

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk. 12.22-31

✠ **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke**
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘... I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, 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, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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The Season of Creation – Year C, Week 2

Flora and Fauna Sunday

Sentence

Fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Praise the Lord!

Ps. 148.9-10

Prayer of the day

Gracious God of all creation,
we find you present in the vast and astonishing world around us.
Yet too often we take you for granted;
we assume we have every right to exploit Earth at any cost,
and we care far too little for your great work.
Guide us to a deep sense of appreciation for what you,
our loving Creator, have done for us,
who are ourselves a part of your creation. **Amen.**

First reading

39:1-8, 26-30

A reading from the book of Job

Context: Job has suffered great loss and sadness. As he seeks to understand why it happened to him, he has protested that it can't be because of anything wrong he has done. Last week, we heard God answer by interrogating Job about his knowledge of what's involved in creating and sustaining the wonders of the cosmos. Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ^{38.1-3} Today, we hear as God confronts Job with His providential care of the animal kingdom.

‘Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. *(Con't . . .)*

‘Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing.

‘Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars, and spreads its wings towards the south? Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes its nest on high? It lives on the rock and makes its home in the fastness of the rocky crag. From there it spies the prey; its eyes see it from far away. Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:14-23 – *A.P.B.A.* page 330/331

- ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵ and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
¹⁶ The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.
¹⁹ You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
²² When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.
²³ People go out to their work
and to their labour until the evening.

Second Reading

1 Cor. 1:10-23

A reading from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians

Context: The Church in Corinth was founded by Paul. It seems that after he moved on to preach elsewhere, divisions arose amongst the Corinthian Christians; factions focused variously on personal connections, and special knowledge or wisdom as their emphases. Paul writes that none of these is important; only belief in 'the message about the Cross'.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.