

## Feast of Francis 2014: All Praise be Yours

**Optional:** “The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God”

### Call to prayer

**Leader:** There came a man from Assisi, Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, one most unlikely to shed his wealth and prestige and future comforts,

- 1: one thought a fool when he overturned society’s expectations and followed the path of Christ,
- 2: one whose life of simplicity, awareness, gratitude, and peace has made him a model for countless men and women over the centuries,
- 3: one named patron saint of animals and ecology,
- 4: one whose name was chosen by a Pope to show the relevance of his life and mission for today’s world.

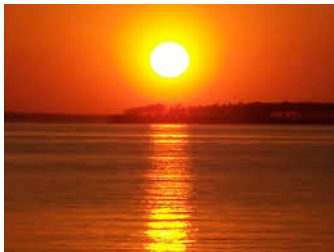


**All:** May our time of prayer deepen in us Francis’ radical spirit.

### Let us give thanks

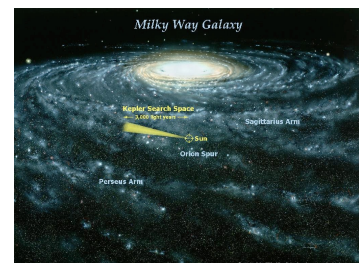
**Leader:** Francis’ Canticle of the Creatures gives praise to the One to whom “all glory, honor and blessing” belong. **All:** *We, too, praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*

1. Francis prayed to God “Most High.” Let us be grateful to know that the Aramaic “heaven” means the light and sound shining through all creation and that God lives and acts within it all: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*



2. Francis praised God through “Brother Sun, who brings the day, and light You give us through him.” Let us be grateful for all we know about our star, its place in our solar system, its story dating back billions of years, its potential for replacing fossil fuel use: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*

3. Francis praised God through “Sister Moon and stars in the heavens.” Let us be grateful for knowing that our galaxy contains billions of stars, and is but one of billions of galaxies, and for the awe we feel when we look at the stars: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*



4. Francis praised God through “Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all weather’s moods by which You cherish all that You have made.” Let us never take for granted the gift of clean, fresh air, the use of wind for energy, and the people who strive to protect

our atmosphere and increase use of renewable energy: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*



5. Francis praised God through “Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.” Let us treasure our oceans, glaciers, rivers, lakes, and aquifers, without which our lives would not be possible: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*

6. Francis praised God through “Brother Fire, ... beautiful and gay, full of power and strength.” Let us be grateful for knowing that humans in ancient times gathered around the fire to share stories that gave meaning to life and bonded community, and for memories of times around campfires and fireplaces with family and friends: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*



7. Francis praised God for “Sister Earth, our mother, who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces various fruits and colored flowers and herbs.” Let us be conscious of our kinship with every creature with whom we share our beloved planet and for knowing that we are both interconnected with it and totally dependent upon it: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*

8. Francis praised God for “those who grant pardon for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial; ... those who endure in peace” as did Jesus. Let us remember those, living and dead, who have modeled for us forgiving, non-violent lives and those who labor to reduce weapons of mass destruction and the funds wasted on them. [Pause to remember; mention people if you wish.]: *We praise and thank you, Divine Mystery.*

### **Let us be mindful**

St. Francis also praised God through Sister Death — the kind “no mortal can escape.” He could not have guessed that humans would cause the sickness and death of the very gifts we have just mentioned. Of the needs of Earth, *Let us be mindful.*

Mention any relevant concern that weighs on your heart, e.g., Of the animals and plants going extinct, *Let us be mindful.*

### **Quiet Prayer**

#### **Closing**

**All:** “Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks. Serve God with great humility.”  
Exchange a blessing of peace and all good.