



# Lenten Prayer Service for Week Four

**Leader:** Spirit of our Loving, Provident God, bless us as we gather to pray.

**All:** Give us hearts that carry hope and believe in peace.

**Song:** (Your selection)

**Reading:** adapted from *Providence and Compassion*

“Compassion has an essential part to play in our “ecological conversion.” Compassion entails empathy; that is, a standing with and a feeling with the other. An honest look at Mother Earth and the plight of the poor as a result of human greed should certainly call us into a dialogue about compassion and spur us into action. Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* deals with how we have been irresponsible and have damaged Earth. He calls for actions which he deems necessary to reverse this damaging trend. He calls for an ecological spirituality ...an ecological conversion whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

--*Roberta Rorke, SP*

**Response:** *The Good Earth* by Katherine Ann Markel, SP+, from *The Art of Providence*

Soil and sea,  
air and breath,  
life and death.

Part of me,  
grass and tree,  
cow and bird,  
flock and herd,  
part of me.

Ladybug, bee,  
fowl and beast,  
hunger and feast.

Part of me,  
lake and rill,  
vale and hill,  
rain and snow,  
field a-row,  
time and birth,  
plenty and dearth.

Part of me.  
Part of me.  
Part of me.

O God, I AM Earth!

# Lenten Prayer Service



## Week Four

### Pause for silent reflection

#### Reflection questions

- What actions can I take to reverse the damage done to Mother Earth?
- When have I shown empathy or a standing with another?
- When have I experienced compassion from another who stood with me in a situation?

**Closing Prayer:** Prayer by Margaret Botch, SP, adapted from *The Art of Providence*

God-Providence, we find ourselves in your presence mindful of the need for changes in our world. Impelled by the same Spirit that lived in our foremothers, and the sisters who have gone before us, we reach out to the suffering to continue the saving mission of Jesus in the church and society of our time. Through the Spirit we become with Jesus the human face of compassion and your loving presence watching over the created universe. ...Provident God, call us anew; inspire all and each of us to be like a tree planted by streams of water that yields her fruit in due season. We pray in faith. *Amen.*