

Prayers & Readings - July 21, 2019

Ocean refers to the mass of waters that cover two thirds of Earth's surface, the surging seas and the watery deeps where myriads of species live, many of which are still undiscovered.

The ocean is a world of mystery and beauty, of fascinating depths and spectacular life forms. The ocean is that vast domain many of our ancestors crossed to reach all parts of planet Earth.

The waters of the oceans are ultimately the waters of life for all the planet.

Responsorial: *(adapted from the liturgy for the First Sunday in the Season of Creation- Ocean Sunday, United States Version 1, www.webofcreation.org)*

We give thanks for the oceans, living waters that are part of who we are: the deep sea currents and ocean reefs, the mountain peaks on the ocean floor, the icebergs that break off from the North Pole, the calm waters that caress the equator. 🎵 **Living waters now roar with your song; from your depths we were born.**

We remember the sea with amazement. We have an image of the splash of waves on our feet, the sand between our toes and the mystery of an endless horizon stretching out across the ocean. 🎵 **Living waters now roar with your song; from your depths we were born.**

We join all ocean life in songs of praise: whales and dolphins dancing on the surface, choirs of angel fish gathered below, the seashore, the pelican, the stingray, the flamingo, the white caps and waves that splash in delight. 🎵 **Living waters now roar with your song; from your depths we were born.**

Oceans, seas and watery deeps, celebrate with all that lives within you, and roar with us today. Roar, ocean, roar! Roar, roar in praise and celebrate your song! 🎵 **Living waters now roar with your song; from your depths we were born.**

Reading *from www.MontereyBayAquarium.org*

Caring about the ocean means caring about climate change. From increasing ocean acidification to coral bleaching to harmful algal blooms, climate change—caused by the burning of fossil fuels—is having a profound and sometimes deadly impact on our ocean. Fortunately, the ocean is resilient and can recover if we take action.

We already know the impact of fires, heat and drought, exacerbated by climate change, here in California. Climate change is real. It is dramatic. It impacts all of us. Fortunately, action is at hand—and more is on the way.

We can save beaches, and islands, and ocean life. We can limit the impacts on ecosystems large and small, from coral reefs to farmland to forests. We can reduce fire risk and the worst impacts of storms, droughts, and heat. But we must act with purpose and alacrity. We must act now.

Climate action means creating a better world for people and the planet. Working together, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, slow global warming and ocean acidification, and adapt to the impacts already in motion.

Invitation to Silence (10 minutes)

As we enter the silence... we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths and we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our oceans, ways to care for the oceans and all our waterways, and to empathize with the groaning of creation.

Prayer of Confession (adapted from the liturgy for the First Sunday in the Season of Creation- Ocean Sunday, United States Version 1, www.webofcreation.org)

We remember and confess that we have killed reefs, polluted seas, and turned surrounding oceans into domains to be conquered. Source of Wisdom,
We have polluted Earth's waters with toxins, and killed millions of species in the ocean. We have turned our greed into global warming. We have helped cause arctic regions to melt. We have loved progress more than the planet. Source of Wisdom,

We are sorry and ask forgiveness for sins against the seas. They are a precious part of our planet home. Let us celebrate and love this home, and learn to preserve the waters of life. Source of Wisdom,

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God who is with us here and beyond:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With bread we need for today-- feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another-- forgive us.
In times of temptation and test-- strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure-- spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil-- free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
May it be so. Amen.**

Concluding Prayer (adapted from a prayer by Amanuka Havea, Tonga, published in *Your Will Be Done* © Christian Conference of Asia Youth, Hong Kong, 1984.)

Let us save our shores from the weapons of death,
our lands from the things that deny our young ones love and freedom.
Let the seas and the oceans carry messages of peace and goodwill.
Turn away from our midst any unkind and brutal practices.
Let each child swim and breathe the fresh air that is filled with the Spirit of Wisdom.
Bless all who are makers of that inner peace that breaks down the barriers of hatred,
and unite us with open arms, that all the peoples of the world may live happily together.