

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
September 6, 2020
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 33:7-9 † Romans 13:8-10 † Matthew 18:15-20

*The Season of Creation and
the Call to Conversion*

The Season of Creation is a new Liturgical Season for the Catholic community globally which extends from September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Season focuses on God as Creator of the vast cosmic universe, God's revelation in Creation, and our calling to care for God's creation, protect its rich diversity and address the urgent, destructive crises threatening its health and future.



The first Sunday's scriptures challenge Christians to take up the prophetic responsibility in love to invite each other gently and prayerfully to conversion and care for creation in these times of ecological crisis.

In the first reading, Ezekiel describes God's warning to himself and to us: we are responsible for each other. One of Pope Francis's central beliefs at the heart of *Laudato Si'* is that everything and everyone is connected, interdependent. We are responsible for each other. God speaks to us and calls us to conversion in many ways. In the context of the Season of Creation, we need to listen to that Word of God in "the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor." (L.S. 49)

St. Paul's letter to the Romans puts this prophetic education and invitation to care for creation in their deepest context: they are expressions of the great commandments that sum everything up: Love God. Love your neighbor. All is interdependent, all is interconnected. We cannot say we love God if we do not love our neighbor. We cannot say we love our neighbor if we do not care for the air, the water, the land, the ecological systems, the intricate Web of Life upon which our neighbors and we depend for life.

In the gospel, Jesus lays out a way to convey the urgent prophetic warnings in this time of ecological crisis, an approach that shows respect for those who need to hear these truths and invites conversion gently but persistently. Christ calls us together too in prayer, promising to be with us, promising us that our prayer will be heard.

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

– From the Earth Charter, Quoted in *Laudato si'*, #207

These reflections are taken from the Season of Creation Catholic Liturgical Guide.

<https://www.dominicancenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FINAL-Season-of-Creation-Liturgy-Guide-D.pdf>