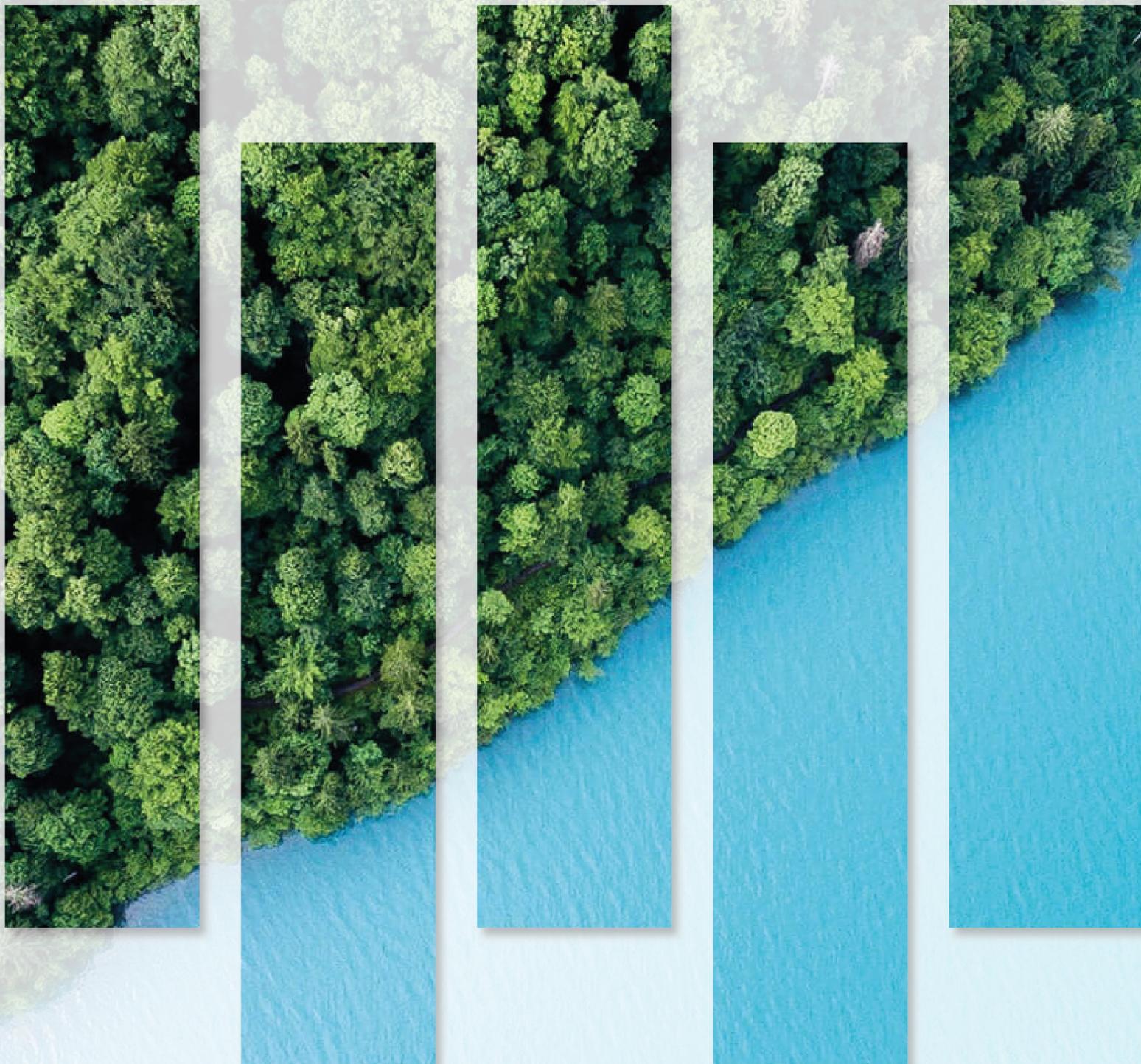


# WUCWO DAY

May 13, 2024



**COMMUNION | PARTICIPATION | MISSION**

*A Synodal Church in the light of Laudato si'*

# | LITURGY FOR WUCWO DAY |

May 13, 2024

Prepared by the African Region

## INITIAL GREETING

Prayer is first and foremost the celebration of God's presence among his people, and therefore it is also where community itself is built.

Praying together gives us the gift of growing and strengthening our faith, as well as loving Christ, Our only Lord, more and better. When we pray together, God unites our hearts to His.

Despite our diversity of origins, languages and cultures, through the grace of Baptism we can live this day together with one heart and in one single Spirit; for as St. Paul says *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body"* (1 Cor 12:13). Community prayer is action and language of that same Spirit who dwelt in Mary. Prayer creates the community and also expresses it.

Feeling one, united in faith, let us remember with joy on this day that *"The Holy Spirit is the master of harmony; He is capable of making it, and He has made it happen here. It is what needs to happen in our hearts. [...] He must create harmony: for He Himself is harmony."* (Francis)

## MONITION

***We begin in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit***

The first word that our lips address this day to the Lord is THANK YOU! For this precious gift that the Holy Spirit has given to the Church and to the world: WUCWO. The Lord has been great with us and we rejoice! God has been good and provident in allowing us to reach this new anniversary. The gifts that we have received from each other bear witness to the fact that You, O God, are with us! We also want to thank each sister for her commitment, her service and her generosity.

We want to thank Him for His presence, power and provision in our various organisations, the heart of WUCWO. **Together we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, as Jesus said (Mt 5:14-15).** Our hearts are lifted with hope and joy, as we celebrate this world day of our Organisation. ***"Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands" (Ps 99:1).***

## PRAYER

**TEXT: The seed of the Word (Luke 1, 39-45)**

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

***Word of God. We praise you, Lord.***

**Commentary:** John the Baptist leaps for joy in the womb of his mother Elizabeth because he receives the visit of Jesus who is in the womb of his mother Mary. This Gospel shows us that when God visits us he brings joy, he brings joy to the whole earth, because *"The Son, [...] united himself to this earth when he was formed in the womb of Mary"* (LS 238). We too experience this joy when we make the Lord's love present in our communities, our works, our meetings. If we think that God is present only in pain, in punishment, in fear, we are not understanding who God is. Jesus is God, he accompanies in pain, consoles in sorrow, forgives our faults and brings justice to the oppressed. But he is also a

source of joy, of hopes, of love. That is why He is the Good News and joy of the whole earth. Mary is a happy woman because she believed in this liberating message of God.

## PSALM 148 (recited with two choruses)

Hallelujah!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
give praise in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels;  
give praise, all you hosts.  
Praise him, sun and moon;  
give praise, all shining stars.

Praise him, highest heavens,  
you waters above the heavens.

Let them all praise the LORD'S name;  
for the LORD commanded and they were created,

Assigned them duties forever,  
gave them tasks that will never change.

Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deep waters;

You lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
storm winds that fulfil his command;

You mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

You animals wild and tame,  
you creatures that crawl and fly;

You kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all who govern on earth;

Young men and women too,  
old and young alike.

Let them all praise the LORD'S name,  
for his name alone is exalted,  
majestic above earth and heaven.  
The LORD has lifted high the horn of his people;  
to the glory of all the faithful, of Israel, the people  
near to their God. Hallelujah!

## REFLECTION

Dear sisters, as we walk in synodality, encouraged by our communion, participation and mission, let us open our eyes and contemplate The wonders the Lord works through us in so many people and institutions we visit.

*Laudato si'*, reminds us that every human person is part of creation with its inherent dignity and deserving of our respect and care. To better understand this, we need an "integral ecology" that recognises and cares for the relationship not only between human beings and nature, but also with God, with ourselves and with other human beings. We deeply believe that human life is based on three closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself.

Let us pray to God, with the help of Our Lady of Fatima, that all of humanity may consider and connect in their minds and hearts the cry of the earth, the cry of the poor, green economy, simple lifestyles, family relationships, ecological education and spirituality, and all of this through community involvement and participation.

## PRAYER LAUDATO SI' (prayed by all)

### *Laudato si'* prayer (A Christian prayer in union with creation)

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.  
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;  
they are yours, filled with your presence and  
your tender love.  
**Praise be to you!**

Son of God, Jesus,  
through you all things were made.  
You were formed in the womb of Mary our  
Mother,  
you became part of this earth,  
and you gazed upon this world with human  
eyes.  
Today you are alive in every creature

in your risen glory.  
**Praise be to you!**

Holy Spirit, by your light  
you guide this world towards the Father's love  
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.  
You also dwell in our hearts  
and you inspire us to do what is good.  
**Praise be to you!**

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite  
love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,

for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance

the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
**Praise be to you!**

Amen. **Amen.**

## INTERCESSIONS

Contemplating with sorrow all the ongoing wars within humanity and so much violence against women, let us together ask for the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima so that the Church may strengthen its feminine face, and place the poor and displaced at the centre of all its decisions; and that those in power make more radical decisions reconsidering all their actions against the designs of God's creation.

Let us glorify our Saviour, who chose the Virgin Mary as our mother, and let implore saying:

***May your Mother, Lord, intercede for us.***

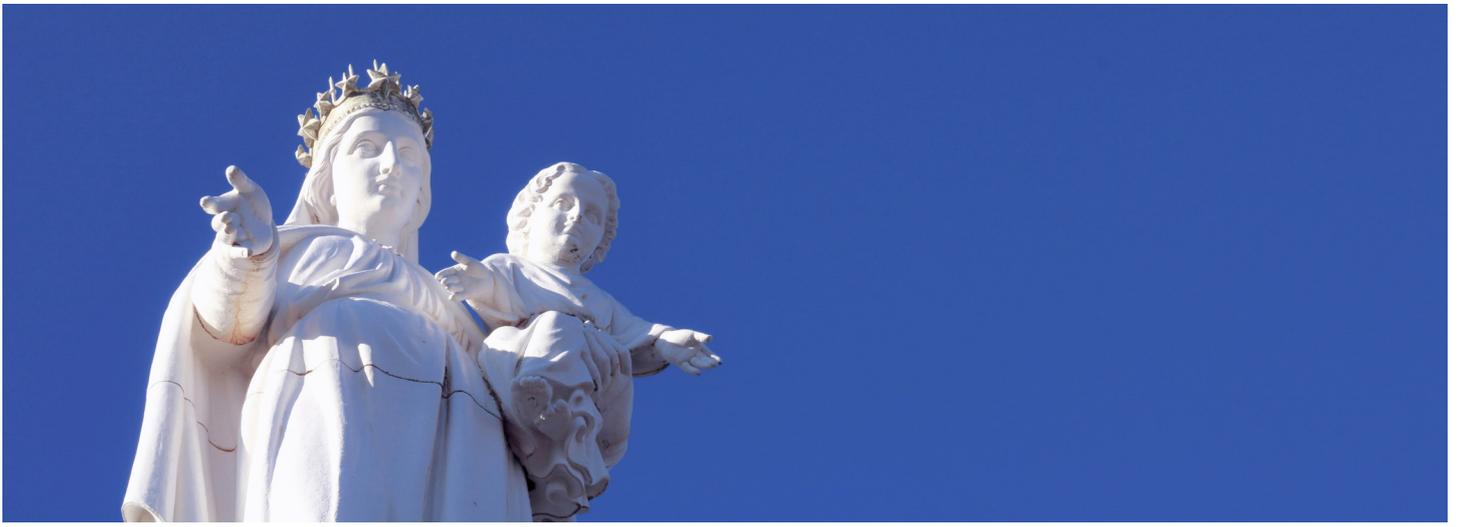
- For Pope Francis, that, in communion with him, we may make his intentions our own and be consistent in our daily actions of care for creation. WE PRAY.
- For the conversion of our hearts, that we may recognise and respect the dignity of every human being, especially those who are most vulnerable. WE PRAY.
- For all women, so that we may have greater recognition and appreciation of our contributions within the Church, and that our pastoral responsibilities may increase, as requested after the synodal encounter. WE PRAY.
- For the gift of rain and fertility in our lands, so that, helped with the goods of the earth, we may long more confidently for the goods of heaven. WE PRAY.
- For peace within the hearts of every person in the face of environmental challenges. May the care of land and water be an instrument for unity and collaboration among nations. WE PRAY.
- For all the women of WUCWO who have gone before us and who are already enjoying the Presence of the Father, May they continue to watch over us from heaven to help us grow in commitment and holiness. WE PRAY.
- For those of us gathered for this celebration, may the Lord grant us the mercy to treat all people with love and enlighten us to care for planet Earth, to recognise social and ecological injustice in our communities and to act decisively to bring about meaningful change. WE PRAY.

## FINAL PRAYER TO MARY (All)

Father, You have prepared the heart of the Virgin Mary to be a home worthy of your Holy Spirit. Through her prayers, may we become a temple more worthy of your glory. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

May the Lord bless us, keep us from harm and lead us to eternal life. Amen.



## FINAL HYMN

### Mary Immaculate, our hearts are on fire

<https://youtu.be/OgjE6vUegYA>

1. Mary Immaculate!  
Our hearts are burning;  
That wonderful title.  
It fills all our desires!  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

2. We pray for the glory of God,  
Let His kingdom come;  
We pray for His Vicar,  
Our Father in Rome.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

3. We pray for our Mother,  
The Church on earth,  
And bless, most sweet Lady,  
The land of our birth.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

4. We pray for sinners all,  
And the souls that now go astray  
Of Jesus and Mary  
On the paths of heresy.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

5. For the poor, the sick, the afflicted,  
Your mercy we long for;  
And it comforts the dying,  
You, light from the grave!  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

6. There is no need, Maria,  
Nor has there ever been,  
that you cannot help

Queen Immaculate.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

7. In affliction and temptation,  
In joy or in pain,  
We will look for you, our Mother,  
And we will not do so in vain.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

8. Bless us, dear Lady,  
With blessings from heaven,  
And that in response to our requests  
An answer will be given to you.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

9. At the solemn moment of death,  
Our Mother, stay close;  
As children of Mary  
teach us to die!  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

10. And crown your sweet mercy  
With this special grace,  
Contemplate soon in the sky  
God's dazzling face  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!

11. Now to God be all glory  
And eternal worship,  
And to the Virgin Mother of God,  
A Bird without end.  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria!  
Ave, Ave Maria!