

*REVISED 1987*

**a**

**liturgy**

**on**

**creation**

## NOTES

This liturgy embodies the offering up of all creation for consecration by Divine power. It is partly original and partly compiled from various sources.

'A Liturgy on Creation' is not a sacramental act in the same theological sense as the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Bread and wine are not used. Questions of Holy Orders do not arise, so the celebrant might be a priest, but might also be a lay man or woman.

This Liturgy stands, then, in its own right as a spiritual work which may be done at any time, by any individual or group. You will note that the prayers are arranged in the same overall pattern as those of the Eucharist itself. This new Liturgy, if used during the week, will amplify the familiar words of the Sunday Mass to a new dimension. It can therefore become a valuable means of strengthening co-operation between priest and people when Sunday Mass is offered. It could also be used at times when no ordained priest is available.

The simple ritual directions given in the text are for group celebrations, but of course 'A liturgy on Creation' might also be used by an individual as a purely private prayer or devotion, with or without an altar.

For a group celebration, a table is covered with a white cloth. If desired, a cross and either two or six candles may be used. No bread, wine, chalice, paten or other instruments or vestments should be used, although the leader might wear a simple white robe.

(In the Offering (p. 4) the chalice and the paten are referred to symbolically, and are not intended to be used as such. In the Holy Eucharist, the paten is the golden dish on which the bread is offered, and the chalice is the cup in which the wine is offered)

Unless otherwise stated, the leader's hands are joined (palms together) throughout.

Passages in square brackets may be omitted.

## A LITURGY ON CREATION

*The Leader makes the sign of the Cross*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit

## PURIFICATION

Leader: Our hearts are still.  
emptied of all thoughts of self.  
in surrender to the transforming action of the Divine Will

May the Lord in his Infinite strength set us free from the bonds of self.  
making here an altar on which to offer the world,

Purify this place. O lord,  
and make of us one body.  
growing Into the fullness of Christ; a temple of living stones,  
through which infinite life may flow

let the holy angels join us .  
In this work of transforming the earth

## GLORIFICATION

All **Glory to you. Divine Spirit.**  
**for the wonder of the world.**  
**for the brightness and the warmth of the sun,**  
**for The silver moon.**  
**for The ever-changing sky. for the shifting clouds.**  
**and the splendour of sunrise and sunset;**

**Glory to you for the earth.**  
**the sustainer of all that lives.**  
**for the beauty of hills, plains and valleys.**  
**for meadows and fields.**  
**flowers and trees.**  
**animals and birds,**  
**and all the myriad forms of life;**

**Glory to you for water.**  
**for the rain that refreshes the earth.**  
**[or rushing torrents and slow-moving streams.**  
**for the sea.**  
**beautiful In Its stillness and powerful In Its storm..**

**Glory to you for the gifts of science and Invention.**  
**for singers and musicians.**  
**for poets and craftsmen.**

**and for all who work In form and colour to increase the beauty of this world..**

**Glory to you for the courage of heroes.  
the inspiration of your saints.  
and the example of noble deeds**

Leader: Spirit of Life. within all things,  
reveal to us the splendour of creation,  
so that, through temporal beauty.  
we may know the beauty which Is eternal

### **ILLUMINATION**

Leader Spirit of God.  
alone the source of all beauty. all goodness. all truth.  
without whose Inspiration nothing is real. nothing endures.  
so enlighten us that we may bear the truth. and live the truth.

Reader: [The Gospel  
This Is the Gospel of the Lord according to .....

*At the end of the Gospel. all say:*

All **Thanks be to God ]**

### **OFFERING**

All: **On the paten of our hearts, O Lord.  
we place all the purposeful action of men.  
their aspirations.  
their achievements.  
their work;**

**Into our chalice we pour the sorrows.  
the failings and the pain of every living being.,**

**Into this offering of the world we would gather,  
first. those closest to us.  
those whose lives are bound up with our own;**

**With these we unite those more distant and less real to us,  
the great multitude of mankind.  
scattered over every part of. the globe;**

**In deepest sympathy and Imagination  
we unite ourselves With the ceaseless pilgrimage of mankind  
with Its joys and sorrows.  
its hopes and fears.  
that we may be at one with It all;**

**Let every sentient being be placed here on our altar.  
that we May raise them all up to you;**

**And not only the living would we gather Into this oblation  
but also the dead.  
that they too may be Incorporated  
Into the material of our sacrifice.**

**And even this Is not enough.,  
we would draw into it every form of life.  
animals and birds.  
trees, flowers and fruits,  
and the very fabric of the earth Itself:**

*The Leader raises his hands, palms upwards. over the altar, saying*

Leader: Receive O lord.  
this your manifold creation  
in all Its light  
and In all Its darkness

## **CONSECRATION**

*The Leader, with his hands joined, says:*

Leader: Creative power.  
shining, deathless spirit.  
life of the earth and all Its creatures.  
so infuse this your world with your attraction  
that It may more and more be led back to you  
from whom it sprang-.

Timeless Word.  
outpouring of the mysterious ineffable One.  
you who are forever moulding this world of manifold phenomena  
so as to incorporate it more and more Into your divine life.  
you who are ever plunging yourself into its vast depths  
so as to renew us.  
and everything which is within and around us:  
breathe Into it now.

your transforming might-,

remould this world.

set it right.

remake It from the very depths from which it sprang;

may all life. past. present and future.

that which was. that which Is. and that which is to come.

be now elevated at this altar of the world.

that In and through you.

Eternal. Cosmic Christ.

it may he presented, a holy sacrifice.

in the secret place of the most High-

that all may he vivified and consecrated

unto that great day of the fulfilment of all creation,

when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption.

and this mortal shall have put on immortality.

and all things shall. in and through you.

be brought back to the One from whence they came

Especially do we make this oblation:

For all your faithful people of East and West.,

that they may perform the divine work with selfless diligence;

[ For all who guide and direct the thoughts of the people,  
for statesmen. administrators and journalists,  
for artists, authors and musicians,  
that our life In the world may he crowned  
with truth and beauty;

For all who heal the mind and body

and tend the sick and the afflicted.

that they may follow In the footsteps of Christ,

the Great Physician:

For all on whose work we depend for the necessities of life,

that we may respect their labours,

and that they may seek no undue profit

which would hinder the good of all..

For parents and children.

that strength. love and honour may dwell In our homes.

and that duly and affection may he the bond of family life.,

For all who are afflicted in mind. body or estate.

especially for .....

for those in pain and trouble,  
for the blind. the deaf. the mute. the maimed;  
for those whose livelihood is insecure  
or who are hungry. homeless or destitute:  
for those who are depressed. anxious or afraid. ]  
that they may be uplifted and sustained:

For those departed this life. especially for.....  
and for those here present.

## **CONSECRATION**

*The leader extends his hands over the altar, with his palms downward. at the words of consecration*

Radiant Word. limitless Power.  
lay on us those your hands.  
powerful. compassionate. omnipresent.  
directing and transfiguring all things  
into your perfect image and likeness..

and do you now.  
speaking through our lips.  
pronounce over the whole earthly pilgrimage of mankind.  
over all creation.  
your commanding words of consecration:

**THIS IS MY BODY**

**THIS IS MY BLOOD**

As often as this act is done.  
the Eternal Word is born again in the depths of the world:

every day may you take our hands.  
our voices. our actions.  
and perform through them  
the miracle of the world's transformation;

and bring all at the last. O King of love,  
to that timeless waking  
when the fullness of creation shall be revealed;

when there shall be no darkness nor dazzling.  
but one perfect light.

no hopes nor fears.  
but one lull possession.  
no discords nor opposites.  
but one single truth.  
no beginning nor ending.  
but one eternity.  
in the splendour of your glory  
and the majesty of your dominion

## **A TRANSFORMED COMMUNITY**

### **FRACTION**

*At the word 'break', the leader makes a hand action symbolic of the fraction*

Leader: And as the One became many only to restore all to unity,  
we do break this the body of the world consecrated.  
breaking in this action  
the walls which Imprison the light within us  
and within the universe itself-  
that light which. spread by your power and our high endeavour.  
will make all lives one

### **COMMUNION**

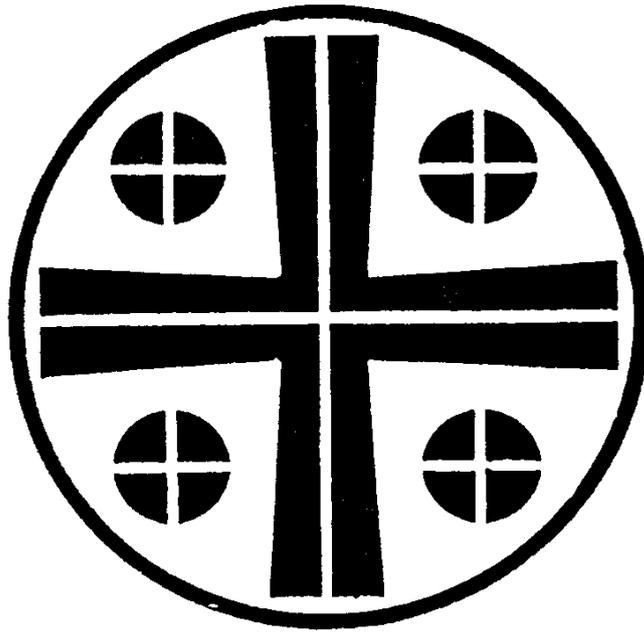
Leader: Lord Christ.  
the divine Influence Invisibly working  
in the depths of our world,  
and the shining centre  
where all the fibres of creation meet,  
  
power as vast as the cosmos  
yet as warm as life-  
you who are the first and the last.  
the living and the dead and the risen again:  
draw us now Into communion with You .

*The people now join in a period of silent meditation*

## UNIVERSAL TRANSFORMATION

All: Lord.  
your divine strength sustains us always.  
and it is within our power  
to make of our lives whatever you would have them be:  
we have offered them to you  
that in our lives your life shall be revealed

Leader: Our work here is ended..  
we go forth to continue your labour of transformation  
within the world.  
Let the love of God radiate through all beings.  
in benediction. peace, and joy.



*“The Priesthood of the laity is no empty phrase  
and expression should be given to the truth which it embodies.”*