

Season of Creation Sky Sunday

Sunday, August 1, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand
in body or in Spirit.*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “This Is My Father’s World”

Setting by Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Nancy Timm, handbells; Sharon Malm, piano

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

In the name of God, who colors the sky,
the name of Christ, who died under dark skies,
and the name of the Spirit, the wind in the
sky. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Sky is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence, today,
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with your presence.

We invite the skies to worship with us:

the subtle orange skies at dawn

and the bold red skies at sunset.

We join the heavens in praising God:

proclaiming God's glory across the globe

**and hailing God's name with the evening
stars.**

We join with the atmosphere in worship:

the air, the moisture, the oxygen,

**the wind, and all the expressions of God's
Spirit.**

We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:

**to carry the life-giving drops of rain
that give hope and healing to Earth.**

We invite the winds to join our petitions:

to carry our prayers to God above

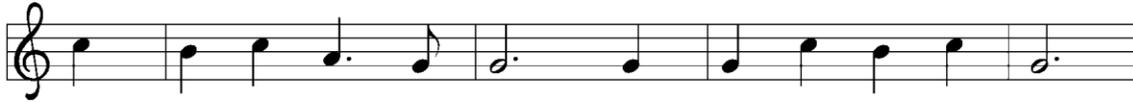
and breathe our hopes to Christ.

We celebrate the song of the skies!

Sing! Skies! Sing!



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Confession

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (*silence*)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life,
We confess our part in a broken world.

You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life,
We confess our part in a broken world.

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life, **We confess our part in a broken world.**

Word of Assurance

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us to see your presence in the evening sky, to see your spirit in the wind, and to see your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Jeremiah 4:23-28

23I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

24I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

25I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

26I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

27For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

28Because of this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above grow black;

for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19:1-6 — *Spoken responsively by verse*

1The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**2Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

3There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**4yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

5which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**6Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

A Reading from the Epistles — **Philippians 2:14-18**

14Do all things without murmuring and arguing, 15so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. 16It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you — 18and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation — no. 998, from *All Creation Sings*

"In Silence, We Wait"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "come to us; bring us your light." The music is simple and contemplative, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957
Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

*Gospel — **Mark 15:33-39**

The Gospel of Mark, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." 36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn — no. 261

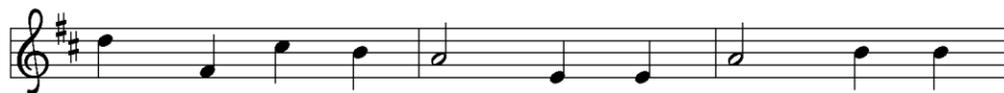
“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God’s presence, a home for us to share with our kin.

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.

*Prayers of Intercession

In person only: we will sing this refrain once before the prayers and once after the prayers.



Hope of all cre - a - tion, Heal - er of re -
la - tions, We lift our prayer to you. We
lift our prayer to you.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen those who work toward clean air for all who call Earth home. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

O nurturing God of love, we pray together this prayer Christ 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.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Setting by Philip Knautz

Riverblenders, directed by Doug Peterson

Departing to Serve God’s World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — *found on the back page*

“Sing Out, Earth And Skies”

*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
especially the atmosphere above
that gives breath to all creatures of Earth.

We will celebrate the winds!

We will plead for creation!

We will flood the sky with prayers!

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our planet!

We will celebrate with the sky!

*Blessing

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God’s presence in sky and Earth
and the knowledge of Christ within you.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Shine like stars! Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

***Postlude** — “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Setting by Robert Lind

Acknowledgements

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For more information and resources about care of creation visit: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org

Materials for this service from <https://seasonofcreation.com/>

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In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat

Greeter/Reader: Nancy Timm

Ushers: Betty Thompson and Carol Solberg

Online Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat

Reader: Michelle Doose

Announcements

General Information

- Sunday school registration is open on our homepage.
- First Lutheran will provide volunteers to distribute fresh food to members of our community Friday, September 17. Contact the office to sign up to help.

Request for Worship Volunteers

- We are working on a new master list of people to be greeters/readers, ushers, technology helpers, and communion preparers/servers, which we will implement this fall. Will you consider signing up? Please contact Emily or Angela if you can help.

Looking at the Week Ahead

- Bible Study Mondays at 9:30am
- Monday Evening Worship at 7pm

Prayers

- We pray for the family of David Kennedy whose mother died recently.
- We pray for Del Brouwers (family-in-law of John and Sharon Malm) who is continuing a long battle with cancer.
- We pray for those who have recently undergone or will undergo surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, and Bob Isenberg.
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.

“Sing Out, Earth and Skies”

Cantor: 

1. Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O
 2. Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with
 3. Come, O God of flash-ing light: Twin- kling star and
 4. Come, O God of snow and rain: Show- er down up -
 5. Come, O Jus- tice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our

Cantor: 

Right- eous One; Come, and bring our love to birth:
 right- eous- ness; Teach us all to sing your name:
 burn- ing sun; God of day and God of night:
 on the earth; Come, O God of joy and pain:
 hearts a- new; Come and make op- pres- sion cease:

All: 

In the glo- ry of your Son.
 May our lives your love con- fess.
 In your light we all are one.
 God of sor- row, God of mirth.
 Bring us all to life in you.

Refrain



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!



Raise your joy-ful cries! Dance to the life a- round you!