

CHAPTER 6 PRAYER SERVICE

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Begin by playing the traditional hymn, “Doxology.” Various versions are available for free on YouTube.

Leader: A reading from the creation account found in the Book of Genesis.

Reader: Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. And so it happened. . . . God saw that it was good. Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. And so it happened. . . . God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: We give thanks and praise to our God, Lord of Creation, who made all things good. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, let us pray.

Group 1: Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,

Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessings.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,

and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Group 2: Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;

especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,

and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;

in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Group 1: Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Group 2: Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night;
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Group 1: Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Group 2: Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

All: Praise and bless my Lord,

and give Him thanks,

and serve Him with great humility.

Amen.

Leader: God has provided for our every need by giving us a world of beauty and plenty. Let us give thanks for this great gift and resolve to care for our common home in our daily actions, both big and small.

Reader: God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

All: God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

Reader: We will care for it with reverence and gratitude,

All: and find it very good.

Reader: Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

All: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.