



# Season of Creation

August 13, 2023 + Water/Storm 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

This **Prelude** on a Latvian folk tune is an anguished lament that takes place near these waters.

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." This may be an uncomfortable practice at first, but during our Season of Creation, you are invited into this ritual with an open heart.

In our **Gathering Hymn**, we encounter imagery of hurricanes, floods, and watery storms. How have "water events" impacted our community?

**Prelude** — "By the Babylonian Rivers"

Setting by Anne Marie David

### \***Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgment**

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and in 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** —

"Oh God, We've Prayed in Wind and Rain"  
*sung to the tune ST. ANNE*

1. O God, we've prayed in wind and rain  
And now we pray once more  
For those who felt the hurricane  
And heard the waters roar.

2. We pray for those who watched the storm  
Destroy the life they knew,  
Who wait in shelters, tired and worn,  
And wonder what to do.

3. We thank you, God, for acts of love  
Not bound by race or creed,  
For hands that reach across the flood  
To all who are in need.

4. We pray for others far away  
Who've seen destruction, too;  
We look beyond ourselves, for they  
Are also loved by you.

5. We pray that leaders of our land  
Will heed creation's cry,  
And bravely care and take a stand  
For earth and sea and sky.

6. Where rains flood cities,  
homes and towns, may we go out to be  
A witness that your love abounds  
In each community.

\***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, **help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rivers, lakes, and waterways of Earth. Help us empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Help us to discern how we have polluted and wasted our waters and have contributed to the increased severity of hurricanes and floods. Teach us to sense the presence of God in the tides of the seas and currents of the rivers. Teach us to care for the oceans and all our waterways. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## **we LISTEN and RESPOND**

### **A Reading from Job — Job 38:1-18**

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

### **Children's Time — Paraphrase of Psalm 104**

**"Your Works Are Amazing!"**

from *Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*; Brenda McHugh & Pastor Chris

### **A Reading from Revelation — Revelation 22:1-5**

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 14:22-33**

*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.**

*After reflecting on the calm of Christ that "no storm can shake," how can we take "the peace of Christ" into the world around us? In what ways can we work to restore and protect our waters?*

### **Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

### **\*Hymn — no. 763**

**"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"**

### **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.**

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

### \*Prayers of Intercession

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.

God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people and lands. Hear us, O Creator.

God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick. God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O Creator.

God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service as examples of following your call. 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.**

In this offering music, we hear a very familiar hymn with several references to storms and waters!

### Offering

*Music During Offering*

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Hymnal Version  
 Vocal Quartet

### \*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.**

### Distribution of Holy Communion

**Hymn** — no. 794, *sung three times*

“Calm to the Waves”

**Hymn** — no. 455

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

### \*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

*All are welcome to this meal - there are no prerequisites or exceptions! We will observe continuous communion this morning as we sing two very different hymns: one of calm and peace, and one of the many references to waters in our scriptures.*

*This Sending Hymn serves as a calling to each of us to do what we can to remember the blessing of water and to live in harmony with and protect this precious and life-giving resource!*

### **\*Sending Hymn**

1. We were born out of the waters that give life to all the earth.  
We were made God's sons and daughters at the font of our rebirth.  
Every day, God's waters bless us!  
We are nourished and renewed;  
For the waters that surround us give us life and health and food.

2. Just as rivers join each other, all creation joins in song.  
All of nature works together, bold and beautiful and strong.  
Fish that fill a flowing river, springs of water from below  
Daily point us to the Giver from whom blessings overflow.

**"We Were Born out of the Waters"**  
*sung to the tune NETTLETON*

3. God, we hear the troubling thunder of the shouts of "Profit first!"  
Land and streams are torn asunder till creation cries in thirst.  
God, we thirst for healthy waters and for justice for the land,  
As your faithful sons and daughters, may we rise to take a stand.

4. God who made the whole creation, with its rivers, fields and streams,  
You have given us a vision of what caring for them means.  
May we care for all your waters, for your land, for sky above;  
May we serve you as protectors of this world that you so love.

### **\*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 rivers and seas! We will groan with the raging storms!  
We will rejoice with the wetlands and waterways!**

Will you care for creation?  
**We will care for creation! We will revive the waters! 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 — "NETTLETON"**

Setting by Anne Marie David

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar

Musicians: Vocal Quartet - Aileen Bipes, Dawn Wenner,  
Ellis Jones, Harvey Kane

Greeter: Cheryl Kautt

Reader: Michelle Doose

Ushers: Bill Kautt

Communion Preparers: Mike & Diane Stewart

Communion Servers: Cheryl Kautt, Sharon Doemeier,

Julie Johnson

Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose

### Announcements

- Flowers for the Altar are given today by Becky Otterness in honor of Gene and Doniver Lund's Wedding Anniversary in 1946.
- Don't forget to sign-up to be included in our new Member Directory! Following worship, please look for Shanon Nowell in the Gathering Space. She can help you sign up for a time to get your picture taken. If you need a ride to church in order to get your picture taken, please contact the church office.
- First Forum: After church today, Emily will lead a discussion of the book *This Is God's Table* by Rev. Anna Woofenden. Please gather in Pioneer Parlor from 11:15 - 11:45 for part one of this discussion - all are welcome!
- Join us tomorrow night, at 6:30pm, for camp songs, smores and a bonfire. This will be our last Monday Funday for this summer.
- Join Emily next Sunday, August 20 at Ecumen Prairie Hill for a sing-a-long with the residents at 1:00 p.m. You will have another chance the following week to lead a similar program at three different locations after church. Check the Heartbeat for the details!
- August 27 we will welcome new members into our church. It is not too late to take part, contact the church office if you would like to become a member!
- 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, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, and Sarah Smith.

- We pray for Steve, Lynn, and Isaac Kidder as they mourn the loss of Isaac's girlfriend, Alana, to cancer.
- We pray for the Conovers as they mourn the loss of Ellen's mother, Theodora.