

The celebration of the time of creation, which has its origin in the Orthodox tradition, was taken up by the World Council of Churches and recommended to the Catholic Church by Pope Francis. In the fourth week let us remember that we are not masters, but servants of our contemporaries and of creation.

LITURGICAL PRAYERS - THANKSGIVING

God our Father, we come before you, as your children. We are looking for your face and we know of your paternal concern. We come to you to worship and praise you. We want to hear your word again today.

Jesus Christ, we are before you in silence, thinking of the long hours you have spent alone in prayer.

Holy Spirit, we put ourselves in your presence, as we are, and we ask you to be with us always. May your strength work in us and through us and so transform us and the world. AMEN.

BIBLICAL TEXTS AND REFLECTIONS

Concerned about the well-being of all (Prov 31:10-31)

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. [...]

She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.

She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. [...]

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. [...]

She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. [...]

She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. [...]

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.



What characterizes a woman? She is self-aware and autonomous, a successful trader. She feels responsible, not only for her family but also for her employees. Her heart is open to the unfortunate. The source of her strength and wisdom is her deep relationship with her God.

In the book of Proverbs, everyone is responsible for the good social climate and the healthy environment, that of men and women, young and old. This also applies to the Church community.

To be first means to become a servant (Mk 9:33-37 ; 10:35-45)

[...] When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.[...] John and James said to Jesus, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."[...] When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. [...]"

The disciples express the same desire that we sometimes have in our hearts: to be number one, at the top of the social ladder, first on the podium, full of joy, admired and loved. Or we compare ourselves to others and would like to be the best, the richest, the smartest, the most successful. How much time, money and energy do we invest in external appearance and reputation, in career and social status? Jesus overturns this scale of the human values. For him, true greatness lies in the service of the weak and the poor, and of creation. Jesus demonstrates this at the farewell meal with his disciples: while they are still fighting for the first place, Jesus washes their feet as the last of the slaves would do. Only when we understand and live our daily life as a service, in our families, at work, in the community, can we communicate the Spirit of Jesus to others.

INFO

- Sheet prepared by Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke/ Netzwerk Afrika Deutschland: www.netzwerkafrika.de
- Source and other texts in English : www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/
- Drawing : Sr. Johanna Senn CPS
- Translation into French : Fr. Alois Schmid
- Other interesting sites :
 - <https://seasonofcreation.org/fr/guide-fr/>
 - <https://eglisesvertes.ca/>
- Translation to English: Webmaster with the help of DeepL
- **Readings** - If you want to go further in your commitments to the "Common House", here are some interesting books (in French):
 - « **Avec Laudato Si' devenir acteurs de l'Écologie intégrale** », sous la direction de Fabien Revol, Peuple Libre, 2017.
 - « **Nouveaux modes de vie ? L'appel de Laudato Si'** », Conférence des Evêques de France, Conseil Famille et Société, Bayard, 2017.
 - « **Le défi écologique : vers de nouveaux chemins** », Revue éthique et de théologie morale, CERF, 2018.