



Season of Creation

August 6, 2023 + Land Sunday

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER here on Earth

A Land Acknowledgment is “a ritual intended solely to show gratitude to the land and acknowledge the original and Indigenous peoples from whom the land was stolen.” For some, this might be an uncomfortable practice at first, but during our Season of Creation, you are invited into this ritual with an open heart.

For our **Gathering Hymn**, we sing the two creation stanzas of a very familiar Swedish folk tune.

Prelude — “Annas Visa” (Anna’s View)

Swedish Folk Song by Leif Göras
Vikarbyn Lilla Spelmanslag

***Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgment**

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

We, the people of First Lutheran Church, acknowledge and honor the Dakota peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 856, Stanzas 1 & 2

“How Great Thou Art”

***Confession & Forgiveness** — See Green Supplement

***Canticle of Praise** — See Green Supplement

“Praise to You, O Great Creator”

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God, our Creator, **we celebrate your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, the fields, and the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field, and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from Genesis — Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16

Word of life. Word of growth. **Thanks be to our Creator God.**

Children’s Time — Paraphrase of Psalm 96

“We Are Your Creation”

from *Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*; Sarah Chambers & Pastor Chris

A Reading from the Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 8:18-27

Word of life. Word of growth. **Thanks be to our Creator God.**

***Gospel Acclamation — See Green Supplement “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”**

***Gospel — Matthew 14:13-21**

Before the lesson: The Gospel of Matthew, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

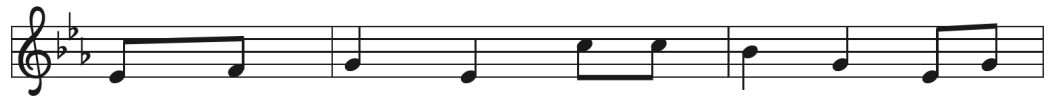
After the lesson: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

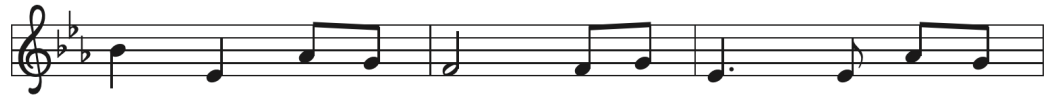
Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn — no. 966, from *All Creation Sings* “Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”**

We sing this beloved Martyr Haugen melody and reflect on various moments when bread has been broken, in past and present. We are fed by the riches of the land, and our lands are counted among the hungry we are called to feed, restore, and protect.



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



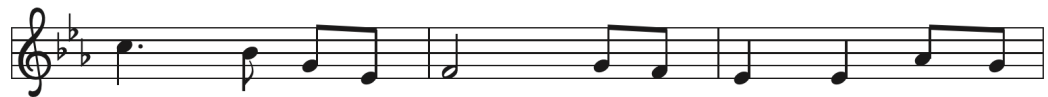
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: “I am with you; do not fear!”
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith using the words of this affirmation:

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, 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

We begin our time of prayer by singing this refrain and will sing it after each petition after the phrase "Hear us, O Creator."

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

You gather your church together by the Holy Spirit. Inspire all the baptized to proclaim your abundant love throughout the world. Guide us in the mission of the gospel through word and deed. You cherish your creation, from the smallest microbe to the largest mountain. Protect fragile ecosystems, send favorable weather, supply food and water to nourish creatures, and raise us up to care for all you have created. Hear us, O Creator.

You desire peace and justice in the world. Instill within all political leaders your desire, support the work of international peace organizations, and provide relief for those in war-torn areas. You comfort those who are hurting. Accompany those who are alone, heal those who are sick, provide for all who hunger or thirst, console the bereaved, bring joy to the sorrowful, and attend to all who call on you. Hear us, O Creator.

You place us within communities for mutual support and love. Reveal yourself to us in worship, fellowship, and ministry with our neighbors. Provide for feeding ministries and food banks in our area, that we share your abundance with all who hunger. You have placed before us examples of faithful living who have witnessed to your promises throughout time and space. Rouse us by their lives of service and dedication to be your hands and feet in this world. Hear us, O Creator.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

This song was inspired by Koppången, the wetland and nature preserve near the composer's family home. In the highlands, Koppången gets a lot of snow and is known for its mires, old forest, and winter activities.

Offering

Music During Offering
"Koppången"

Swedish Song by Per-Erik Moraeus
Vikarbyn Lilla Spelmanslag

***Offering Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

we SHARE the meal

***The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***An Earth Eucharistic Prayer**

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm.
Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory: **The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.
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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory: **The earth is full of your glory. Amen and amen!**

***The Lord's Prayer**

We pray as Christ - our example of love for all of creation - 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.

***Invitation to Communion**

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 those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in fear, and the gift of hope for those in tears.
May we, who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and all our kin.

All are welcome
to this meal -
there are no
prerequisites or
exceptions! We
will receive
communion at
the rail this
morning and sing
of meadows,
woodlands, and
flowers - parts of
our land that we
are called to
protect.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn — no. 838

“Beautiful Savior”

Reflection — “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Shirley Murray & Colin Gibson
Emily Bruflat, voice and piano

*Prayer After Communion

Now may the power of Christ’s body and blood reach deep into our hearts, our minds, and our bodies to heal our wounds, to calm our fears, and through us to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus’ name. Amen

we DEPART to serve Creation

Announcements

From Season of
Creation: “This
song is a revision
of the traditional
hymn ‘Now Thank
We All Our God’
designed to raise
our consciousness
to and
appreciation of
domains
that we would
have preserved if
we had indeed
been thankful and
not greedy in our
concern for
creation.
Hopefully that
concern will now
move us to heal
rather than hurt
creation.”

***Sending Hymn** — from *Songs for Celebrating with Creation* “Now Thank We All”
sung to the tune NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. Now thank we all our God
In whom this Earth rejoices,
For creatures great and small
Who now have lost their voices;
And species calling us
Before they disappear,
To love this fragile Earth
That God would have us share.

2. O may this bounteous God
In ev’ry tree be near us
To help us feel the pain
Of barren lands so cheerless,
Where once like Eden fresh,
Wild birds in freedom flew
To celebrate a land,
Where life rose crystal new.

3. All praise and thanks to God
Creator now be given,
Who kept alive on Earth,
This tribe of greedy humans,
Who sent an only son
To suffer earthly pain,
That cosmic ill and death
Should never rule again.

4. O Spirit from the land
Rise up like sacred leaven
To free us from the ills
Polluting Earth and heaven;
Inspire us with the drive
To be like healing rain,
Renewing life on Earth
And praising God again.

*Sending Litany

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation.

**We will remember the land! We will groan with creation! We will rejoice with
the fields and prairies!**

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation! We will nurture the soil! We will celebrate life!

*Blessing and Dismissal

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 Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you.

Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

*Postlude — “Midsommarvals” (Midsummer Waltz) Elina Loman and Christopher Börjes Vikarbyn Lilla Spelmanslag

Acknowledgements

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Land Acknowledgement information and reading from ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native Ministry by Lance Blackfox (Cherokee), https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Land_Acknowledgement_Guide.pdf?_ga=2.34565537.1246293028.1682013490-89736826.163847015

Elements of this worship come from *A Liturgy for Earthkeeping* by Dakota Road and *Season of Creation*: <https://seasonofcreation.com/>

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen
Musicians: Vikarbyn Lilla Spelmanslag

Greeter: Cindy Nadeau
Reader: Nancy Timm
Ushers: John Nadeau, Michelle Doose

Communion Preparers: Cheryl Kautt, Mary Thompson
Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Cindy Nadeau,
Patricia Duenwald
Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose

Announcements

- We welcome Vikarbyn Lilla Spelmanslag, under the direction of Margaretha Mattson. They come to us from the Dalarna region of Sweden. They have been doing cultural exchange here in Minnesota since 2007. This group of ten young adults will play a brief "teaser" during our Fellowship time in the Gathering Space, and you are invited to a concert at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this special event!
- FLC is working on a new directory and we have set up photo opportunities for our members. Appointments are available September 26-29 from 2:00-8:30 p.m. and September 30 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. You can sign up for an appointment online at <https://ucdir.com/schedule/login.php> (log in using Church Code: *mn348* Password: *photos*). CCM Committee members will be available in the gathering space after service on Sundays to assist with scheduling.
- Flowers for the altar are given today by Carolyn and Emil Trnka in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary!
- Worship assistants are needed! Please check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space and commit to helping in one of the many roles that make our worship services possible.
- Sign-up is now open to participate in this year's "FLC's Got Talent" night on September 17 at 7:00 p.m. We are looking for singers, instrumentalists, dancers, readers, stand-up comics, magicians, storytellers, and artists of all types. Talk to Emily to sign up if you have an interest in joining in the fun, and mark your calendar now to attend this fun, annual event!

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Alana Gage, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Shawn Conover, and Sarah Smith.

- We pray for Steve, Lynn, and Isaac Kidder as they mourn the loss of Isaac's girlfriend, Alana, to cancer.
- Theodora Batzer, Ellen Conover's mother, died on July 1, 2023. Her visitation will be Sat., Aug. 12, from 10-11am. Funeral service will follow at 11am.