**Evening Prayer for Lent**

**Theme: Lent and Care for Creation**

**Gathering Song:**

**Psalm:** Creation (<http://www.psalmsoflife.com>)

As I look to the east I praise you, my God:
from the rising of the sun you uphold my life;

When the sun goes down again I give you thanks:
you are my strength from beginning to end.

The whole created universe shares in our praise and gratitude:
for you have made all that is, whether seen or unseen -
hill and valley, tree and flower: the earth in all its beauty is yours;

Earthquake and storm, wind and flood, keep us in awe of you:
the power of the lightning is also your creation.

The workman labors with the sweat of his brow:
he shares in your redemptive work;

The secretary and teacher work for you:
those who use their mind and imagination -

The executive making important decisions:
those who care for others and serve our needs.

All whose work is hard, toil with your blessing:
those who find fulfilment in work can see it as part of your purpose.

So can we all in more humble activities:
as cleaner, sweeper, gardener or child.

Those whom society rejects are in your special care:
and those who have no place in a world of work;

Without them your creation would be incomplete:
your plan includes our work and our unemployment.

Jesus was friend of the poor and outcast:
he was also a carpenter working for his living.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your gift of enterprise:
the spark of your creative power.

For your love builds us all together:
and shows us how to make one another great.

**Reading:** Lumen Fidie / Light of Faith (Pope Francis 6/29/2013)

Saint Francis of Assisi bears witness to the need to respect all that God has created and as he created it, without manipulating and destroying creation; rather to help it grow, to become more beautiful and more like what God created it to be. And above all, Saint Francis witnesses to respect for everyone, he testifies that each of us is called to protect our neighbor that the human person is at the center of creation, at the place where God – our creator – willed that we should be. Not at the mercy of the idols we have created!

**Reading:**  Al Gore (An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It)

"Global warming, along with the cutting and burning of forests and other critical habitats, is causing the loss of living species at a level comparable to the extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. That event was believed to have been caused by a giant asteroid. This time it is not an asteroid colliding with the Earth and wreaking havoc: it is us." -

**For reflection and suggested action step during Lent**

* As Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, how are we called to care for God’s creation?
* Reduce meat consumption (especial beef) to conserve water and land.

**Closing:** Pope Francis: “We’ve overdone the subduing the earth. It’s now time to take some action against the use and abuse of creation.” Taking on the St. Francis Pledge is an action we can all take.

I/We Pledge to:

* PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.
* LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.
* ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.
* ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.
* ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.