

Sister Dorothy Stang

MARTYR FOR JUSTICE

*Happy is she who trusts in the Lord!
She is like a tree planted by the river:
her leaves are ever green;
she gives her fruit at the right time.*

Psalm 1

Sister Dorothy Stang served as a missionary in Brazil with the families of landless peasants for 40 years. Because of her work for justice and preservation of the Amazon Forest, she was martyred for her faith on February 12, 2005, in Anapu, Para, a section of the Amazon.

*Let us pray in the spirit of
Sister Dorothy's discipleship:*

Holy Creator, source of all that is,
remembering the life and death
of your daughter Sister Dorothy,
We ask for healing —
healing of greed and injustice,
healing of our devastated earth,
healing of hearts that know the pain
of poverty and oppression.
You are the source of our hope and our joy.
You are our good and loving God. Amen.



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Sister Dorothy Stang

HER LEGACY ENDURES IN US • 2005~2020

**15TH ANNIVERSARY
PRAYER SERVICE**

Hymn..... Canticle of the Sun

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Stand)

Scripture Reading (Sit)..... Deuteronomy 28:1-6

Now, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD, your God, carefully observing all his commandments which I give you today, the LORD, your God, will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you when you obey the voice of the LORD, your God:

May you be blessed in the city, and blessed in the country!

Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks!

Blessed be your grain basket and your kneading bowl!

May you be blessed in your coming in, and blessed in your going out!

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Remembering Sister Dorothy Stang:
Living Blessedness

Prayers of Petition (Stand)

Pledge of Commitment To Protect and Heal God’s Creation

We renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We commit ourselves to protect God’s creation.

We commit ourselves to heal injustice and poverty.

We commit ourselves to stand together against all threats to life.

We commit ourselves to discovering new beauty every day in God’s creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest.

We commit ourselves to listening to the “music of the universe”- water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We commit ourselves to remembering always that God speaks to us through the beauty of creation and to reverence all that God has created.

Final Blessing & Dismissal

Closing Song



READER 1: Blessed are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

READER 2: "I light a candle and look at Jesus on the cross and ask for the strength to carry the suffering of the people. Don't worry about my safety. The safety of the people is what's important."



READER 1: Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven.

READER 2: "My heart screams joy, but I'm needing patience as reform can't happen overnight. How to maintain hope alive has been a challenge. I have to be with these people. If it means my life, I want to give my life."



Remembering Sister Dorothy Stang: Living Blessedness

LEADER: As we pause to remember Dorothy, we listen once more to the Beatitudes that Dorothy recited as she was martyred. After each Beatitude, you will hear Dorothy's own words from letters she wrote over the years.



READER 1: Blessed are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.

READER 2: “If we strip ourselves of all our extras that consume so much of our time and thoughts on how to care for them, our left-over time is no longer colored and it is no longer hard to give a Gospel response.”



READER 1: Blessed are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

READER 2: “I do not want to flee, nor do I want to abandon the battle of the farmers who live without any protection in the forest.”



READER 1: Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice; they shall have their fill.

READER 2: “Our Gospel response calls us to take risks among our people. They don’t have this privilege or they would be killed if they resist openly – indeed, they are killed.”

READER 1: Blessed are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

READER 2: “We can’t talk about the poor. We must be poor with the poor and then there is no doubt how to act.”



READER 1: Blessed are the single-hearted; for they shall see God.

READER 2: “I know they want to kill me, but I will not go away. My place is here alongside these people who are constantly humiliated by persons who consider themselves powerful.”



READER 1: Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called children of God.

READER 2: “We are a global people – one family. A deep Christian value is sharing. I am an instrument to help them come together. I am a person free to do that.”

