

**“ALL CREATION PRAISES YOU”**

**FIRST READING**

**A reading from the Little Flowers of St. Francis.**

**(As Francis was walking along), he saw some trees in which there was an almost infinite multitude of birds. St. Francis marveled at this and said to his companions: “You wait for me here on the road, and I’ll go and preach to my sisters the birds.” . . .**

**“My sister birds, you owe much to God your Creator and you ought to praise Him always and everywhere because He has given you the freedom to fly everywhere, and has given you two and three layers of clothing. . . Furthermore you neither sow nor reap, and God feeds you, and gives you the rivers and springs for your drink; and he gives you the mountains and valleys as your refuge, the high trees to make your nests, and since you do not know how to spin or sew, He clothes you, you and your little ones. Therefore, your Creator loves you very much, since He gives you so many benefits. So beware, my sisters, of the sin of ingratitude and always strive to praise God.”**

**The Word of the Franciscan tradition.**

(“Little Flowers of St. Francis,” chapter 16, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents III, p. 593)

## Second Reading

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.**

**Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

(Colossians 1:15-20, new revised standard translation)

## Gospel

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

**At that time Jesus said to his disciples,**

**'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.**

**Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?**

**Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!**

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

(Luke 12:22-28, new revised standard translation)