

Taize Service Worship Aid for October 7, 2021

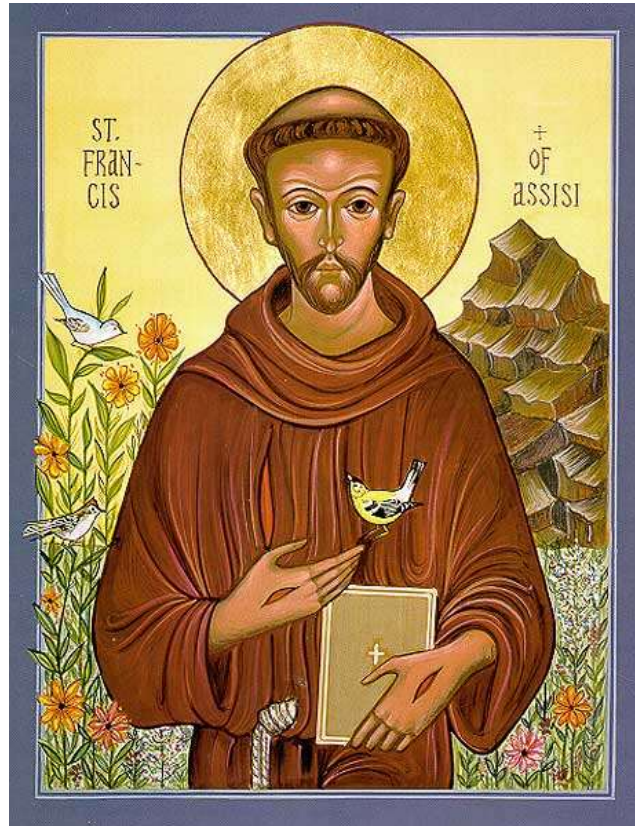
Caring for God's Creation

Reflection as you wait for the Service to begin:

We have gathered tonight to praise our Maker, the One who loved the whole world into being, the One who breathes life into all things that live. St. Francis of Assisi teaches us that all creation is a gift from God, and we have a responsibility to be good stewards of it all. All life issues are intertwined, and we see this as a seamless garment. The seamless garment is an image from the Gospels.

Look closely at the details of the icon of St. Francis before you. Francis stands before us in this iconographic portrait as a model of spiritual strength and compassionate love. The crown of his head is shaved, a practice called tonsure in the Middle Ages to provide a distinctive appearance to those who have taken religious vows. His face, following the tradition of Byzantine icons, is not intended to be a realistic portrait but a spiritual one. His forehead is broad, indicating strength of spirit. His eyes are unnaturally large and soulful, drawing the viewer into communication with God through Saint Francis. His nose is long and slender, conforming to the Byzantine ideal of nobility. His mouth is small and closed, symbolic of contemplation.

Francis is dressed in the brown robe of his famous order, hooded and with a rope belt. He holds a book in his left hand, probably the Gospels. A small bird is perched on his right hand, with two more in the background among flowers, reminders of his great love for God's creation. The Stigmata mark his hands; note also the red slash of the lance wound. There is a cave in the mountain behind Francis recalling the period in his early religious life spent meditating in a cave as a hermit. Surrounding his head is a halo of gold. The halo has been used in Christian art for hundreds of years to indicate sanctity. Gold leaf is used to symbolize divine light because of the incorruptibility of gold and its metallic reflectiveness.



Welcome and Introduction by Fr. Ron

Service

Allow this chime to call you into prayer. **Ring 1x**

Chant 5x

Ubi caritas, et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.

#49 Songs and Prayers of Taize

Now we sit in silence for a few minutes.

Chime

Scripture reading: Psalm 8

Now we sit in silence for a few minutes.

Chime

Chant 5x

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

#28 Songs and Prayers of Taize

Now we sit in silence for a few minutes.

Chime

Second reading: From the Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si" by Pope Francis

Now we sit in silence for a few minutes.

Chime

Chant 3x

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

#20 Songs and Prayers of Taize

We now join the worldwide Taize Community with our own spontaneous prayers.

Repeat the chant "O Lord, hear my prayer..." 1x after each spoken petition:

1. For leaders of nations, that they will govern with a just and fair treatment of all people, we pray:

2. For the faithful use of time, talents, and treasures, and for the wisdom to discern words and actions that reflect the image of God, we pray:
3. For the sick, those who are battling chronic illnesses and the covid, for those without proper care, and for those who will soon see God face to face, we pray:
4. That nations will work together to address climate change issues; we pray:
5. That we will grow in our care of our common home; we pray:
6. For elderly people who suffer in poorly run nursing homes and institutions; we pray:

I invite you to add your own spontaneous prayers, after which we will again sing the response each time. You may also pray your prayer silently and then light your votive candle and add it to the table.

After silence: "We pray" sing "O Lord Hear..." 1x

Our Father

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Chant 2x

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and all creation is shouting for joy.
Come, dance in the forest, come, play in the field,
and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

#496 GIA: Cantic of the Sun

Thank you for joining us. Please plan to join us again on November 4, the first Thursday of November, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.

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