

A Litany for the Planet

The Deacon or other Leader may select apt portions of this litany, and add local examples to any category, as well as special concerns and occasions for prayer where appropriate.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

On your earth, as it changes,
Creator, have mercy.

On the soil, that it may be built up and be fruitful,
Creator, have mercy.

On the minerals below ground that nourish life,
Creator, have mercy.

On your volcanoes and lava flows,
Creator, have mercy.

On your hills and great mountains, on your valleys, cliffs, and caves,
Creator, have mercy.

On your deserts and their hardy creatures,
Creator, have mercy.

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On your waters, that they may be clean and sustain a diverse community of life,
Creator, have mercy.

On your coral reefs, on the animals, plants, and fish that inhabit them,
Creator, have mercy.

On your deeps and their creatures, on the open seas and all that travel them,
Creator, have mercy.

On your rivers, that they may flow unpolluted, bringing water to thirsty land,
Creator, have mercy.

On your lakes and streams, that their right balance may sustain plants and animals,
Creator, have mercy.

On your vernal ponds and marshes, cradles of life,
Creator, have mercy.

On your wetlands and estuaries, on shingles and beaches,
Creator, have mercy.

On your islands and atolls, on your oases and all outposts of life in harsh places,
Creator, have mercy.

On your glaciers and ice fields, holding the water of life,
Creator, have mercy.

On your storms, floods, and tempests, and all fearful forces for change,
Creator, have mercy.

On your clement rains that cause the plants to sprout and grow,
Creator, have mercy.

On your snow and hail, sleet and winter cold, and all that waits dormant for
spring,
Creator, have mercy.

On your mists and fog that water the ground,
Creator, have mercy.

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On the atmosphere of your planet earth, that it may sustain all that breathes,
Creator, have mercy.

On your winds that carry seeds and spores, that warm and cool, that moisten and
dry,
Creator, have mercy.

On your lightning and fire that cleanse and destroy, and on all in their path,
Creator, have mercy.

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On eukaryotes and prokaryotes, archaea¹ and viruses; on microbes of endless
variety, the complex and the simple,
Creator, have mercy.

On your reptiles and amphibians, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On your four-legged creatures, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On your two legged and winged creatures, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On your many-legged creatures, on your insects, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

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On your forests of many kinds, on your trees and shrubs and vines,
Creator, have mercy.

On your grasslands and plains, on your tundras and their plants,
Creator, have mercy.

1 *Eukaryotes* (yu-kar-ee-ohts): any organism having as its fundamental structural unit a cell type that contains specialized organelles in the cytoplasm, a membrane-bound nucleus enclosing genetic material organized into chromosomes, and an elaborate system of division by mitosis or meiosis, characteristic of all life forms except bacteria, blue-green algae, and other primitive microorganisms.

Prokaryotes (proh-kar-ee-ohts): any cellular organism that has no nuclear membrane, no organelles in the cytoplasm except ribosomes, and has its genetic material in the form of single continuous strands forming coils or loops, characteristic of all organisms in the kingdom Monera, as the bacteria and blue-green algae.

Archaea (ahr-kay-ah): any of the unicellular microorganisms that are genetically distinct from bacteria and eukaryotes, and are often found inhabiting extreme environmental conditions (caves, undersea vents, great ocean deeps, etc. Archaea (or archaeobacteria) evolved separately from eubacteria and eukaryotes. They are similar to eukaryotes in possessing genes and metabolic pathways. They are considered to be living fossils and survivors of an ancient group of organisms that bridged the gap in evolution between eubacteria and eukaryotes.

(Definitions from *Dictionary.com* and *biology.com*)

On your ferns and your fungi, on the spore-bearing plants and the seed-bearing plants,
Creator, have mercy.

On all the ecosystems of your earth and their intricate communities,
Creator, have mercy.

On your mysterious creatures and places unknown to humankind,
Creator, have mercy.

On the human family across the globe, that we may know our kinship with all creation,
Creator, have mercy.

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For the city/town

On all who live in this *city* and this neighborhood,
Creator, have mercy.

On those who work around us, whose labor builds up the world, on _____ and _____ [*local work examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On the businesses and industries of this *city*, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On the plants and animals of the urban ecosystem, on _____ and _____ [*local examples*],
Creator, have mercy.

On the parks and green spaces of this *city* and those who maintain them,
Creator, have mercy.

On those who produce food and energy for this *city's* people,
Creator, have mercy.

On schools and places of learning, on all who care for and teach children and adults,
Creator, have mercy.

On the poor and homeless residents of this *city*,
Creator, have mercy.

On visitors and immigrants, on all who offer welcome and shelter here,
Creator, have mercy.

On all places of reverence and prayer, on all who honor you and all who do not know you,
Creator, have mercy.

On our ancestors and those who will come after us, and on all your people,
Creator, have mercy.

On all creation returning praise to you,
Creator, have mercy.

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In time of widespread disease

On all those stricken with _____, and all who are ill of any disease,
Creator, have mercy.

On those who care for loved ones who are ill,
Creator, have mercy.

On doctors and nurses and all who render help and lend skill,
Creator, have mercy.

On scientists and researchers, that there may be treatments and cures,
Creator, have mercy.

On all working for public health, safety, and well-being,
Creator, have mercy.

On all who are fearful, on those who are alone and in need,
Creator, have mercy.

On those who are dying and those who have died, and on all who mourn,
Creator, have mercy.