

Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Community, a CACINA Mission

Lector: Our first reading is from the Book of 2nd Kings.

Then God said: Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living souls: tame animals, things that crawl, and every kind of wild animal.

And so it was: God made all kinds of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said: Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, the wild animals, and everything that crawl on the ground.

Humankind was created as God's reflection; in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them. God blessed them and said: "Bear fruit, increase your numbers, fill the earth and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!"

God looked at all of His creation, and proclaimed that this was good - very good.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Respond: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Lector: Our response is - Guide me, O God, along the everlasting way.

People Repeat: Guide me, O God, along the everlasting way.

Yahweh, you've searched me, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I stand;

you read my thoughts from afar.

Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching.

You are intimate with all of my ways.

People Repeat: Guide me, O God, along the everlasting way.

Truly you have created my inmost being;

and you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works.

People Repeat: Guide me, O God, along the everlasting way.

For the wonder of myself; for the wonder of your works,

My soul knows it well.



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My frame was not hidden from you
while I was made in that secret place,
knitted together in the depths of the earth.

People Repeat: Guide me, O God, along the everlasting way.

Lector: Our second reading is from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

You have heard about my former way of life in Judaism. You know that I went to extremes in persecuting the Church of God and aggressively tried to destroy her. I went far and beyond most of my peers of my generation, and was extremely defensive regarding Jewish observances based in the traditions of my ancestors in faith. But the time came when God, who had set me apart while in my mother's womb, called me to his divine grace and chose to reveal Christ to me so that I might so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles. I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me. Rather, I went off to Arabia and then, later returned to Damascus.

Then, after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, with whom I stayed for fifteen days. I did not meet any other apostle except James, the brother of Jesus. I declare before God that what I have written is true.

After that, I went into the regions of Syria, and I was not known by sight among the communities of Christ in Judea. They had only heard that the one who was formerly persecuting them now is preaching the faith which he tried to destroy, and they gave glory to God because of me.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Respond: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation - Sung

Gospel

Celebrant: Our God is with you.

People Respond: And also, with you.

Celebrant: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.



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People Respond: † Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

As they traveled, Jesus entered into a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat beside Jesus, at his feet, listening to him speak. Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, “Rabbi, do you not care that my sister has left me alone to serve alone? Ask her to help me!”

Jesus said to her in reply: “Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her.”

Celebrant: My friends, the Gospel of the Lord.

People Respond: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Prayers of the People – Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Celebrant: God created us and placed us on this earth to be the stewards of all living things. Celebrating this feast with joy, we humbly bring our petitions to God.

Lector: Our response is “Creator God, hear our prayer.”

† That, in thanksgiving for all of Creation, may we remain in awe of the beauty and diversity of nature. We ask for God’s help in being good stewards of the earth’s resources and as true friends of all living creatures. For this, we pray:

People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.

† We pray today for our animal friends who share our homes and farms. We give thanks for their companionship and devotion, and by our kindness to them, may we be worthy of their love. For this, we pray:

People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.

† For animals who suffer, those who are deserted or neglected, we ask for God’s mercy, and for all organizations, veterinarians and animal workers who care for them, may they have a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kind words. For this, we pray:

People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.



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- † That, through Saint Francis' love and compassion for the poor, we are reminded of all who struggle financially, and the plight of the unsheltered, the immigrant and refugee, the imprisoned, and abused. For this, we pray:
People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.
- † We pause to remember and voice the names of loved ones who suffer with illness and those who have asked for our prayers [Lector, pause and count to 6]. We ask that the Holy Spirit send healing love upon them and restore them to fullness of life. For this we pray:
People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.
- † We pray for our pets who are gone from us, especially those whom we will remember today, and offer our gratitude for the days they have brightened our lives and for the comfort they offered by night. For this, we pray:
People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.
- † We pause to remember and voice all who have gone on to Greater Life [Lector, pause and count to 6]. We ask that God meet all who have died face to face on their journey, and that they may be forever held in His loving arms. For this, we pray:
People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.
- † For prayers left unspoken, but held deep, within the silence of our hearts. For this, we pray:
People Respond: Creator God, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Loving God, you are the author and giver of every gift and have made us in your image. Through the intercession of Saint Francis, help us to walk in his footsteps by putting aside the riches of this world, to follow in the way of Jesus the Christ and be an instrument of His peace. We pray all of this in all of the holy names of God. Amen.

All: Amen.

