



Season of Creation

Mountain Sunday

Sunday, August 8, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.
You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Jesus on the Mountain Peak”

Setting by Mark Sedio

Welcome

*Call to Worship

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

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, as we come to into this sanctuary today,
we enter the holy mountain of God.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

This mountain is filled with your presence.

We invite the mountains to worship with us:

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

We invite the wildlife to join us in wonder:

**gliding eagles and graceful cougars,
mysterious moths and mountain goats.**

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!



1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!
sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.



join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: BETHOLD, Mark Sedio, b. 1954
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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.**

Words 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 descend from 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 empathize with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to recognize 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.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 52: 7-10

7How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

9Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

Psalm 121

1I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?
2**My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**
3He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
4**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
5The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

6**The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
7The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
8**The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

A Reading from the Book of Revelation — Revelation 22:1-5

1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

***Gospel Acclamation — no. 290, refrain**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

***Gospel — Matthew 6:25-29**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

25"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — "Mountain Messages and God's Nature Fix"

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

***Hymn —**

“Mountains Soar Skyward”

Sung to the tune RAABE

**Mountains soar skyward, touching the heavens.
Hymns from the valley gladly we raise!
God of creation, visit your people!
Bless now our worship; waken our praise!**

**High in the mountains, silent, secluded,
Jesus once sought you, praying apart.
Now we are waiting, quiet before you.
Calm with your presence, each restless heart.**

**Winds in the mountains, voice of creation,
speak of your power, tell you are near.
Wind of the Spirit, blow now among us!
Speak through the Gospel; help us to hear!**

**Down from the mountain into the valley
where lives are broken, where victims lie--
there, Christ, you call us; there you will meet
us.**

Through us, your servants, answer their cry!

**Shout from the mountains; sing in the valley:
“Jesus, the Savior, born for us all!”
Friend of the sinner; crucified, risen;
Lord of creation! Alleluia!”**

*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.

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, a new mission starts, and all communities of faith who are exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. Healer of creation, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. 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>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 736, *found on the back page*

“God, the Sculptor of the Mountains”

*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples,
to come down the mountain and serve him
by caring for creation,
especially the mountains,
where we celebrate God's presence with our kin.

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will rejoice in the mountains.

We will celebrate God's presence!

*Blessing

May the Spirit of God blowing from the mountains,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and the knowledge of Christ within you.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Hear the mountain messages of God and God's beautiful lessons of nature. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Setting by Mark Hayes

You are invited to join the Building and Grounds Committee in the courtyard for a Blessing of Gratitude for Gardeners.

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: Aileen Bipes
Ushers: Beth Winterfelt, Grace Timm

Online Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat
Readers: Monique Sebring and Izzy Avant

Announcements

Next Sunday, August 15 - Outdoor Worship with Pets!

- We will conclude our Season of Creation with Animal Sunday and offer a blessing for the critters.
- Leashed pets that can be reasonably controlled around other people and animals are welcome to attend.
- If you would prefer, bring a picture of your pet(s) for the blessing.
- A reminder that there will be no pre-recorded worship; the service will be posted later that morning.
- We will also offer a pet blessing on Monday evening, and you are invited to bring a picture for that.

Making our Worship Special

Sign up to be a Worship Assistant—Starting in September we will need worship assistants. If you would like to volunteer please contact the office to be a reader, usher, or communion server/preparer.

Sign up to Sponsor Altar Flowers—You can [sign up online](#) or in the gathering area there is a sheet to sign up as well. There are many dates available if you would like to honor an occasion or sponsor flowers in memory of a loved one.

Prayers

- We pray for the family of David Kennedy whose mother died recently.
- We pray for those who have recently undergone or will undergo surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, Bob Isenberg, and John Malm.

- 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.

“God, the Sculptor of the Mountains”

1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er
 2 God the nui-sance to the Phar - aoh, God the cleav-er
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant-er
 4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-

of the sand, God the jewel-er of the heav - ens,
 of the sea, God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
 of the wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,
 ter-mined youth, God the ta - ble-turn-ing proph - et,

God the pot - ter of the land: you are
 God the bea-con of the free: you are
 God the source of all we eat: you are
 God the res - ur - rect - ed truth: you are

womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form - less; shape us now.
 fount of all de - liv - 'rance, we are sight - less; lead us now.
 host at ev - ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.
 pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.