



Lutherans Restoring Creation

www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org

Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We accomplish this by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.



WELCOME

Phoebe Morad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kwame Pitts

L: Come, worship the God of all Creation.

C: We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

L: Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

C: We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.

L: Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

C: We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

L: Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

C: We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.

L: Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

C: We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in the Body of Christ with all Creation.

OPENING SONG

Marty Haugen

Sing Out Earth and Skies

[11:00am please listen – and join silently]

1. Come, O God of all the earth; come to us, O Righteous One.

Come and bring our love to birth; in the glory of your Son.

Chorus: Sing out, earth and skies!

Sing of the God who loves you.

Raise your joyful cries,

Dance to the life around you.

2. Come, O God of wind and flame; fill the earth with righteousness.

Teach us all to sing your name; may our lives your love confess.

3. Come, O God of flashing light; twinkling star and burning sun.

God of day and God of night; in your light we all are one.

4. Come, O God of snow and rain; shower down upon the earth.



Come, O God of joy and pain; God of sorrow, God of mirth.

5. Come, O Justice, come, O Peace; come and shape our hearts anew.
Come and make oppression cease; bring us all to life in you.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Reconciling God,

C: we expect nature to serve our needs, and we have damaged it in the process. We trample every wild place and pollute your waters. We abuse your good Earth until it cries out in pain. Forgive us, loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth. Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation. Amen.

L: Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, be led by the Spirit to do God's healing work in the world.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Rebekah Bruesehoff

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

(listen to these words from scripture and use them as a way of focusing your thoughts and hopes on God)

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Rev. Lenny Duncan

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be



with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. John Stevens

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Emmy Kegler

C: 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, brings healing with his every touch, and who welcomes a woman's of love as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance. We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ, who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end. 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,



INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

by Savanna Sullivan; Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda; Elle Dowd; Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn
Prayer Response A: ...we pray, **Creator God, hear our prayer.**

DIALOGUE

P: The Creator be with you and all creation. **C: And also with you.**
P Open your hearts. **C: We open them to our Creator.**
P Let us give thanks to our Creator. **C: It is right to join creation in thanking God.**

PREFACE

P 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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY (spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing,
his body given up, and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin

CLOSING SONG Rev. John Tirro
[11:00am please listen – and join silently]

PEACE Lutherans Restoring Creation Board

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Marty Haugen, American composer of liturgical music



The Reverend Lamont Anthony Wells, Program Director for Campus Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LuMin)

The Reverend Doctor Carmelo Santos, Director of ELCA Theological Diversity and Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Engagement

The Reverend Doctor Leah Schade, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary

The Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Doctor Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Rebekah Bruesehoff, ELCA youth in New Jersey, advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth

The Reverend Lenny Duncan, Pastor of the Jubilee Collective in Vancouver, WA

The Reverend John Stevens, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Oregon City, OR

The Reverend Emmy Kegler, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN

Savanna Sullivan, Director of ELCA Young Adult Ministries

The Reverend Nicolette Peñaranda, Pastor of First Lutheran Church of the Trinity in Chicago, IL

Elle Dowd, candidate for ordained ministry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

The Reverend Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, Pastor of Our Father Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC

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Psalm: Rev. Christyn Koschmann, Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, MO

Postlude Music: Sarah Goetz, organist, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton, IL

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