**READINGS for an Earth Day Liturgy 2025**

**For a service on Tuesday of Easter Week or the Second Sunday of Easter**

A Reading from the writings of Pope Francis

“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone.”

“Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth).”

“Just as the different aspects of the planet – physical, chemical and biological – are interrelated, so too living species are part of a network which we will never fully explore and understand. A good part of our genetic code is shared by many living beings. It follows that the fragmentation of knowledge and the isolation of bits of information can actually become a form of ignorance, unless they are integrated into a broader vision of reality.

May we pray for the grace to see with God’s eyes- not a dis-integrated, elevated, or even secluded existence, but rather a radically interconnected tapestry of Creation in which God’s love is the fundamental moving force .

Pope Francis, ***Laudato Si****, 2015*  p 77, 120, 138

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**Psalm 36 (whole, or, v 5-10)**

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| 1 | There is a voice of rebellion deep in the heart of the wicked; \*     there is no fear of God before his eyes. |
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| 2 | He flatters himself in his own eyes \*     that his hateful sin will not be found out. |
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| 3 | The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; \*     he has left off acting wisely and doing good. |
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| 4 | He thinks up wickedness upon his bed and has set himself in no good way; \*     he does not abhor that which is evil. |
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| 5 | Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, \*     and your faithfulness to the clouds. |
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| 6 | Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; \*     you save both man and beast, O LORD. |
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| 7 | How priceless is your love, O God! \*     your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings. |
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| 8 | They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*     you give them drink from the river of your delights. |
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| 9 | For with you is the well of life, \*    and in your light we see light. |
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| 10 | Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*     and your favor to those who are true of heart. |

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| 11 | Let not the foot of the proud come near me, \*     nor the hand of the wicked push me aside. |
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| 12 | See how they are fallen, those who work wickedness! \*     they are cast down and shall not be able to rise. |
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**Colossians 1:9 -23a**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God’s glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven.

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**John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.