

## Creation Sunday

Adapted from Lutherans Restoring Creation & Liturgy by Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete

Third Easter April 18, 2021

On Zoom at 10:00

Code: 229508663 PW: 056996

*Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning “the people”) People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. May we nurture our relationship with our Indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homelands where we all reside today.*

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### Call to Worship

Thank you, Lord, for the people gathering around us today. Let us take this time to give thanks for these things of the earth that give us the means of life.

**Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine.**

Thank you for the natural world in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

**Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world.**

Help us to see our place among these gifts not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

**May we respect the life of all you have made. May our Spirit be strengthened by using only what we need and may we use our strength to help those who need us.**

#### Prayer of Confession

Giver of Life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of poisoned waters we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, in the midst of the world at war, and because of the Church’s sinful participation in the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny, we groan with creation; **Have mercy on us.**

Giver of Life, we who are made in the image of God have gone astray. Attitudes of conquest and greed harm us all. Creation groans with us. **Have mercy on us.**

#### Blessing/Assurance

Thank you, Lord, for all that you have given us. Thank you for the beauty of the universe that you created: the trees, the sky, the mountains, the rain. All things hold beauty in themselves and all are related and touch each universe of the earth. You created the rhythm and pattern of the universe in a harmony of movement, sight, and sound. Help us to appreciate your creation and to live with our eyes, ears, and hearts open to your message. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song #861 vs 2 & 3 ELW "When Long before Time"

The silence was broken when God sang the Song,  
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,  
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,  
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

3. The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,  
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;  
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the song;  
the choir of the creatures reechoed it long..

### Greeting

The God who created space and time, journeyed with us in human form, and travels with us still, be with you all. **And also with you.**

### Hymn of Praise #561 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.  
Now as morning falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
of the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

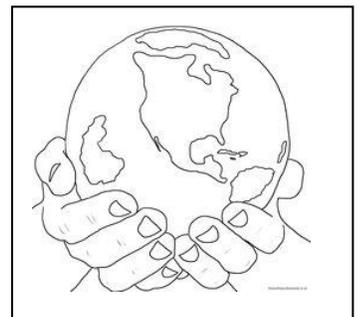
You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect our light.  
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. (*response after the prayer*) **Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**



## WORD

### Psalmody Psalm 65:5-13

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy. You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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### Gospel

#### The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:26-29

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to your life's span? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.”



Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Creation Message with guest Frank Montano

## Hymn of the Day #740 vs 1, 3 & 6 "God of the Sparrow"

God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

### Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in the debonaire God who clothes the wild flowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory; who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small, who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras, and even doleful ravens and drongos.**

**We believe in the God of Christ Jesus the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.**

**We believe in the extravagant God who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine, and brings healing with his every touch.**

**We believe in the redeeming God who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers, had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.**

**We believe in the God of Jesus Christ, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do. Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

As we reflect upon our relationship with your creation, we know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to all that you have made. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, and the courage to advocate and protect all that has been entrusted to us, we pray: **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in 6 of 10 your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray: **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray: **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, and for those who suffer from sickness and death especially Friends and Family of Mark Gainey, Luke, Judy, Sheryl, Wally & Colleen, Bill, Ruthann, Beverly, Chuck, Wilma, Barb, Gene, "Tiny, Pavel, Alla, Oliver, & Victoria, we pray: **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains; God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams; God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air; Of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth. Help us to love and respect all that you have made. Help us to care for what you have made good and holy. Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds and hearts and our ways. Let us be the change we pray for, Bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth For our sake now and for every generation which is to come. **Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**  
Share with one another a sign of God's peace.

## MEAL

### Offering Prayer

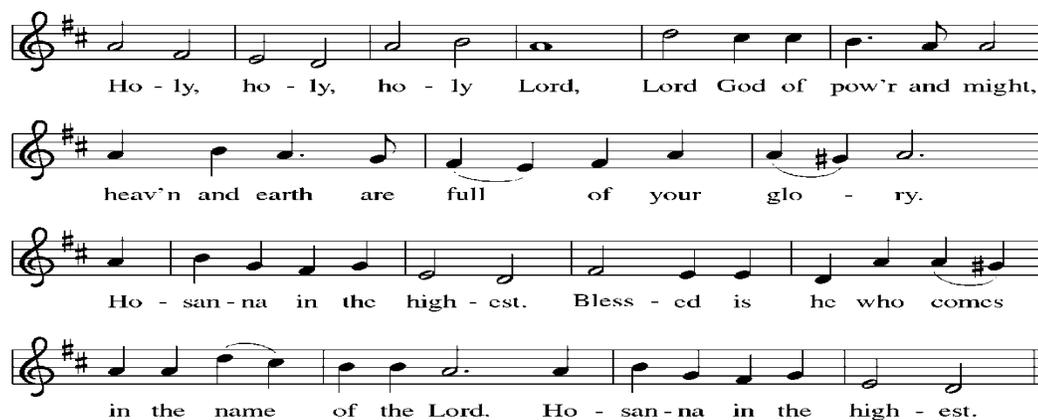
Loving creator, **All Creation comes from you - forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Consecration/The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

God prepares the table for us, offering us a feast of abundant love. Our cups overflow with the bounty of grace, - restoring our souls, healing our brokenness, nourishing us with bread and cup for the life of ministry. Come, to this table where you are known and loved.

## Communion Hymn #835 vs 1- 3 ELW *"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"*

All creatures, worship God most high! Sound every voice in earth and sky:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Dear sister, water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong; drive far the shadows, join the throng:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Prayer after Communion

God has filled you with the Holy Spirit and nourished you with the body and blood of Christ Jesus at this feast of love. May you become God's upright cup of blessing spilling out God's gifts to all the world. Go in peace and joy knowing you are a child of the risen God. **Amen.**

## Announcements

### SENDING

God is before us. **God is behind us.**

God is above us. **God is below us.**

God's words shall come from our mouths. **For we are all God's essence, a sign of God's love.**

All is finished in beauty. **All is finished in beauty.**

## Sending Song #881 vs. 1 & 2 ELW *"Let All Things Now Living"*

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the creator triumphantly raise.  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished  
As forward we travel from light into light.

God rules all the forces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!" Amen.

## Dismissal

We have gathered. Now send us with love and healing into Your world.

**Thanks be to God!**