



Season of Creation

Protecting the web of life



INTRODUCTION

Almighty God who created all things with wisdom and watches over and guides them by His all-powerful hand, grant well-being that all creation may prosper and remain unharmed by hostile elements; Despite our sins and the daunting challenges before us, we never lose heart. “The Creator does not abandon us; He never forsakes His loving plan or repents of having created us... for He has united Himself. Definitively to our earth, and His love constantly impels us to find new ways forward” (*Laudato Si*, 13; 245).

Let us pray in this Season of Creation and indeed throughout the year for the grace to show mercy to our common home

From the rising sun to the smallest of creatures, all of the earth is good. Yet we see how our fragile world is being robbed by the hand of greed. In many countries, water is no longer safe to drink. The rainforests are slashed down and their inhabitants violently expelled in the interests of money and power.



In his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reflects on the cry of the earth. “Sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, cries out pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. Yet we are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what He desired when He created it and correspond with His plan for peace, beauty and fullness.”



Let us recognize our part in harming the earth and our neighbors and ask for the Lord's forgiveness. In the silence of our hearts. Let us reflect on how to change our lives and care for God's wonderful gift of creation.

ADD A FOOTER

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (6:25-30)

Jesus said, "I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

The Gospel of the Lord. *R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



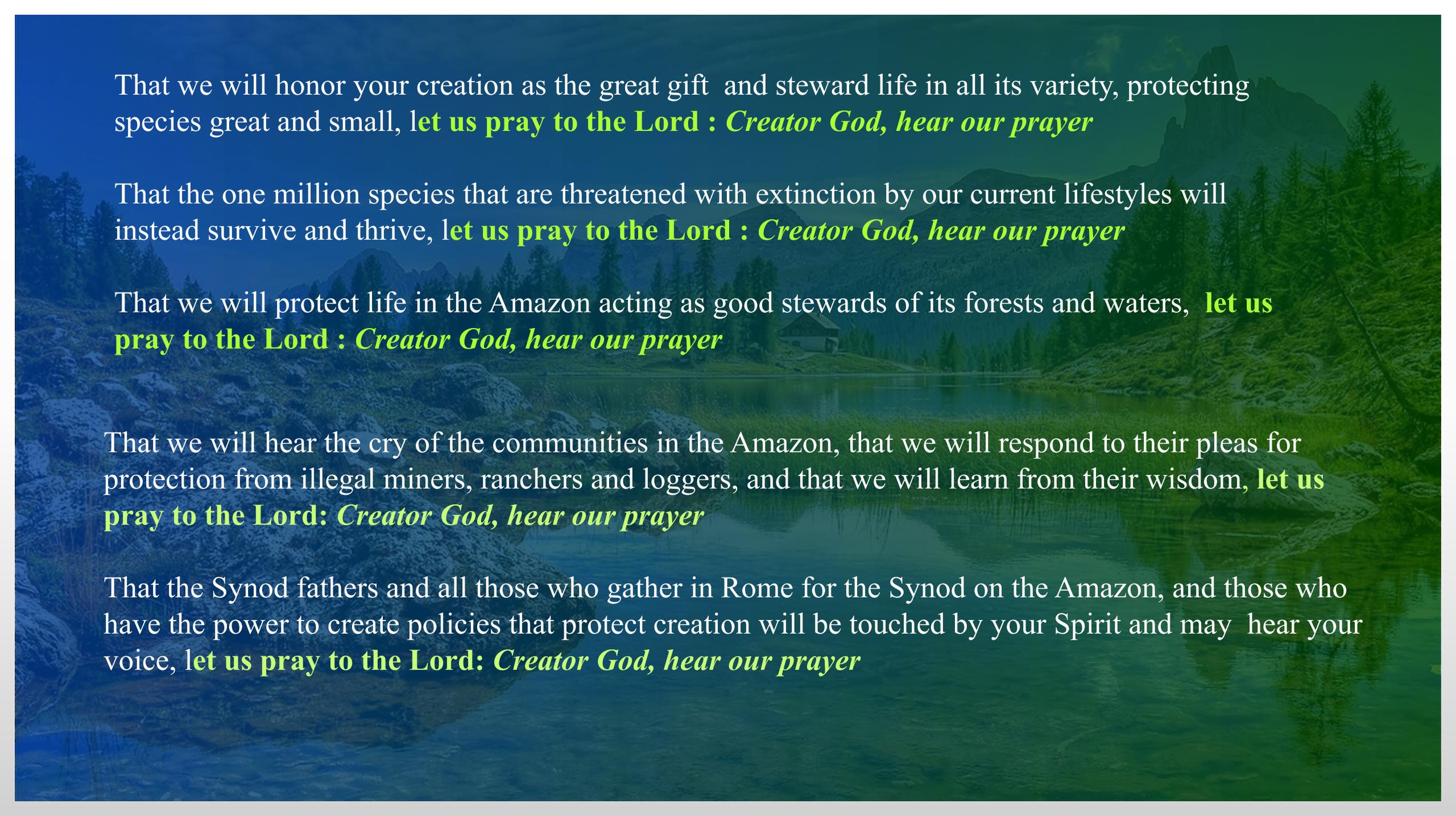
Intercessions

Loving God, creator of the Universe, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation.

Our response: *Creator God, hear our prayer.*

That people of all faiths use the Season of Creation as a time to remember, respect, pray and act for the good of all of creation, let us pray to the Lord : *Creator God, hear our prayer.*



A scenic landscape with a river, mountains, and a small house. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent green and blue gradient. The text is white and green, with the phrase 'let us pray to the Lord : Creator God, hear our prayer' highlighted in green.

That we will honor your creation as the great gift and steward life in all its variety, protecting species great and small, **let us pray to the Lord : Creator God, hear our prayer**

That the one million species that are threatened with extinction by our current lifestyles will instead survive and thrive, **let us pray to the Lord : Creator God, hear our prayer**

That we will protect life in the Amazon acting as good stewards of its forests and waters, **let us pray to the Lord : Creator God, hear our prayer**

That we will hear the cry of the communities in the Amazon, that we will respond to their pleas for protection from illegal miners, ranchers and loggers, and that we will learn from their wisdom, **let us pray to the Lord: Creator God, hear our prayer**

That the Synod fathers and all those who gather in Rome for the Synod on the Amazon, and those who have the power to create policies that protect creation will be touched by your Spirit and may hear your voice, **let us pray to the Lord: Creator God, hear our prayer**

Hymn

Canticle of the Sun - St. Francis of Assisi

Brother Sun, Sister Moon
Brother Sun and Sister Moon
I seldom see you seldom hear your tune
Preoccupied with selfish misery

Brother Wind and Sister Air
Open my eyes to visions pure and fair
That I may see the glory around me
I am God's creature, of Him I am part
I feel His love awakening my heart

Brother Sun and Sister Moon
I now do see you, I can hear your tune
So much in love with all that I survey



PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE AMAZON SYNOD



Lord, help your Church to listen to the people of the Amazon, and to respond *with them* to the devastation facing both people and environment.

The Amazon in all its biodiversity and cultural richness is “a mirror of all humanity”.*

To defend it, we must all make changes – within ourselves, our nations and within the Church.

As we travel the journey *Laudato Sí* sets out before us, may we be more aware of the ecological and cultural crisis of the Amazon Basin, and learn how to be better caretakers and stewards of creation.

May we courageously stand against injustices, including: loss of territory, exploitation, threats to biodiversity and the imposition of cultural and economic models which are alien to the lives of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Teach us how to listen deeply, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly on this earth.

Amen