

Season of Creation

Mountain Sunday

We worship with creation in the mountains



“The mountains and the hills before you will burst into song”.
Isaiah 55:12

September 17, 2023
Trinity Lutheran Church
Jamestown, North Dakota

What is the Season of Creation?

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator. For four Sundays in September and October, near St Francis of Assisi Day, we join in celebrating with Christ the wonders of creation. In the liturgy, we follow the lead of the psalm writers and celebrate with creation – with the mountains, the sky, and the creatures, which praise the Creator in their own way. Bible readings focus especially on the story of Earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures. We commit ourselves to a ministry of healing Earth, with Christ and creation as our partners. (www.seasonofcreation.com)

Mountain Sunday

Introduction

Mountain refers to all the mountains on our planet, near our homes, and beneath the ocean. This domain includes the various creatures that inhabit the mountains, especially the wild worlds and strange lifeforms that fascinate us and celebrate life with us. Mountains are not domains to be conquered, but to be enjoyed, preserved, and explored as wondrous worlds of creation.

Special Focus. We enter into God's presence in a holy mountain. Like Zion, it is the mountain of God. In the text used for celebration of the Eucharist we hear voices from sacred mountains that call us into God's presence. We climb these mountains in the imagination of our faith. Finally, we hear the voice of Christ inviting us to feast on the mountain of God. God is also present on that mountain in Christ's body and blood.

Themes. In our call to worship, we invite all the domains of the mountains to worship with us. In our confession, we recall how we have polluted the wild in the mountains. In the readings, we become aware of God's presence revealed on a mountain, whether Horeb, Zion, or Calvary. We also discover that our mission is not only to preach the Gospel to all peoples, but also to all creation! We anticipate that we will have a sense of God's presence in the mountain of God where we worship in this liturgy as the climax to *The Season of Creation*.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn: ELW 266 "All Earth is Hopeful"

An Invocation

In the name of our God, who creates mountains,
the name of Christ, crucified on a mountain,
and the name of the Spirit, deep in the mountains. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

The Greeting.

The Lord of life be with you.

And also with you.

Christ, we gather in your name
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,
**a planet filled with your presence,
quivering in the forests,
vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this mountain
and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

An Invitation.

We invite the mountains to worship with us:

**mighty boulders and deep forests,
sliding glaciers and swirling snow.**

We invite the wild to join us in wonder:

**gliding eagles and mountain lions,
mysterious moths and hidden mushrooms.**

We join with the mountain creatures in praising God:

**leaping trout and crawling creatures,
exotic orchids and honey bees.**

We call the depths of the mountains to celebrate:

precious gems and sparkling stones,

volcanic lava and rich red ore.

We enter the mountain of God today:
**and we worship in God's presence,
a sacred place on our planet.**

We celebrate the song of the mountain!
Sing! Mountain! Sing!

We invite you to name mountain creatures to join us in worship.
The names of other creatures of the mountains may be added by members of the congregation.

We celebrate the song of the mountains!
Sing, mountains, sing!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

A Remembering. *A symbol may be used to help stir our memories of special moments in the mountains.*

As we rub this symbol in our hands, we remember the mountains we have climbed and where we have watched in wonder.

O God, we thank you for the splendors of the mountains and the gift of life in the wild.

We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the rivers in our mountains.

Christ, crucified on a mountain, hear our cry.

A Confession.

We have polluted our mountain rivers with poisonous waste, turned majestic mountains into commodities, and killed many creatures in the wild with chemicals.

Christ, the source of all life, we repent our failings.

The Absolution. *The people may sit in silence or they may name aloud sins against the mountains. The presiding minister declares the absolution.*

Christ hears your confession from the cross and forgives your sins against the mountains.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home
and to love mountains as signs of your presence.**

In the name of Jesus:
I invite you to come home to Earth by rejoicing in our mountains.
Shalom! Shalom! We are coming home!

The Kyrie.

As we come home to Earth,
Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to love our home,
Christ, have mercy.

As we seek to care for our planet,
Christ, have mercy.

The Gloria



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

The Prayer of the Day.

Let us pray. **God, our Creator, as we climb the mountains, we celebrate the wonders of the wild that surround us. Help us to see in the surrounding landscape the places where the planet has been polluted and to empathise with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to recognise that the hills are alive with your Spirit and to rejoice with all our kin, especially the creatures of the wild. In the**

**name of Christ who reconciles and renews all things in creation.
Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

All may sit for the first three readings and rise for the Gospel. After each reading, the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from Isaiah 65: 17-25.

'Good News from a Holy Mountain'

The prophet dreams of Mount Zion being transformed into a 'peace mountain', an ecosystem where humans and animals live in harmony.

Psalm 48: 1-11 *read responsively by whole verse.*

'Mount Zion, God's holy mountain'

The Psalmist hails Mount Zion as the 'city of God' that rejoices in God's presence.

A reading from Romans 8: 28-39

'No separation from God's love'

Creation in no way separates us from the love of God in Christ.

Welcoming the Gospel: ELW 837 "Many and Great, O God" verse 1

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 16: 14-18.

Glory to you, O Lord.

'Good news for all creation'

Our mission is to 'go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 856 "How Great Thou Art"

CREED STATEMENT (*Please Stand*) ALL:

We believe in Creator, Father-Mother Spirit, who called the world and all that is in it, into being, who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in obedience to the will of supreme love and in community with all.

We believe in Creator, Son and Brother, who, because of love beyond our understanding, love for creation, entered the world to share our humanity, to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.

We believe in Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, that we may through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may be; that we may rejoice in the constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together, that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge.

We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. AMEN

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition-

God of Mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ, teach us to be at one with Earth.

**Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
cries for justice from the mountains and the hills.**

**Jesus Christ, make our souls sensitive to the songs of our kin in the wild,
songs of celebration from the valleys and the mountain tops.**

Christ, teach us to care. Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We sing together verse 3 of **ELW 734**.

**All our labor, all our watching, all our calendar of care
in these crops of your creation, take, O God; they are our prayer.**

Offering Prayer

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share.
Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our
concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

With all creation we praise our Creator.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Creator be with you and all creation. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and Earth.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered as one in the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever and forever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The Invitation.

Come, for all things are now ready.

Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need:

the gift of healing for those in pain,

the gift of forgiveness for all in sin,

the gift of assurance for those in doubt,

and the gift of hope for those in tears.

May we who share these gifts

share Christ with one another and all our kin.

The Distribution. *The people receive the Holy Communion.*

During communion we sing **#824 This Is My Father's World**

#739 Touch the Earth Lightly

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us give thanks for this meal.

We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you, and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

The Commission.

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
especially the mountains God has formed
for us to celebrate the world of the wild.

**We will follow our crucified Lord,
listening for cries of injustice from Earth,
and groaning with creation.**

**We will care for creation,
preserving the mountains
and celebrating life.**

The Blessing.

Now may the penetrating power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through you, to bring healing to Earth, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW 290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!
We go in peace, serving Christ and loving our home.

Season of Creation Liturgy by Norman Habel www.seasonofcreation.com

Held in Prayer: Braelynn Bakke, Harold Beckstrom, Jerry Bennett, Lollie Bieri, Josh Brown, Anne Dalsted, Pam Davidson, Tucker DeJong, Bruce Foster, Chuck Gilje, Donna Gullickson, Delilah Guthmiller, Don Guthmiller, Arlene Hofland, Larry Holwerda, Gus Keiser, Rose Klein, Dale Lalim, Joy Langel, Pat Lippert, Bob Mecklenberg, Judy Metzger, Harry Motz, Mary Oster, Shandi Puhr, Colby Schrenk, Dakotah Steele, Jim Steele, Ken Urdahl, Jarrid Wanzek, Bryan Wilcox, Lana

Please pray for the families of those who have died:

Carl Peter
Charlotte Uehran
Goldie Mehlhoff
Sharon Waterman

Coffee & Conversation

All high school seniors are invited to coffee & conversation with Deacon Tara at Babb's Coffee House from 2:00 to 4:00pm on September 18.



SPONSORS FOR TODAY:

Candles: Dave & Sheila Nelson in honor of Carly & Willy's anniversary


Flowers: Jeanette Skjeret in memory of Leon L. & Leon D. Skjeret

Radio: Jerry & Pat Sova in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary



**55th Annual Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutefisk and Meatball Supper**

Wednesday, Oct. 4 • 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Adults: \$20 presale; \$20 at the door
Youth: 6-11: \$5; Preschoolers: Free
Advance tickets available at the Trinity Office



Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

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----- PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV



Volunteers are needed weekly to assist with worship. There are sign-up sheets located in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider sharing your time and talents with us!

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones will start a Monday evening Open Play beginning on Monday, September 18 starting at 5:30 p.m.

College Addresses Needed

Please call Meggen in the church office at 252-2841 or e-mail her at connect@trinityjamestown.com with your child's college address.

Trinity's purpose:
Connect with God and with each other.
Share God's good news with all.