

# Season of Creation

*Sunday, September 28*

## FIRST READING

*Job 39.1-18*

*Reader:* 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 fulfill,

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 labor 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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*All:*       **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*An Environmental Reading from Laudato Si (Pope Francis)*

*Reader:* An Environmental Reading from Laudato Si

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 behavior patterns, and the ways it grasps reality. Given the scale of change, it is no longer possible to find a specific, discrete answer for each part of the problem. It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems. 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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*All:*       **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

*Luke 11.1-13 (FNV)*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Shining Light tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

*All:* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Another time, after Creator Sets Free (Jesus) had finished prayer, one of his followers said to him, “Wisdomkeeper, teach us how to pray in the same way Gift of Goodwill (John) taught his followers.”

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) smiled and said to them, “When you send your voice to the Great Spirit, here is how you should pray:

“O Great Spirit, our Father from above, your name is sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day – the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the good things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

And guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road.”

Then he added, “Suppose you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘I need three pieces of frybread! A relative of mine has come from a long way to see me, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ But he says to you ‘Quit bothering me! I cannot help you. My children and I are all in bed.’ Do not give up! If your friendship is not enough, then he will do it just because you will not give up asking.

So, keep dancing your prayers, and the way will open before you. Search for the ancient pathways, and you will find them. Keep sending up your prayers, and they will be heard.

Answers will come to the ones who ask, good things will be found by the ones who search for them, and the way will open before the ones who keep dancing their prayers.

What kind of father, if his son wanted a fish, would give him a rattlesnake, or, if he asked for an egg, would give him a deadly spider? If even fathers with bad hearts will give good gifts to their children, how much more will the Creator, who is your father from the spirit-world above, give the Holy Spirit to all who ask!"

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

*All:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Luke 11.1-13 (NRSVue)*

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"