

## MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE – Created For Community – February 24, 2021

### Week 1 - In community with creation (need container of sand)

#### PRELUDE – How Great Thou Art (instrumental – Our Saviour’s, Arlington Heights)



**Prayer** P: Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus’ name we pray. C: Amen.

**Lenten Song: ELW 801 Change My Heart, O God**

#### **Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm***

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

*Connection to Sunday’s readings:* The Sunday readings for Lent 1, year B highlight the destructive power of the flood as well as the power of God’s promise represented there. In the gospel reading Jesus is with the wild animals in the wilderness. While we often think of community as limited to *human* beings, our human existence is interdependent with all the created world. This theme is especially apparent in Mark 4:35-41, the account of the fishermen whose lives depend on the sea but who become afraid of its power in the storm.

### **Connected to Creation**

#### **LENT TO GO tie-in: plastic container with sand**

Open the container of sand. Reflect on the sand as you imagine its natural settings of wilderness (or desert) and beach. Jesus’ temptation with the wild animals takes place in the wilderness, and today’s story of the storm takes place at the sea.

Write or draw or think through your answers to these four questions:

- What is one way you are dependent on creation in your daily life?
- What is one way you are in danger from creation in your daily life?
- What is one way our lives endanger creation?
- What is one way our lives enrich creation?

When you have completed these questions, say a simple prayer of thanks to God for all the ways you are in community with all of creation.

**Song: Many and great, O God ELW 837**

- 1 Many and great, O God, are your works,  
maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.
- 2 Grant unto us communion with you,  
O Star-abiding One.  
Come unto us and dwell with us;  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life with you.

**In our Prayers today:** Include elements of the natural world from your immediate community with both thanksgiving and petitions for renewal, care, and good stewardship.

**Blessing**

P: The Creator who fashions us together with all things, the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community, the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints, one God, ✠ bless you now and always.   **C: Amen.**

**Sending Song** Go, my children, with my blessing ELW 543, verse 1

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, joined together in Christ.   **C: Thanks be to God.**  
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