

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

(TRANSFERRED)

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbours work for nothing, and does not give them their wages; who says, 'I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms', and who cuts out windows for it, panelling it with

cedar, and painting it with vermilion. Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

THE CANTICLE OF ST. FRANCIS

by St. Francis of Assisi

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God,
to you belong praise, glory, honour and all blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation
and especially for our Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.

O Lord, we think of you when we look at him.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon, and for
the stars
which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind
and Air
and every kind of weather by which you, Lord, uphold life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful to us, and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
**through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.**

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our
Mother, who nourishes us and sustains us,
**bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many
kinds and flowers of many colours.**

Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for
love of you;
**and for those who bear sickness and weakness
in peace and patience - you will grant them a
crown.**

SECOND LESSON

An Excerpt from the Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*

by Pope Francis I

Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason". His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists... [Knowing Francis allows us to see that] humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows

the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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