



# A LITURGY OF CREATION

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF  
**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI**  
*Together with the Blessing of the Animals*

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Spiritual Songs

**Processional** *Lord of the Dance*

Words of Peace (*spoken by Francis at worship*)

We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks,  
**calling upon your Name and declaring all your wonderful deeds.**

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth.

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world.

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One God,

**Have mercy on us.**

For favorable weather, temperate rains, and fruitful seasons, that there  
may be food and drink for all your creatures,

**We pray to you, Lord.**

For your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon  
them to bring forth food and all things needful for your people,

**We pray to you, Lord.**

For all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age,  
**We pray to you, Lord.**

### **The Salutation**

*Father Wells*            May God be with you.  
*People*                    **And also with you.**  
*Father Wells*            Let us pray.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Gracious God, Creator of the land, water, and the sky: come and renew the face of the whole earth. Give us new purpose to care in love for the world of your making, and turn our hearts and the hearts of the whole human family to care in thanksgiving and reverence for the world you have given; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for St. Francis of Assisi**

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Old Testament Lesson is from the Book of Genesis.**

When the Lord God made the universe, there were no plants on the earth and no seeds had sprouted, because he had not sent any rain, and there was no one to cultivate the land; but water would come up from beneath the surface and water the ground. Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live. *(continued)*

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the East, and there he put the man he had formed. He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. A stream flowed in Eden and watered the garden; beyond Eden it divided into four rivers. Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and guard it. He told him, "You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad. You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day." Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him." So he took some soil from the ground and formed all the animals and all the birds. Then he brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and that is how they all got their names. So the man named all the birds and all the animals; but not one of them was a suitable companion to help him. Then the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, he took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. Then the man said, "At last, here is one of my own kind—bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. 'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. The man and the woman were both naked, but they were not embarrassed.

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

**A Canticle** A Song of Creation

*From the Song of the Three Young Men*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

**Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.

**Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow.

**Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.

**Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

**Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,  
and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.

**All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.

**O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

### **The Epistle Lesson is from Paul's Letter to the Colossians.**

Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things. For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him. *(continued)*

Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place. He is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life. He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.

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

**Sequence** *The Servant Song*

**The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.**

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*(A Holy Conversation on Feeding the Hungry)*

**The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Katharine, our Presiding Bishop; Kee and Santosh, our Bishops; Wells, our Priest; and for all bishops and other ministers.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we remember Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Indian Springs; the Saint Francis Chapel at Camp McDowell; our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Ogé; and all animal-assisted ministries (including the pet therapy team of Leigh and Rosie).

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. For the President and the Congress, for our Country and People.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone. *(Add the names of your family members and friends.)*

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. For those who are ill or recovering from surgery. *(Add the names of your family members and friends.)*

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil that we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf. *(continued)***

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Father Wells*  
*People*

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of Christ.*

### **The Blessing of the Animals**

*Please bring your pet forward in a carrier or on a leash, to be blessed by Father Wells.*

Spiritual Songs

### **Offertory Sentence**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**Offertory** *Here I am, Lord*



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Father Wells and the People*

**Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.**

**Blessed are you, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Father Wells continues*

We praise you and we bless you,  
holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.  
From before time you made ready the creation.  
Your Spirit moved over the deep  
and brought all things into being:  
sun, moon, and stars;  
earth, wind, and waters;  
and every living thing.  
You made us in your image,  
And taught us to walk in your ways.  
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.  
And yet, as a mother cares for her children,  
you would not forget us.  
Time and again you called us  
to live in the fullness of your love.  
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Father Wells and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Father Wells continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son,  
Jesus, the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.  
On the night before he died for us,  
Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to them, and said,  
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, he gave thanks to you,  
gave it to them, and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.  
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Mary, Dunstan, Francis,  
and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and  
nation, to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.  
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*Father Wells and People*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Father Wells breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**  
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The ministers and people receive the Sacrament in both kinds.*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Spiritual Songs

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Father Wells and People*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional** *Wind, Wind, Blow on Me*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## LORD OF THE DANCE

I danced in the morn-ing when the  
world was be-gun  
I danced in the moon and the  
stars and the sun  
I came down from hea-ven and I  
danced on the earth  
At Beth-le-hem I had my birth:

*Dance then, wher-ev-er you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he!  
And I'll lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he!*

I danced for the scribe and the Phar-i-see  
But they would-n't dance and  
they would-n't fol-low me  
I danced for the fish-er-men,  
for James and John  
They came with me and the Dance went  
on:

*Refrain*

I danced on the Sab-bath and I  
cured the lame  
The ho-ly peo-ple said it was a shame!  
They whipped and they stripped and they  
hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die!

*Refrain*

I danced on a Fri-day when the  
sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the  
dev-il on your back  
They bur-ied my bod-y and they  
thought I'd gone  
But I am the Dance and I still go on!

*Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high  
I am the life that'll nev-er, nev-er die!  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he!

*Refrain*

## I WILL CHANGE YOUR NAME

I will change your name.  
You shall no long-er be called  
Wound-ed, out-cast, lone-ly or a-fraid.  
I will change your name.  
Your new name shall be  
Con-fi-dence, joy-ful-ness,  
o-ver-com-ing one,  
Faith-ful-ness, friend of God,  
One who seeks my face.

## LORD, BE GLORIFIED

In my life, Lord, be glor-i-fied, be glor-i-  
fied,  
In my life, Lord, be glor-i-fied to-day.

In my song, Lord, be glor-i-fied, be glor-i-  
fied,  
In my song, Lord, be glor-i-fied to-day.

In your church, Lord, be glor-i-fied, be  
glor-i-fied,  
In your church, Lord, be glor-i-fied to-day.

## ALLELUIA MEDLEY

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia

A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see. Al-le-lu-ia ...

Je-sus loves me, this I know  
For the Bi-ble tells me so  
Lit-tle ones to him be-long  
They are weak but he is strong Al-le-lu-ia  
...

Now I lay me down to sleep  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep  
If I should die be-fore I wake  
I pray the Lord my soul to take. Al-le-lu-ia  
...

## HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my peo-ple's cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their dark-ness bright,  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you call-ing in the night.  
I will go, Lord,  
If you lead me.  
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn a-way.  
If will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love a-lone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Fi-nest bread I will pro-vide  
Til their hearts be sat-is-fied,  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

## THE SERVANT SONG

Won't you let me be your ser-vant,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my ser-vant, too.

We are pil-grims on a jour-ney,  
We are travel-ers on the road;  
We are here to help each oth-er  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weep-ing,  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sor-row,  
Til we've seen this jour-ney through.

When we sing to God in heav-en  
We shall find such har-mon-y,  
Born of all we've known to-geth-er  
Of Christ's love and ag-on-y.

*(Repeat first verse)*

## WIND, WIND

*Wind, wind, blow on me,  
Wind, wind, set me free;  
Wind, wind, my Fa-ther sent  
The bless-ed Ho-ly Spir-it.*

Je-sus told us all a-bout you,  
How we could not live with-out you,  
With his blood the pow-er bought  
To help us live the life he taught. *(Refrain)*

When we're wear-y  
You con-sole us,  
When we're lone-ly  
You en-fold us;  
When in dan-ger you up-hold us;  
Bless-ed Ho-ly Spir-it. *(Refrain)*

When un-to the Church you came,  
It was not in your own but Je-sus' name,  
Je-sus Christ is still the same,  
He send the Ho-ly Spir-it. *(Refrain)*

Set us free to love our broth-ers,  
Set us free to live for oth-ers  
That the world the Son might see  
And Je-sus' name ex-alt-ed be. *(Refrain)*