



*But Let Justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing
stream.”*

Season of Creation 2023

Week 4 September, 23, 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th Sunday Season of Creation

Matthew 20: 1-16a

This week's Gospel on the parable of the workers in the vineyard often calls us to question why some who work only an hour would receive the same wages as those who have worked for the day. We ask, "why is this fair?"

In God's generosity, those who are hired last receive the same wages reminding us that the kingdom of heaven is open to all.

As we relate it to the Season of Creation, we may not think of the day laborers who bear the heat of the day as being marginalized because they will not receive any of the profits from the harvest .

We may not often think about the seasonal workers who are responsible for the planting and harvesting of our crops. We may forget that without their work, we would not eat!

It is these same workers who work for minimum wages, and are often hurt on the job and have no health benefits or compensation for injuries occurred.

- During this Season of Creation, let us be aware of those who are responsible for growing and harvesting in times of flood and drought.

- Let us be aware of those who are forced to migrate because they are no longer able to farm their land because of extreme heat and drought.

- Let us be aware of those who are unable to earn a living from the land because of conflict.

- Let us also be aware that the sale of genetically modified seeds (GMOS) and the herbicides associated with them are harmful to the soil and the organisms that live in the soil. Unethical business practices associated with GM seeds have driven some farmers off their land.

We have lost contact with our food production supply chain through globalization and urbanization. We no longer control the quality of the food we eat, and we waste and dump food that could feed hungry people.

This week: Pray for farmworkers. Learn more about forced migration when people are no longer able to live off the land because of climate change.

Take Action: Donate to an organization that provides food assistance or supports small farmers to reach self-sufficiency; e.g. Catholic Relief Services, Heifer, etc.

Rights of Rivers & Bodies of Fresh Water

We believe that nature has certain rights. Bodies of water have rights. We believe that water should not be a dumping ground for chemicals, waste, and plastics. We believe that people who depend on rivers and lakes as their source of drinking water, bathing, and water for crops, have the right to water that is free from pollution.

Read the declaration on Rights of Rivers at this website and join individuals and groups around the globe who seek to protect our precious water resources. Join others in signing the declaration at <https://www.rightsofrivers.org/>



Water in Lake Erie on a clear day!

Follow NYS Assembly bill AO4344 sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick Burke, Buffalo, to

Create a Great Lakes Bill of Rights that declares the right of the Great Lakes to exist, flourish and natural evolve. Encourage your Assembly person to co-sponsor and ask your State Senator to introduce a companion bill in the NYS Senate.

What is Being Done Globally to Preserve our Global Ecosystem?

COP 15, The UN Bio-Diversity Conference was held in Montreal, Canada in December 2022.

At the conference governments from around the world [came together](#) to agree on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss.

What took place at COP 15:

- Adoption of an equitable and comprehensive framework matched by the resources needed for implementation
- Clear targets to address overexploitation, pollution, fragmentation and unsustainable agricultural practices
- A plan that safeguards the rights of indigenous peoples and recognizes their contributions as stewards of nature

Finance for biodiversity and alignment of financial flows with nature to drive finances toward sustainable investments and away from environmentally harmful ones

Faiths at COP15

At COP15, the nations of the world agreed on a once-in-a-decade pact to protect ecosystems and safeguard biodiversity. This COP will be the first time that a coalition of faith groups, spanning almost every single major faith tradition, are coming to bring the voice of faith communities to the table.

Communion with Creation: On September 27th at 9am ET, Faiths for Biodiversity will be hosting a webinar called "[Communion with Creation: A Christian Reflection on Biodiversity during the Season of Creation](#)." Join them for reflection and prayer on biodiversity. the care for all creation. Register [here](#). **Right click To open.**