



# SEASON OF CREATION FOR GRADES 6-12

**Wednesday, September 11, 2019**

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Call to Prayer

**Leader:** We enter a new day, praying for planet Earth and our world suffering the effects of violence.

**Response:** We pray for refugees, victims of terrorism, war, the exploitation of planet Earth, and all who make decisions to carry out violence in all its forms.

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Reading

**Psalm 24:1**

The earth is the Lord's,  
and everything in it, the world,  
and all who live in it.



Based on a woodcut from the Venetian Bible, 1511. Border inscription from Bishop Seraphim Segrist. Public Domain.

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Pope Benedict

**World Youth Day 2008**

“God’s creation is one and it is good. The concerns for nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance.”

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Silence

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Patriarch Bartholomew

“The way we respond to the natural environment directly reflects the way we treat human beings. The willingness to exploit the environment is revealed in the willingness to permit avoidable human suffering. So the survival of the natural environment is also the survival of ourselves. When we will understand that a crime against nature is a crime against ourselves and sin against God?”

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Pope John Paul II

**World Day of Peace 1990**

“[T]he ecological crisis is a moral issue. . . my brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church have a responsibility to care for creation.”

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Silence

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YouTube

CST 101: Care for God's Creation (3:05)  
[youtu.be/wSnXuCxiHXE](https://youtu.be/wSnXuCxiHXE)

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Silence

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Prayers of Repentance

**Response:** Forgive us, O God, and give us the courage to change our ways

1. Health reports say that 30,000 people in the U.S. have died of air pollution this year. We ask forgiveness for choosing our own convenience rather than choosing ways to reduce air, water, and land pollution, we pray.
  2. Islands, which are home to people and species, have already gone underwater due to high rising waters. In other places huge areas of land have changed to desert due to the increased heat of climate change. We ask forgiveness for refusing to change our lifestyle so that others can live, we pray.
  3. Starving refugees are fleeing their homelands around the world due to loss of clean water and land that will no longer raise crops. We ask forgiveness for thinking only of ourselves, we pray.
  4. The U.N. says most of the wars in the world today are caused by a lack of clean water, as cities around the world are losing access to clean water. We ask forgiveness for wasting water, we pray.
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Closing Prayer

**Laudato Si' (Pope Francis)**

**All:** O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
This we ask through Jesus the Christ.  
Amen.