



Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities

23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.

SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...

READER: Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

ALL: Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

READER:

Tēnā Koutou Katoa - welcome. We are asked in these readings, 'who traced out the heavens, and who can give God counsel?' We gather, in a spirit of humility, knowing that we can do nothing without God, and yet, also, in a spirit of hospitality and warm welcome, knowing that it is God's abundant love that draws us here. Today is the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary time, the beginning of Social Justice Week, and the first week in the Season of Creation. Let's sing

Canticle of the Sun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPWlwKYQWxY>

READER: Loving Lord, we turn to you as your children. Lead us in the way of humility, that we might love and see you in all things.

You are the source of all wisdom

Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

Your fill us with your kindness

Christ have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

You give us voice to praise and thank you

Lord have mercy

All) Lord have mercy

OPENING PRAYER: Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. *In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for, those things which weigh heavily on our hearts. (Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God, out of your great love, you give us the whole of creation to live and play, dance and work upon. May we be worthy stewards of this immense treasure you place in our care. Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray.

ALL: Amen

FIRST READING Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can know God's counsel,
or who can conceive what the LORD intends?

For the deliberations of mortals are timid,
and unsure are our plans.

For the corruptible body burdens the soul
and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns.

And scarce do we guess the things on earth,
and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty;
but when things are in heaven, who can search them out?

Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

ALL: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

Silence – Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.

Discussion starter – What things 'bow down' your mind?

PSALM: Psalm 90 In every age O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn man back to dust, saying, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.

You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass,
Which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants!

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;
prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands!

Sung <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K30oe7PNA8>

Second Reading Philemon 9-10,12-17

A reading from the book of Philemon
I, Paul, an old man,
and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus,
urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus,
whose father I have become in my imprisonment;
I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.
I should have liked to retain him for myself,
so that he might serve me on your behalf
in my imprisonment for the gospel,
but I did not want to do anything without your consent,
so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.
Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever,
no longer as a slave
but more than a slave, a brother,
beloved especially to me, but even more so to you,
as a man and in the Lord.
So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.
Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord
ALL: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

Silence - *Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

Discussion starter – What is Paul saying about Onesimus to Philemon?

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

Reader Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

All Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus,
and he turned and addressed them,
"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters,
and even his own life,
he cannot be my disciple.
Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me

cannot be my disciple.

Which of you wishing to construct a tower
does not first sit down and calculate the cost
to see if there is enough for its completion?

Otherwise, after laying the foundation
and finding himself unable to finish the work
the onlookers should laugh at him and say,

'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.'

Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down
and decide whether with ten thousand troops

he can successfully oppose another king
advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?

But if not, while he is still far away,
he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms.

In the same way,

anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions
cannot be my disciple."

Reader Ko te rongopai a te Ariki – The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti –
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading - Silence.

→ **Children's Reflection on the Gospel** – Douglas helps us learn about following Jesus. Let your light
shine by Douglas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-EDzu3oelo&list=PLqYzJxUXOdUiFbu23CryPbTMXvo4Hph2n&index=45>

→ **Adults – Youth: Reflection / Discussion** – What does it mean, to be Jesus' disciple?

Prayer of the Faithful: As God's people we pray for the needs of the whole world.

For the Church – that, heeding the words of Pope Francis, we strive to reach out to family, friends and
neighbours, and 'create a new dialogue about how we are shaping the planet'.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

For leaders of nations – that they develop a deep respect for the riches of the earth, accepting their
responsibility of care for creation and adopting a mandate to use Earth's resources sustainably.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

For people sold or tricked into slavery – that there be an end to human trafficking and that all who have
been sold into sexual or domestic labour, or any other form of slavery, be freed.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

For people who suffer from racial discrimination or prejudice - that a spirit of compassion and humility
will awaken in us, and in all people, which can build bonds of love and fellowship between all peoples.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

For species threatened with extinction by climate change – that conservation efforts be intensified
and the planet's biodiversity protected.

(Silence) Reader: E te Ariki All: whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

Concluding Prayer

God of the ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the signs of the times.
Grant us the wisdom which your Spirit bestows, that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word
and complete the work you have set before us. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Pope Francis – A Prayer for our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.
A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,

to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

READER: Let's pray the Lord's prayer together. The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU1GNEVohYY>

Or the Lord's Prayer in English.

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.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

READER: Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We are one body, the Body of Christ. May your dwelling place and comfort be in the heart of God, the heart of love without end. May we be messengers of God's love, peace and forgiveness in the world today.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song **Laudato Si O Mi Signore** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6a3BcjRp5o>