

Eucharistic Celebration

Suggestions for the liturgical commemoration of the 35th anniversary of St. Francis as "Patron of Environment"

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, you have placed all the powers of nature under the care of humankind. May the spirit of Christ inspire us as we work together with all our brothers and sisters at the common task of establishing true love and guiding your creation to perfect fulfillment in the spirit of Francis of Assisi. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ...

First Reading: **Wisdom 11: 21-26** [alternative: Genesis 9: 8-15 or Genesis 2: 4-25]

For your great power is always at your service, and who can withstand the might of your arm? The whole world, for you, can no more than tip a balance, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you are almighty, you overlook people's sins, so that they can repent. Yes, you love everything that exists, and nothing that you have made disgusts you, since, if you had hated something, you would not have made it. And how could a thing subsist, had you not willed it? Or how be preserved, if not called forth by you? No, you spare all, since all is yours, Lord, lover of life!

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104: 27-30

R. Renew the face of the earth, o Lord!

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them they gather it up. **R.**

When you open your hand they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face they are terrified. **R.**

When you take away their breath they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

Gospel: **Lk 12: 22-32 (alternative: Matthew 6: 26-29, John 1:1-5)**

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Preface:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed us in your own image and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and forever praise you in your mighty works, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you as in joyful celebration, we acclaim...

Offertory:

God our Father, you provide the human race with food for strength and with the Eucharist for its renewal; may these gifts which we offer always bring us health of mind and body. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Closing Prayer:

O God, may the holy Eucharist we have celebrated help us to imitate the apostolic love and peaceful spirit of our brother Francis. May we live in peace and justice with our brothers and sisters and in harmony with your creation. Let us share all the good things we receive from your love for the benefit of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen