



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.



Thank you for joining us for worship this morning and for supporting this important creation-care work.



WELCOME

Phoebe Morad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kwame Pitts

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

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

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

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

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

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
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.

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. 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

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

PEACE

Lutherans Restoring Creation Board

OFFERING

*Offerings to LRC can be given at www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org
or check mailed to LRC c/o Phoebe Morad, 22 Waldron Road, Braintree, MA 02184*

OFFERING PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Locke

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Emmy Kegler



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, the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do.
Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS
& LORD'S PRAYER

Savanna Sullivan
Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda
Elle Dowd
Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn

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 for a 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



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, 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.**

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

Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things, who heals all the world, and who sustains all Creation, give you peace + and purpose. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

Rev. John Tirro



Even the Sparrows (Psalm 84)

Refrain (All):



Cantor:

Blessed are they whose strength is you, whose hearts are the highways of Zion;
as they go through the dry, dry land, they make it a place of springs.
They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Refrain

Cantor:

Better to be one who waits outside the house of the Lord my God
than live in tents of wickedness, better to wait outside.

Refrain

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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

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