

Prayer Service on Earth Day – April 22nd 2024

Place a Globe and lit Candle

Introduction

This year the theme for Earth Day is “Planet vs. plastics.” The powerful theme focuses on the awareness about the dire consequences of plastic pollution on our planet and its inhabitants.

Initial prayer

On this world Earth Day, we come before you, O God, with hearts filled with gratitude for the gift of our planet, a precious home teeming with life and beauty. Yet we also come with heavy hearts, recognizing the harm caused by our misuse and over use of plastics.

Grant us wisdom, strength, and grace, as we embark on this sacred space. Help us to see the interconnectedness of all living beings and the delicate balance of ecosystems that sustain life. Guide us in our efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle plastics and empower us to advocate for policies that protect our environment; bless our intentions, pure and bright, as we strive to protect our common home. Amen.

Chose a song

Today, we come together to reflect, to pray, and to renew our commitment to care for our planet. As we confront the challenge of plastic pollution, may our prayers inspire action, and our actions bring healing to our Earth.

Silence [Soft music]

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all it holds,
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it on the seas,
established it over the rivers.

Who may go up the mountain of the Lord?
Who can stand in his holy place?
The clean of hand and pure of heart,
who has not given his soul to useless things,
what is vain.

He will receive blessings from the Lord,
and justice from his saving God.
Such is the generation that seeks him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may enter.
Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord, mighty in war.

Lift up your heads, O gates;
rise up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may enter.
Who is this king of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Take a moment to reflect on the beauty and diversity of the earth. Consider the ways in which we are called to protect and preserve this precious gift for future generations.

Chose a Song

Intercessory Prayers

Let us lift up our voices in prayer for our Earth and all its inhabitants:

Response: ***Lord bless the earth***

For the oceans choked with plastic waste, we pray for restoration and healing grace.

R.

For the creatures, great and small, who suffer, we pray for compassion and action to buffer. **R.**

For the lands burdened by plastic's blight, we pray for solutions to emerge in sight.

R.

For the hearts of humanity, may they awaken, To the urgency of this crisis, never forsaken. **R.**

OUR FATHER

We lift up in prayer those who are already suffering from the effects of plastic pollution, especially marginalized communities and vulnerable species. May they find healing and justice, and may we work tirelessly.

Concluding Prayer

May the love of the Earth fill our souls, as we journey forth to make her whole.
May our prayers be heard, our actions true, for the healing of our planet, we renew.
Go forth in peace; go forth in light, to tend the Earth with all your might.
May the spirit of our gathering continue to inspire us as we work together to protect and heal our precious Earth. Go in peace and with determination to make a difference. And may the blessing of the Creator above, be with us all, in endless love. Amen.

Chose a song

Prayer written by Sisters Gracy Fernandes and Tessy Chenattu (Nagpur Province – India)