



## II.

### The Human Person: Entrusted with God's Creation

#### God's covenant with all things

- ◆ The rainbow as sign of the covenant that God made with Noah and with every living thing. [Gen 9, 9-17]

#### God's care for all living things

- ◆ The compassion of God is for all living things. [Sir 18, 13]

#### God's care for the poor

- ◆ God will answer the needs of the poor for water. [Is 41, 17-20]

#### God revealed in creation

- ◆ From the beauty of created things, comes a perception of their Creator. [Wis 13, 5-9]
- ◆ The birds, fish and plants will teach you that all life is in the hand of the Lord. [Job 12, 7-10]

#### Creation rejoicing and blessing God

- ◆ All of creation sings to God. [Sir 39, 12-35]
- ◆ The mountains will sing and the trees clap their hands. [Is 55, 10-13]
- ◆ All creation called to bless the Lord. [Dn 3, 35-59]

#### The human person in creation

- ◆ The image and likeness of God and having dominion. [Gen 1, 26-28]
- ◆ The image and likeness of God and having dominion [Sir 17, 1-7]
- ◆ Dominion: prayer for the wisdom of God in ruling the earth. [Wis 9, 1-4]

#### Sin: the earth suffering from

- ◆ The earth is cursed because of the sin of Adam. [Gen 3, 17]
- ◆ The earth mourns and withers because the human person has violated the statutes. [Is 24, 1-7]
- ◆ No grapes nor figs because they have committed abomination. [Jer 8, 13]
- ◆ The unfaithful woman: God will take away her vines and figs. [Hos 2, 12]
- ◆ God withholds the dew and produce of the earth because of action of persons [Hag 1, 7-11]

#### Obedience: the earth giving of its fruits

- ◆ If you walk in my statutes, I will give rain and your land will yield. [Lev 3-5]

#### Care for the land

- ◆ The land is to rest every seventh year. [Ex 23, 10-11]
- ◆ God cares for the land. [Deut 11, 12]

#### Limits to use of the goods of the earth

- ◆ God to Adam: You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree. [Gen 3,3]
- ◆ God to Noah: I give you everything. You shall not eat flesh with its blood. [Gen 9, 4]
- ◆ In the desert, the people are to gather only what they need for the day. [Ex 16, 4]
- ◆ When besieging, you shall not cut down the fruit trees. Who are you to do so? [Deut 20, 20]
- ◆ Give me neither poverty nor riches, only the food that I need, lest I deny you. [Prov 30, 8]

#### Limits to working the land: care for the poor

- ◆ The land is to lie fallow so that the poor may eat. [Ex 23, 11]
- ◆ When reaping you shall leave grain and grapes for the poor. [Lev 19, 9-10]
- ◆ When tilling or gathering, leave food for the sojourner, the poor. [Deut 24, 19-21]

### III.

## Singing the Glories of God's Creation

*Many of the Psalms tell of the glory of creation and of God's love for it.  
A choice has therefore been made.  
The Psalms are Prayers to be sung in silence or together with all of creation.*

#### **God revealed in creation**

- ◆ The heavens and earth alike tell of the glory of God. [Ps 19, 1-6]

#### **God's care for creation**

- ◆ God loves all of creation with a steadfast love. He saves both man and beast. [Ps 36, 5-9]
- ◆ God stills the storm and visits the earth, caring for it. [Ps 65, 5-13]
- ◆ In God's hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains. [Ps 95, 4-7]
- ◆ God cares for creation. [Ps 147, 7-11]

#### **God speaks in nature**

- ◆ The storm reveals the power of God. All of nature obeys his voice. [Ps 29, 3-11]

#### **The human person in creation**

- ◆ The grandeur of creation. Yet God is mindful of the human person to whom he has given dominion. [Ps 8, 3-8]
- ◆ May the king rule with justice, having dominion from sea to sea. [Ps 72]
- ◆ God gave the earth to people. [Ps 115, 16]

#### **A noisy creation that sings and rejoices in God**

- ◆ Let the heavens praise God's wonders. God rules the seas, the heavens, the earth. [Ps 89, 5-6]
- ◆ The floods have lifted up their voices [Ps 93, 3]
- ◆ All the earth sings to the Lord. Let the earth, sea, fields, trees join in. [Ps 96, 1, 11-13]
- ◆ The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice. He comes with clouds, fire and lightning and all behold his glory. [Ps 97, 1-6]
- ◆ Make joyful noise. Sea and creatures sing for joy because the Lord comes. [Ps 98, 4-9]
- ◆ Make joyful noise to the Lord all the land. [Ps 100, 1]
- ◆ A call for the entire universe to praise the Lord. [Ps 148, 1-10]
- ◆ Let everything that breaths praise the Lord. [Ps 150, 6]

## **IV. The Redemption of Creation – a New Creation**

### **A.**

Jesus lived in a rural environment and throughout the Gospels, there are references to nature that serve as a prayerful context for a deeper understanding of how our relationship with God is incomplete without taking into consideration our relationship with God's creation. A limited number of references to Matthew are given below as examples:

- ◆ Beauty, God's care for all. [Matt 6, 26-30]
- ◆ Knowing a tree by its fruit. [Matt 7, 15]
- ◆ The weeds and the wheat. [Matt 13, 24-30; 36-43]
- ◆ The shepherd leaving his flock. [Matt 18, 12]
- ◆ The barren fig tree. [Matt 21, 18-20]
- ◆ The lesson of the fig tree. [Matt 24, 32-35]

### **B.**

In the New Testament, some of the same themes as those of the Old Testament are found. Especially significant are Jesus as Creator, the redemption of all things, a new creation.

#### **Who is Jesus?**

- ◆ The Creator [Jn 1, 1-14; Col 1, 15-17; Heb 1, 1-2; Rev 4, 11; 1 Cor 8, 6]
- ◆ Light coming into the world. [Jn 3, 16-19]
- ◆ The vine; we are the branches, the Father the vinedresser. [Jn 15, 1-11]

#### **When Jesus died the cosmos mourned**

- ◆ There was darkness over the earth, rocks split and tombs opened. [Matt 27, 45; 51-52; Mk 15, 33-39; Luke 23, 44]

#### **All things are redeemed in Jesus**

- ◆ Jesus reconciling all things to himself, whether on earth or in heaven. [Col 1, 19-20]
- ◆ Creation waiting to be set free. [Rm 8, 18-23]
- ◆ Gathering all things in heaven and on earth in Christ. [Eph 1, 10]

#### **Creation revealing God**

- ◆ Creation as revealing God. [Rm 1, 20]

#### **A new creation**

- ◆ Jesus creating in himself a new humanity. [Eph 1, 3 – 2, 22]
- ◆ Awaiting a new heavens and a new earth. [2 Pet 3, 13; Rev 21, 1-5; 10-22]
- ◆ Every creature in heaven, earth and under the earth singing glory. [Rev 5, 13]
- ◆ Christ as the new Adam. [1 Cor 15, 45-49]

#### **A new covenant**

- ◆ Jesus as mediator of the new covenant [Heb 12, 24]

#### **The human person collaborating with God**

- ◆ Working together with God. [2 Cor 6, 1]