



SEASON OF CREATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR - 5TH SUNDAY



CLIMATE
WITNESS
PROJECT



Cover image by Betsy Ratzsch, originally for Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, representing the theme of Gathering. The image includes a variety of grains: rice, millet (major food source in Africa), thistle, wheat, and oats to symbolize the diversity in our gathering as we join with churches all over the world in celebrating the Season of Creation.

Gathering

Call to Worship

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Leader: We have been appointed by God to join our voices with every creature under heaven.

People: Let us raise a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Gathering Hymn

This version of the familiar hymn uses the original language as written by St. Francis of Assisi.

Leader sings: All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
And sister moon with silver gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother wind and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear Mother Earth who day by day
Unfolds such blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Greeting

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God of creation, we give thanks for the beauty and goodness of the earth that you called into being and continually nurture and sustain. Our voices join in praise with all creation: with the sea that roars, the trees that clap their hands, and the birds that sing in joy. By your Spirit, weave us anew into your purposes for abundant life, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray,

People: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Lament and Confession

Leader: Beloved, we are made in the divine image, and God called us good. Yet we go our own way, causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the earth. So let us lament, and confess our sin to God and to one another.

Song of Lament

(In silence we lament the brokenness in Creation.)

Leader: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you.

People: We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from and participated in the exploitation of your creation through fossil fuel industries, through plastics that have suffocated our landscapes, through

the pollution of waterways, extinction of species, and destruction of places called home both near and far, and through a broken relationship with the earth which gives us life. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve your purpose of shalom for the whole community of creation. Amen.

Silent prayer of confession.

Assurance

(Please rise in body or in spirit.)

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: Jesus Christ says, “See, I am making everything new!” In Christ, we are forgiven. In the living waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit has washed us clean! Glory to God!

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Gracious God, as we open the scriptures today, speak your Word to us, that we may be recreated in your Son, Jesus Christ. In his life, may we have new life; in his light, may we see light.

People: Amen.

Word

(Please be seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Gracious God, as we open the scriptures today, speak your Word to us, that we may be recreated in your Son, Jesus Christ. In his life, may we

have new life; in his light, may we see light.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Leader: ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Mark 1:32-39

Leader: ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because

they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Creation Psalm (selected verses)

Leader sings: A new created world springs up at God’s command.

Leader: In the beginning you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. (*Psalm 102:25*)

People: By your word of the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of your mouth. (*Psalm 33:6*)

Leader: Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth. (*Psalm 74:16-17*)

People: You gathered the waters of the sea as a heap; you put the deep in storehouses. (*Psalm 33:7*)

Leader: In your hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to you. (*Psalm 95:4*)

People: The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands formed the dry land. (*Psalm 95:5*)

Leader: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (*Psalm 104:24*)

People: It is you who made us, and we are yours; we are your people, the sheep of your pasture. (*Psalm 100:3*)

Leader: When we consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what are we that you are mindful of us,

that you care for us? (*Psalm 8:3-4*)

People: You made us rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under our feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. (*Psalm 8:6-8*)

Leader: Let all the earth fear you; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of you! (*Psalm 33:8*)

People: For you spoke, and it came to be; you commanded, and it stood firm. (*Psalm 33:9*)

Sermon

Offertory

Leader: Beloved, everything in heaven and earth belongs to our merciful God. Let us come with joy and offer what God has entrusted to us, gifts as a sign that we dedicate our whole lives to the healing and flourishing of all people and all creation, through Jesus Christ.

(Offering)

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving to God the Creator

Leader: We lift up our hearts to you, Creator God. You spread the dazzling canopy of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you lifted up mountains and hills, and poured out oceans and rivers. You filled the earth, teeming with life, revealing your glory, and made human beings in your image to help care for this world, our beautiful and precious home.

When human violence, corruption, and greed laid waste to your good creation, still you called us, again and again, to return. You revealed your righteous Law to show the path.

Then, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore the earth, heal our brokenness, and make

all things new. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

Hymn: [All on Earth and All in Heaven.](#) *Lift Up Your Hearts* #922

Sending

Benediction

Leader: May the One who creates us, go with and before us; may the One who saves us, lead us into everlasting life; may the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of justice and peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go and join the song of creation, go and attend to the groaning of creation, go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

All sing: Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Text: St. Francis of Assisi, tr. William H. Draper;
music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Thank you to Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, Michigan for allowing adaptations of their original liturgies.

Appendix

If you are celebrating communion, you may include the following in the liturgy according to the order of your service.

Table

Preparing the Table

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, everything in heaven and earth belongs to our merciful God. Let us come with joy and offer what God has entrusted to us, gifts as a sign that we dedicate our whole lives to the healing and flourishing of all people and all creation, through Jesus Christ.

Offertory

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving to God the Creator

Leader: We lift up our hearts to you, Creator God. You spread the dazzling canopy of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you lifted up mountains and hills, and poured out oceans and rivers. You filled the earth, teeming with life, revealing your glory, and made human beings in your image to help care for this world, our beautiful and precious home.

When human violence, corruption, and greed laid waste to your good creation, still you called us, again and again, to return. You revealed your righteous Law to

show the path.

Then, in the fullness of time, out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore the earth, heal our brokenness, and make all things new.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

(Please be seated.)

...for the work of Jesus Christ

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh in the body of a woman. Christ is the Word that brings order to chaos, revealing all things, birthing life by the Spirit. Christ is the Bread of Life, feeding the poor and hungry, giving wisdom and strength for each day. Christ is the True Vine, binding us together in unity of the Spirit, empowering us to bear fruit for the world. And so we give thanks that this same Christ gave us this memorial of his sacrifice until his coming again.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

People: We who are many are one body for we all share the same loaf.

Leader: After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

People: The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.

Leader: Remembering God’s faithfulness to us and to all of creation through Jesus Christ, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

...for the presence of the Holy Spirit

Leader: God of all creation, through your goodness we receive this bread and wine: fruit of the earth and work of human hands. By your Holy Spirit, may this bread and wine become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Make us one with Christ, and one with all who share this meal. Heal your stricken world today, that the groaning of the soil, the skies, and the seas may be transformed to rejoicing as you remember your covenant and reveal your glory.

People: Amen.

The Invitation to the Table

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Leader: Congregation in the Lord Jesus Christ, our loving Redeemer has prepared this table for all who love and trust in him for their salvation. Anyone baptized in the name of the Triune God is now invited to come with gladness to this holy meal. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion

Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: We give you thanks, eternal God, that you have fed us in this sacrament. Fill us with a vision of your new creation where all may have abundant life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Text: St. Francis of Assisi, tr. William H. Draper;
music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams