



**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2020**



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[www.vaipl.org](http://www.vaipl.org)

# *Laudato Sí Week*

*May 16-24, 2020*

Laudato Si' Week honors the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home - creation. The theme of the week is "everything is connected." The week also launches a year-long journey of transformation for Catholics throughout the world.

This week occurs during a worldwide pandemic. What better time for praying, reflecting, and preparing together to build a better tomorrow – together!

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, the environmental justice program of the Virginia Interfaith Center of Public Policy, has prepared resources to help Catholic Communities celebrate the three components (praying, reflecting, preparing to act) of Laudato Sí Week:

## **1. Praying:**

On May 24, 2020 (the actual 5-year anniversary of *Laudato Sí*.) offer an Evening Prayer at your home or with your parish. Use or adapt the attached prayer service. You can also join a live-streamed video of the service on the VAIPL Facebook page on Sunday, May 24, at 7:30 pm.

## **2. Reflecting:**

Organize an online adult study of the encyclical. It can be either a single two-hour event, or divided up into as many as seven sessions, with participants reading a segment of *Laudato Sí between sessions*. This study program, complete with powerpoint slides and notes is available at [www.vaipl.org/laudato-si](http://www.vaipl.org/laudato-si). Or, you can invite others to join VAIPL Steering Committee member Mark Hoggard nightly at 6pm May 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 for ZOOM sessions online. For more information, visit [www.vaipl.org](http://www.vaipl.org).

## **3. Preparing to Act:**

Pope Francis has invited all Catholics to celebrate the Season of Creation beginning in September. Use the summer to make your plans. Visit [www.vaipl.org](http://www.vaipl.org) for ongoing action suggestions.



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## **EVENING PRAYER**

Celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Laudato Sí*

May 24, 2020

### **Gathering**

*Go “live” with your streaming about 15 minutes before you start. Especially if you are streaming on a social media platform (such as Facebook), this gives people an opportunity to “gather” and greet one another, so they are ready to worship when you begin.*

*During this 15 minutes, consider having some music (preferably live) in keeping with the theme of the prayer. Here’s some suggestions:*

[“Abundant Life”](#) (Duck/Haugen; GIA Publications)

[“Shelter Me”](#) (Joncas)

[“Tis the Gift to Be Simple”](#) (Shaker Hymn)

[“We Praise You”](#) (Haas)

[“We Praise You”](#) (Balhoff)

[“You Are the Voice”](#) (Haas)

### **Introduction/Welcome**

*When it is time to begin, a representative of the parish greets those present in these or similar words:*

G: Good evening. Welcome to our celebration of evening prayer. On May 24, 2015, Pope Francis put his name to his second encyclical, *Laudato Sí: On Care for Our Common Home*. In doing so, he summarized the Church’s teaching on Care for Creation, and challenged the world to address climate change through the lens of faith.

5 years later, we’re living through history-shaping events. People everywhere are crying out for hope, and our faith is urgently needed more than ever to light the way.

We come together today to conclude our celebration of Laudato Sí Week. This week, we have been studying Pope Francis’ teachings, and considering how we can unite in solidarity for a more just and sustainable future, and build a better world—*together*. This



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summer, we will plan our actions, to take place this Fall during the Season of Creation, which begins with the Feast of St. Francis on October 4.

Laudato Sí teaches us that “*everything is connected.*” During this extraordinary moment, Catholics everywhere are uniting to reflect, pray, and prepare for a better future together. Let us stand and join with them in prayer.

*All stand, and make the sign of the Cross, as the leader says:*

**L: O God, come to my assistance.**

A: Lord, make haste to help me.

**L: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

A: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

**Evening Song:**

**[“Let All Things Now Living”](#)**

## **Prayer**

*After the hymn, the leader prays:*

**L: Let us pray:**

*God of creation,  
strengthen our relationships with you,  
with our neighbors and with the earth itself,  
for when one of these relationships is broken,  
the others are broken too.*

*Help us to embrace all creation  
as a loving gift from you who enfolds us, and all things,  
with your affection.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**



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*All are seated.*

## Reflections from Laudato Sí / Psalmody

### READING 1

Reader One:

From *Laudato Sí*:

(84.) Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God...

(87.) When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi:

*Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom you give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather  
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong".*

*Pause.*

**Psalm 98:** [\*"All the ends of the Earth"\*](#) (Haas/Haugen)

### READING 2

Reader Two:

From *Laudato Sí*:



**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2020**



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(139.) When we speak of the “environment”, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behaviour patterns, and the ways it grasps reality... We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

*Pause.*

**Psalm 34:** [\*“The Cry of the Poor”\*](#) (Foley)

### **READING 3**

Reader Three:

From *Laudato Si'*:

(205.) Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. No system can completely suppress our openness to what is good, true and beautiful, or our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts. I appeal to everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours. No one has the right to take it from us...

(245.) God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. *Praise be to him!*

*Pause.*

**Psalm 139:** [\*“O God, You Search Me”\*](#) (Farrell) or [\*“Endless is Your Love”\*](#) (Kendzia)

**Word**

**Romans 8:20-23**



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Reader Four:

From the Letter to the Romans:

For creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.

## Reflection/Homily

### Gospel Canticle

*All stand.*

**Mary's Canticle (Luke 1:46-55):** ["Magnificat"](#) (Haas) or ["Magnificat"](#) (New Britain)

### Intercessions

**L: God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way.**

**Therefore, we offer our petitions.**

**R: May we hear the cry of our sister Earth, because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.**

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**R: May we recognize that the climate is a common good, belonging to all, and meant for all, and make changes of lifestyle, production, and consumption in order to combat global warming.**

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.



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**R:** May God open our hearts to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**R:** May we hear the call to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet may be as God created it, and may correspond to God's plan for peace, beauty and fullness.

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**R:** May we be blessed with a deep reverence toward creation, that we might experience everything -- soil, water, mountains -- as a caress of God.

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**R:** May the Spirit of God deepen our recognition of our duty to care for creation through little daily acts.

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**R:** May all followers of Jesus recognize that living our vocations to be protectors of God's handiwork is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.

**We pray...**

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

**L:** In the heart of this world, Lord of life, you are always present.

**You do not abandon us, but hear our prayers, for you have united yourself definitively to our earth, and your love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Through Christ our Lord.**

A: Amen.



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## **Lord's Prayer**

**L: Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Jesus taught us:**

**All: Our Father...but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

**L: Father, we praise you with all your creatures.**

**They came forth from your all-powerful hand;**

**they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.  
Praise be to you!**

**Son of God, Jesus,**

**through you all things were made.**

**You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,**

**you became part of this earth,**

**and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.**

**Today you are alive in every creature**

**in your risen glory.**

**Praise be to you!**

**Holy Spirit, by your light**

**you guide this world towards the Father's love**

**and accompany creation as it groans in travail.**

**You also dwell in our hearts**

**and you inspire us to do what is good.**

**Praise be to you!**

**Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,**

**teach us to contemplate you**



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**in the beauty of the universe,**

**for all things speak of you.**

**Awaken our praise and thankfulness**

**for every being that you have made.**

**Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined**

**to everything that is.**

**God of love, show us our place in this world**

**as channels of your love**

**for all the creatures of this earth,**

**for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.**

**Enlighten those who possess power and money**

**that they may avoid the sin of indifference,**

**that they may love the common good, advance the weak,**

**and care for this world in which we live.**

**The poor and the earth are crying out.**

**O Lord, seize us with your power and light,**

**help us to protect all life,**

**to prepare for a better future,**

**for the coming of your Kingdom**

**of justice, peace, love and beauty.**

**Praise be to you!**

**For you are Lord, for ever and ever.**

All: Amen.



**LAUDATO SI'  
WEEK 2020**



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*All make the sign of the cross, as the leader\* says:*

**L: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.**

A: Amen.

**L: Go in peace.**

A: Thanks be to God.

**Song: "[Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee](#)"**

\* If the leader is a priest or deacon, another form of blessing may be used, as at Mass.