

Restoring Relationships: with God, with the Land, and with Others Worship Guide

Compline; October 11, 2024

We begin the service by lighting a candle, and setting the space with natural items that inspire wonder, and open by praying:

One: We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

Many: **Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.**

(Hildegard von Bingen, 13th century)

OPENING LITANY

One: We gather in the image of the Creator:

Many: **Who is a community of love.**

One: We gather in the name of the Redeemer:

Many: **Who reconciles all of creation.**

One: We gather in the presence of the Life-giving Spirit.

Many: **Who inspires new life and renews it.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (based on Lv 25:1-25)

Many: **We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. You open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,**

One: You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

Many: **We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.**

One: You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

Many: We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.
One: You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.
Many: We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.
One: You affirm that our security is found in enough.
Many: We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.
One: You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is yours, and everything in it.
Many: We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.
One: You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbors, animals, and replenish the Earth.
Many: We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.
One: You call us to fairness and justice.
Many: We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves.
One: Turn us from fear and mistrust,
Many: And free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures through the good news of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
One: The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Rm 8:26-27).
Many: Amen.

PSALM 148. 1-9, 13

One: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise God in the heights.
Many: Praise the Lord all you angels; *
sing praises, all you heavenly host.
One: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; *
sing praises, all you shining stars.
Many: Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, *
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.
One: Let them praise the name of the Lord; *
who gave the command and they were created,
Many: who made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.
One: Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Many: fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

One: mountains and all hills, *
 fruit trees and all cedars;

Many: wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, *
 whose name only is exalted,
 whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

All: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: ***
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever: Amen.

READING (From the Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano)

‘Francis came to a certain place near Bevagna where a very great number of birds of various kinds had congregated - namely, doves, crows, and some others popularly called daws.’

When the most blessed servant of God, Francis, saw them,...he left his companions in the road and ran eagerly toward the birds. When he was close enough to them, seeing that they were waiting expectantly for him, he greeted the birds in the usual way: ‘May the Lord give you peace’. He was quite surprised, however, because the birds did not take flight, as they usually do.

Filled with great joy, he humbly requested that they listen to the word of God and addressed them as if they were humans:

“My brother birds, you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always; he gave you feathers to wear, wings to fly, and whatever you need.”

“God made you noble among his creatures, and he gave you a home in the purity of the air”

“Though you neither sow nor reap, he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care.”

At these words, the birds rejoiced in a wonderful way according to their nature. They stretched their necks, spread their wings, opened their beaks and looked at him. He passed through their midst, coming and going, touching their heads and bodies with his tunic. Then he blessed them and gave them permission to fly off to another place. The blessed father went with his companions along their way rejoicing and giving thanks to God, Whom all creatures revere by their devout confession.

HYMN: All praise to thee, my God, this night (*Hymnal 1982, 43*)

PRAYERS

One Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

Many: For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

One: Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

Many: Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

One: Lord, have mercy.

Many: Christ, have mercy.

One: Lord, have mercy.

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.

One: We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as sisters and brothers, harming no one. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: Grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

One: We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit,

Many: Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

(adapted from "A Prayer for the Earth", Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*)

BENEDICTION

One: May God who established the dance of creation,
Christ who marveled at the lilies of the field and the birds of the air,
And the Spirit who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory.

Many: Amen.

[Adapted from: <https://standrewlutheran.com/demo/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Creation-Midweek-Prayer::pdf>]

Morning Prayer; October 12, 2024

(Propers from "For Rogation Days 1: For fruitful seasons")

OPENING SENTENCE

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. *Psalm 19:1*

CONFESSION OF SIN

One: Let us confess our sins against God and all Creation.

ALL: Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Many: Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

One: This is the day the Creator has made.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: *Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever: Amen.*

INVITATORY PSALM

One: Creation is speaking

Many: Come let us listen.

Psalm 8 Domine, Dominus noster

All: O Lord our governor, *

how exalted is your name in all the world!
 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
 your majesty is praised above the heavens.
 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
 to quell the enemy and the avenger.
 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
 the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
 what are mortals that you should be mindful of them, *
 their children that you should seek them out?
 You have made them but little lower than the angels; *
 you adorn them with glory and honor;
 you give them mastery over the works of your hands; *
 you put all things under their feet;
 all sheep and oxen, *
 even the wild beasts of the field,
 the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
 and all that walks in the paths of the sea.
 O Lord our governor, *
 how exalted is your name in all the world!

One: Creation is speaking
 Many: Come let us listen.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 147 *Laudate Dominum*

One: Hallelujah!
 How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
 Many: **How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!**
 One: The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem *
 Many: **and gathers the exiles of Israel.**
 One: The Lord heals the brokenhearted *
 Many: **and binds up their wounds.**
 One: The Lord counts the number of stars *
 Many: **and calls them all by their names.**
 One: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
 Many: **there is no limit to the wisdom of God.**
 One: The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
 Many: **but casts the wicked to the ground.**

One: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
 Many: **make music to our God upon the harp.**
 One: The Lord covers the heavens with clouds *
 Many: **and prepares rain for the earth,**
 One: making grass to grow upon the mountains *
 Many: **and green plants to serve humankind.**
 One: The Lord provides food for flocks and herds *
 Many: **and for the young ravens when they cry.**
 One: The Lord is not impressed by the might of a horse *
 Many: **and has no pleasure in human strength,**
 One: but finds pleasure in those who fear God, *
 Many: **in those who await the gracious favor of the Lord.**
 One: Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 Many: **praise your God, O Zion,**
 One: who has strengthened the bars of your gates, *
 Many: **who has blessed your children within you.**
 All: **Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever:
Amen.

THE LESSONS

One: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The land you are about to enter and possess is definitely not like the land of Egypt, where you came from, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it by hand like a vegetable garden. No, the land you are entering to possess is a land of hills and valleys, where your drinking water will be rain from heaven. It's a land that the LORD cares for: the LORD'S eyes are on it constantly from the first of the year until the very end of the year.

Now, if you completely obey God's commandments that I am giving you right now, by loving the LORD your God and by serving him with all your heart and all your being, then he^r will provide rain for your land at the right time—early rain and late rain—so you can stock up your grain, wine, and oil. He will also make your fields lush for your livestock, and you will eat and be satisfied.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
 Many: **Thanks be to God**

Canticle D: A Song of the Wilderness (Isaiah 35.1-7, 10)

All: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

One: A reading from the letter to the Romans

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
Many: Thanks be to God

Canticle J: A Song of Judith (Judith 16:13-16)

All: I will sing a new song to my God, *
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you, *
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them, *
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, *
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you, *
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, *
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Confession of St. Patrick)

One: Let us affirm our faith

Many: Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.

He has his dwelling
in heaven and earth and sea
and all that is in them.

He inspires all,
he gives life to all,
he surpasses all,
he upholds all.

He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands,
and dry islands in the sea,
and stars to serve the greater lights.

He has a Son,
coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father,
neither is the Father older than the Son.

And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

One: In God all Creation lives, moves, and has being.
Many: **Indeed we all are God's offspring.**
One: Therefore let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

One: Show your creatures mercy, O Creator;
Many: **And grant all Creation your restoration.**
One: Clothe your beloved ones with all goodness;
Many: **Let your creatures sing with joy.**
One: Give peace, O Creator, in all the world;
Many: **For only in you can we live in harmony.**
One: Keep every tribe and community under your wing;
Many: **And guide us in the way of universal communion.**
One: Let your way of love be known upon earth;

Many: Your uniting wholeness among all divisions.
One: Let not those in need, O God, be lost;
Many: Nor the hope of the endangered be taken away.
One: Put in us new soft hearts of flesh, O God;
Many: And inspire us with your Holy Breath who sustains us.

Collects

Collect of the Day

One: Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Many: Amen.

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

One: Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share: Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation. Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family. Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those who extract its resources. Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted. Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community. For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, And it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Many: Amen.

OFFICE HYMN: “Humbly I adore thee” (vv 1, 2)/“For the beauty of the earth” (v. 3; Paul Winter version) Sung to *Adoro te devote*)

Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen,
who thy glory hidest, 'neath these shadows mean;
lo, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed,
tranced as it beholds thee, shrined within the cloud.

Jesus, whom now hidden, I by faith behold,
what my soul doth long for, that thy word foretold;
face to face thy splendor, I at last shall see,
in the glorious vision, blessed Lord, of thee.

For the beauty of the earth, sing, oh sing today
Of the skies and of our birth, sing, oh sing, always.
Nature human and divine, all around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise grateful hymns of praise.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

All: **Bountiful God,**
 we thank you for sending the rain,
 for making the land fertile,
 for filling the streams with water,
 for providing the earth with crops,
 for nurturing the young plants,
 for tending the cattle and sheep.
 With your Spirit inspire us to share your harvest
 with all the hungry world,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE (*Colossians 1:17b, 19*)

One: In Christ all things hold together: For in him all the fullness of God was
 pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all
 things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of
 his cross.

Many: **Amen.**

[Adapted from: *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2024*:
<https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/>]

Noonday Prayers; October 12, 2024

A CALL TO PRAYER

- Leader: We who have lost our sense and our senses —
Our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are;
We who frantically force and press all things,
Without rest for body or spirit,
Hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves: We call a halt.
- Many: **We want to rest.**
We need to reset and allow the Earth to rest.
We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us,
That is the ground of every unique expression of life,
The source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.
- All: **We declare an Earth Holy Day, a space of quiet:**
For simple being and letting be;
For recovering the great forgotten truths.

A PRAYER OF AWARENESS

- Leader: Today we know of the energy that moves all things:
Many: **The oneness of existence,**
Leader: The diversity of every moment of creation,
Many: **Every shape and form**
Leader: The attraction the allurements,
Many: **The fascination that all things have for one another.**
Leader: Humbled by our knowledge,
Chastened by surprising revelations,
With awe and reverence we come before the mystery of life.

A PRAYER OF SORROW

- Voice 1 We have forgotten who we are;
we have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos
we have become estranged from the movements of the Earth.
we have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Voice 2 We have sought only our own security;
 we have exploited simply for our own ends;
 we have distorted our knowledge;
 we have abused our power.

Voice 3 Now the land is barren,
 and the waters are poisoned,
 and the air is polluted.

Voice 4 Now the forests are dying,
 and the creatures are disappearing,
 and the humans are despairing.

Voice 5 We ask forgiveness;
 we ask for the gift of remembering;
 we ask for the strength to change.

Chant: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (Taizé, 20)

A PRAYER OF HEALING

Voice 1 We join with the Earth and with each other
 to bring new life to the land,
 to restore the waters,
 to refresh the air

Voice 2 To renew the forests,
 to care for the plants
 to protect the creatures

Voice 3 To celebrate the seas,
 to rejoice in the sunlight,
 to sing the song of the stars

Voice 4 To recap our destiny,
 to renew our spirits,
 to reinvigorate our bodies

Voice 5 To create the human community,
 to promote justice and peace,
 to remember our child.

Leader: We join together as many and diverse expressions
 of one loving mystery:
 for the healing of the Earth and the renewal of all life.

Meditation: "Life Before Death" (an excerpt from *John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir*; contained in *Meditations of John Muir: Nature's Temple*; compiled and edited by Chris Highland; Wilderness Press, 2001: 47.)

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Voice 1 We rejoice in all life.
 We live in all things.
 All things live in us.

Voice 2 We live by the sun.
 We move by the stars.

Voice 3 We eat from the Earth.
 We drink from the rain.
 We breathe from the air.

Voice 4 We share with the creatures.
 We have strength through their gifts.

Voice 5 We depend on the forests.
 We have knowledge through their secrets.

Voice 6 We have the privilege of seeing and understanding.
 We have the responsibility of caring.
 We have the joy of celebrating.

Leader: We are graceful.
 We are grateful.
 We rejoice in all life.

Chant: “In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful” (Taizé, 47)

[Adapted from: “Prayer Service” in *Celebrating Earth Holy Days: A Resource Guide for Faith Communities* by Susan J. Clark. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1992: 107-109.]

Evening Prayer; October 12, 2024
(Proper from "For Rogation Days 3:
For stewardship of creation")

OPENING SENTENCE

One: 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. Psalm 65:12-13

CONFESSION OF SIN

One: Let us confess our sins against God and all Creation.

ALL: God of compassion, have mercy upon us.
Heal our relationship with all creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,
and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of
Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Many: Amen.

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

One: This is the day the Creator has made.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever:
Amen.

INVITATORY PSALM (*from Psalm 65*)

One: The Hope of the earth astonishes us.

Many: Come let us draw near.

Psalm 19 *Cæli enarrant*

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.
One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

One: The Hope of the earth astonishes us.

Many: Come let us draw near.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 104.25-37 *Laudate Dominum*

One: O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

Many: Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

One: There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

Many: All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

One: You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand,

and they are filled with good things.

Many: **You hide your face, and they are terrified; ***
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

One: You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

Many: **May your glory, O Lord, endure for ever; ***
may you rejoice in all your works;

One: you look at the earth and it trembles; *
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

Many: **will sing to the Lord as long as I live; ***
I will praise my God while I have my being.

One: May these words of mine please you; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.

Many: **Let sinners be consumed out of the earth,**
and the wicked be no more. *
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

All: **Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

One: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (12.-13-21)

Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?"

Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one's life isn't determined by one's possessions, even when someone is very wealthy." Then he told them a parable: "A certain rich man's land produced a bountiful crop. He said to himself, What will I do? I have no place to store my harvest! Then he thought, Here's what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. That's where I'll store all my grain and goods. I'll say to myself, You have stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years. Take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself. But God said to him, 'Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?' This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
Many: **Thanks be to God**

Canticle O: A Song of the Heavenly City (Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4)

All: I saw no temple in the city, *
for its temple is the God of surpassing strength and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, *
for the glory of God shines on it, and its lamp is the Lamb.
By its light the nations shall walk, *
and the rulers of the world lay their honor and glory there.
Its gates shall never be shut by day, nor shall there be any night; *
into it they will bring the honor and glory of nations.
I saw the clean river of the water of life, bright as crystal, *
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
The tree of life spanned the river, giving fruit every month, *
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of nations.
All curses cease where the throne of God and the Lamb stands,
and all servants give worship there; *
there they will see God's face, whose Name shall be on their foreheads.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Profession of Faith—South Indian)

One: Let us affirm our faith

Many: We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

THE PRAYERS

One: In God all Creation lives, moves, and has being.

Many: Indeed we all are God's offspring.

One: Therefore let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, our only Home,
hallowed be your name.
May your day dawn,
your will be done,
here as in heaven.
Feed us today,
and forgive us as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test,
but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power,
and the mercy are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

One: Heal your Creation, O God, and bless your offspring;

Many: Guide and sustain your creatures, now and always.

One: Day by day your Creation blesses you;

Many: We join our voices to praise your Name for ever.

One: O God, unite us with all Creation in harmony;

Many: Have compassion on our failings, O God.

One: O God, show us your love and sustaining power;

Many: For your creatures live and move only in you.

One: In you, O God, is our hope;

Many: And your Creation shall never hope in vain.

Collects

Collect of the Day

One: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

Many: Amen.

Collect from Ojibwa Evening Prayer

One: Great Spirit God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth. We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator. We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life. Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another.

Many: Amen.

OFFICE HYMN: "O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ" (The Hymnal 1982, 25)

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVING

The Four Directions Prayer

All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world
A light no darkness can extinguish
We thank you Creator

**For the Medicine you send from the Four Sacred Directions
The Medicine you send in your son Jesus Christ
The Medicine you send in the Sacred Drum
The Drum that brings us one heartbeat
One heartbeat into unity with all of Creation
We thank you for the reminder
That we are one with Mother Earth and with all of Creation**

Men: We thank you for the Medicine you send
In the Four Sacred Directions of the Wind
Wind that brings us changes of season
Changes in our lives
It allows us to mature, adapt,
Become more compassionate and loving to each other

Women: We thank you Creator for the Medicine that you send in the Water
The Water in our bodies and the Water of our Mother Earth
We thank you for the strengthening that you give us
From these Four Sacred Medicines

Men: We ask you to remind us
Always to be humble
To walk gently on the back of Mother Earth
To remember that we are pitiful
Like an infant without its mother
We are pitiful without you
And we need you in every way, in every day

Women: We pray today for the strengthening, the health and the wellbeing
Of the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds
Those that creep, those that swim, those that fly
The male and female of all creation
Water People, Rock People, Star People

All: We ask especially for our awareness and our actions
For the pines and firs in our area
Here in the Rocky Mountain West
Remembering that they need an ecosystem that is healthy
All My Relations

CONCLUDING SENTENCE (*John 1.3-4*)

One: All things came into being through the Word, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Many: Amen.

[Adapted from: *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2024*:
<https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/>]

Restoring Relationships: with God, with the Land, and with Others Worship Guide

Holy Eucharist; October 13, 2024

Litany for Creation and All Creatures

One: Let us name with thanksgiving those creatures for whom we care:

_____ .

Let us name with thanksgiving those creatures who have been our companions over the years and are no longer with us: _____ .

And let us remember the unnamed, unknown creatures whose lives have benefited our own.

Silence

One: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

Many: Have mercy on us.

One: Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

Many: Have mercy on us.

One: Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Many: Have mercy on us.

One: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

Many: Have mercy on us.

One: Grant that all your creatures may thank and serve you;

Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.

One: Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and drink for all your creatures;

Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.

One: Open our eyes to the joy and beauty of creation, that we may see your presence in all your works;

Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.

One: Look with favor upon all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of creation may abound for all your creatures;

Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.

One: Make us faithful stewards of creation, wisely caring for the earth, the air, the seas, and all the life they bear;
Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.
One: Awaken us to our responsibility for the care of creation;
Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.
One: Forgive us our waste and pollution of creation and strengthen us to heal wounds we have inflicted;
Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.
One: Remember all in captivity and those who are hunted, trapped, deserted, or abused, that they may find safety in homes of loving care;
Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.
One: Do not forget those creatures who have died yet remain dear to us, that they may rejoice in your new creation;
Many: Shower your blessing on earth, O God.
One: Holy God: No sparrow falls without your attention; nothing dies that is lost to you; nothing comes into being without your love. Give us just and compassionate hearts, that we may serve the earth and all its creatures, holding fast to the vision of your peaceable reign in which all will live with you eternally; through the Risen One, Christ our Savior.
All: Amen.

Opening Acclamation

One: Blessed be the One who creates all things.
Many: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Song of Praise: "Morning has broken" (The Hymnal 1982, 8)

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Salutation

One: The Creator be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

Collect for the Beauty of Creation

One: Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of Creation; show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to care for or to destroy the environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many: *Amen.*

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

One: A reading attributed to Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)

Apprehend God in all things,
for God is in all things.
Every single creature is full of God,
and is a book about God.
Every creature is a word of God.
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature— even a caterpillar—
I would never have to prepare a sermon,
so full of God
is every creature.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's creation.

Many: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: 104.25-32

- 25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 26 **Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.**
- 27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
- 28 **All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.**
- 29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
- 30 **You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**
- 31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
- 32 **May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.**

One: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark (10.17-31)

Many: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is^a to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Many: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflections on "How Do We Go From Here?"

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

One: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Many: I do.

One: Do you believe in God the Father?

Many: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Many: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father:
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

One: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Many: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

One: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

Many: **I will, with God's help.**

One: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Many: **Amen.**

We Pray for the World and the Church

Honoring God in Creation Form 1

One: Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, "Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace."

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures [especially ____], that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need [especially ____], and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet [giving thanks especially for _____], we pray:

Many: Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

One: Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; or you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen.

Exchange the Peace

One: Peace with yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another
The peace of Christ be always with you

Many: And also with you.

Prepare the Table

Hymn: "As a fire is meant for burning" (Sung to the tune: Beech Street)

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

(Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947, © 1992, GIA Publications)

OneLicense # A-709886

Make Eucharist

One: The Creator be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Creator.**

One: Let us give thanks to our loving God.

Many: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of all that is, loving Father of us all, in whose hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains, and in whom we live and move and have our being: at your command all things came to be, from the vast expanse of stellar space to this fragile earth, our home.

We give you thanks for your creation as gift of your love. All creatures look to you for their food; when you open your hand they are filled with good things; when you take away their breath, they die. At your command the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy. We join with them, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, to give a voice to creation's praise:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: From the primal elements, you brought us forth, and blessed us with consciousness and skill. You gave us responsibility to care for your world, yet through our selfishness the earth has become polluted, poor communities are oppressed, and the life of many creatures put in jeopardy. Your spoiled creation eagerly waits for its freedom.

 You sent your Son Jesus Christ, in whom all things in heaven and earth were created, to reconcile all things to yourself, making peace through the blood of his cross.

 On the night he was betrayed he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

 When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

 Great is the mystery of faith:

Many: **Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. His Spirit refreshes us with Living Water:**

One Send your Spirit on these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, that they may be for us a foretaste of your creation's renewal.

 Send your Spirit on your people. Transform us that we may become more faithful stewards of your gifts. May we live more just and godly lives, responsible in care for your earth, and sharing more equitably its rich resources. Sustain us in hope, waiting and working for your new world to be born.

 Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and praise. For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever:

Many: **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Break the Bread

One: Create God, you fed us from the beginning.

Many: **Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.**

Share the Gifts of God

One: Come, to receive life from the Source of all being. Come, to share creation with the Creator of all things living. Come, to be renewed by the Spirit who makes all things new. Come, feast with God in faith and thanksgiving.

The Communion

Post-Communion Prayer

Holy One,
you feed us with bread from heaven
and the gifts of mother earth.
In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call us to
friendship with one another.

You have given us the gift of reconciliation.
May we who have tasted that gift from you,
offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another.
And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

The Blessing

One: God of the galaxies, God of the starburst and sunlit morning, God of the forest and shining seas, God of the blooming desert and rolling grasslands – shine on us today and bless us with your presence.

Many: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "God, Creation Sings Your Praises"

(HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7 D ["God, Who stretched the spangled heavens"])

God, creation sings your praises; mountains echo from afar.
All your blessings here amaze us; hills rejoice how great you are!
In the whole of your creation, in each sea and wood and glade,
We are called to have dominion over all that you have made.

We've ignored your wise instruction to take care of what you give.
For our greed has caused destruction and your world cries out to live.
Though you've given us your bounty by your kind and loving hand,
In the search for power and money, we've abused sea, sky and land.

Lord, you give creation limits so creation will be blessed.
You set planets in their orbits; you give days for Sabbath rest.
You make fruit not for consuming, things to stay where they are found,
And with great disaster looming — fuel to keep within the ground.

Still, your limits aren't to crush us, or to stifle or devour.
Sun and tide and wind refresh us, giving light and warmth and power.
You give new imagination, love to heal our neighbors' pain,
Lives to build up your creation till the earth is whole again.

God, you give to us a vision of this world we're called to seek,
Where creation joins in singing, where the strong protect the weak,
Where your people serve each other, wanting only what is best.
May we work with one another till creation so is blessed.

[Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1835.

Text: Copyright © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

Permission is given for free use of this hymn in local churches.]

The Dismissal

Deacon: As we conclude our service, I invite you to join me in dedicating ourselves to care of the Earth. We join with the Earth and with each other

Many: To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other

Many: To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other

Many: To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars.

One: We join with the Earth and with each other

Many: To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children.

Deacon: We join with the Earth and with each other:

Many: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the Earth and the renewal of all life. Amen.

[Primarily adapted from: *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2024*: <https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/> .

NB: The Eucharistic Prayer is the same we used in our 2023 Creation Care retreat, but I cannot find the original source. I suspect it was from one of our Anglican communion churches. I would not use it again unless I could find the direct citation.]