



# Season of Creation

July 3, 2022 + Water Sunday

*An asterisk (\*) invites you to stand in body or in spirit.*

*In call and response sections, the congregation is invited to read the **bold print** all together.*

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

## Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “This Is My Father’s World”

Setting by Ed Hogan  
David Marlow, trumpet

**Welcome**

**\*Confession & Forgiveness** — *see Green Supplement*

**\*Opening Canticle** — *see Green Supplement*

“God of Stars and Distant Planets”

**\*Opening Litany for Water Sunday**

We invite the rivers to worship with us:

**the Minnesota, the Mississippi, and all the streams that flow to the sea.**

We invite the country creeks to sing:

**all the streams and gleaming lakes.**

We invite the fauna to praise God with us:

**Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles, flitting dragonflies and sunning turtles.**

We invite the oceans to worship with us.

**The deep sea currents and coral reefs, the mountain peaks on the ocean floor.**

We call the surging seas to celebrate with us:

**The icebergs that break off from the South Pole, the calm waters that caress the equator.**

We celebrate the song of the waters!

**Sing, waters, sing!**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

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

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the ocean depths and river currents, we celebrate the wondrous design of the seas, lakes, rivers, and streams that surround us. Help us to discern how we have polluted our waters and to empathize with the groaning of creation beneath us. Teach us to sense the presence of God in the tides and currents of the waters. Teach us to care for the oceans, rivers, and all our waterways. In the name of Jesus, gratefully we pray. Amen.

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

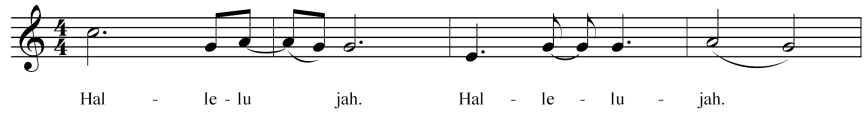
**Scripture Readings** – you are invited to open your own bible to the passage or to listen to the lessons

Job 38:1-18

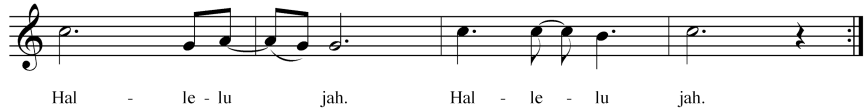
Psalm 104:24-26

Ephesians 1:3-10

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



**\*Gospel** — Luke 5:1-11



**Sermon** — “Water: Life and Death”

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Song** —

“Song of the Waters”

Sung to “Picardy” (music only found at Hymn no. 490)

1. Watch once more the windswept storm clouds;  
Suddenly the sky has wings!  
God has come to rain among us,  
Giving hope to all dry things.  
Sing a song of splashing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

2. Taste the moisture of the morning,  
Smoother than the best red wine;  
Toast the lifeblood of the planet:  
Here’s to God’s wild wet design!  
Sing a song of flowing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

3. View anew the dark blue ocean,  
Whales cavorting, spraying foam;  
God at play with deep sea monsters,  
Feeling very much at home.  
Sing a song of laughing waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

4. Feel the breath of God move softly,  
Gentle mists that brush the skin;  
Earth is breathing God’s own spirit,  
Life renewed from deep within.  
Sing a song of living waters,  
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

**\*A New Creed**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

*You are invited to sing the refrain found on the Green Supplement to lead us into prayer and again at the close of our prayers.*

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. **Hear us, O Creator.**

You created the earth with waters of all kinds. We pray for the protection of the fragile ecosystems that are overfished, polluted, and poisoned by human greed. Prosper the work of those who study and implement conservation and restoration of our water-based biomes. **Hear us, O Creator.**

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. On this Fourth of July weekend, help us realize ways that we can make this country a free society for all people. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. **Hear us, O Creator.**

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. Surround those who are ill with healing and comfort. **Hear us, O Creator.**

We give thanks for the saints who revealed your love and mercy in this life. Inspired by their witness, strengthen us to live in hope. **Hear us, O Creator.**

In your mercy, O Creator, we lift up these prayers for our world as we pray what 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.**

## \*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of our Creator be with you always. **And also with you.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

“Healer”

*see Green Supplement*

# *Departing to Serve God's Creation*

## Announcements

\*Sending Song — no. 455

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

## \*Commission

Christ calls you to be his disciples, to celebrate storms and discern God's Wisdom, goodness, and presence in all the forces of nature.

Will you care for creation?

**We will care for creation! We will be in awe before the storm.**

**We will celebrate God's presence!**

## \*Benediction & Dismissal

May God our Creator bless and keep you, may Jesus, child of the earth, walk with you, and may the Holy Spirit, wind and fire, give you hope and peace. **Amen.**  
Go in peace, care for all creation. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Setting by Ed Hogan  
David Marlow, trumpet

## Acknowledgements

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

“A New Creed” from <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/new-creed>

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Petersen

Reader: David Marlow

Ushers: Bill Kautt

Musicians: David Marlow

## Announcements

- Curious to learn more about water? Find and watch a documentary:
  - PFAS “Forever Chemicals” poisoning our water: *The Devil We Know* (2018)
  - *Chasing Coral* (2017)
  - More? Check out this list: <https://tinyurl.com/ca68khn8>
- Stay after church today to help decorate our Fourth of July float! If you haven’t signed up, let us know today if you would like to ride or walk along tomorrow!
- There will be a pork chop feed to raise funds for Dollars For Scholars on July 3 at 5pm in the Redmen Parking Lot. You are invited to come and help support our local students!
- Flowers for the altar are given today by William and Patricia Friert in celebration of their 52nd Wedding Anniversary!
- Join us for a special summer educational and worship opportunity! On Wednesday, July 6, you are invited to a Bible Study led by Pastor Chris from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall and worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.
- Beginning on July 8, Fresh Food Fridays will take place at First Lutheran on one Friday each month through October. Volunteers are needed. Food distribution is for anyone in the community to receive. Please contact the office for more information about this program.
- On Saturday, July 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall, our missionary from South Africa, Pastor Philip Knutson, will be coming to lead a First Forum to discuss his work in South Africa.
- While Pastor Chris is away on vacation from July 10-23, Pastor John Malm will be covering emergencies. Please call Angela in the office to be connected with Pastor Malm.

## **Prayers**

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for the victims of the war in Ukraine, mass shootings, and all who have been affected by violence .
- We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Audree Anderson (Sister of Mark Anderson), Judy Ashbacher (sister-in-law of Carol Solberg), Don Nicolson (Brother of Betty Thompson)

## **Notes from Season of Creation:**

The Season of Creation (Australia) liturgies were the inspiration and oftentimes the text of many prayers, litanies, and scripture choices during our worship today. Why were these lessons chosen? A description was provided with brief rationale (below), also found in documents here: <https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/>

### **Old Testament: Job 38:1-18 “The Mysteries of Creation”**

In this portrait of God creating the universe, Earth is constructed like a grand edifice, the ocean is born like a baby and restrained with boundaries while down below lie domains called the deep and the realm of the dead. Earth with its oceans is a complex of profound mysteries designed by the Creator.

### **Psalm: 104:24-26 “A World Created by Wisdom”**

The whole world is formed by the Wisdom of God thereby giving it all its discrete parts, laws, design, and purpose. That world even includes domains where God ‘plays’ with wild creatures in the ocean.

### **Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-10 “The Cosmic Christ”**

In Jesus, the Christ, we not only face the eternal mystery of forgiveness and salvation, but also the truth that as the cosmic one, Christ gathers all things together and unites the cosmos. The cosmic Christ fills the universe!

### **Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 “Facing the Deep”**

When Peter and his friends catch no fish, Jesus asks them to take a risk and cast into ‘the deep,’ the realm of the unknown. An even greater risk faces the disciples when they one day catch humans with a new message.