis officially established the Season of Creation for the Roman Catholic Church, aligning it with the existing Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant traditions.

Today, it serves as a global movement where diverse denominations come together to address the climate crisis and advocate for the vulnerable, emphasizing that the care for creation is an essential expression of faith.