**Biblical Readings For Care of Creation**

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom (13:1-9) #495 XXXII Year I Friday**

For all people who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know the one who exists, nor did they recognize the artisan while paying heed to his works; but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air, or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water, or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world.

If through delight in the beauty of these things people assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them.

And if people were amazed at their power and working, let them perceive from them how much more powerful is the one who formed them.

For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator. Yet these people are little to be blamed, for perhaps they go astray while seeking God and desiring to find him.

For while they live among his works, they keep searching, and they trust in what they see, because the things that are seen are beautiful.

Yet again, not even they are to be excused; for if they had the power to know so much that they could investigate the world, how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things?

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 19 1-2;3-4ab 495 XXXII Year I Friday

**R The heavens proclaim the glory of God**.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,

and night to night declares knowledge. **R**

**The heavens proclaim the glory of God.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;

their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out through all the earth,

and their words to the ends of the world. **R**

**The heavens proclaim the glory of God.**

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians XXII Year I Friday

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or powers; all things have been created through him and for him.

Christ 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 among the dead, so that might come to have first place in everything.

For in Christ 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.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew Sunday VIII Year A

Jesus taught his disciples, saying, “No one can serve two masters;

For a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and wealth.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear.

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 can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to their span of life? “And why do you worry 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 clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field,

which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,

will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’

For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow,

for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.

Today's trouble is enough for today.”

The Gospel of the Lord