

SEASON OF CREATION



LAND

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, September 13, 2020 • 10:00 a.m.

In the order of service, the words
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

For music, the words in regular type are sung by all,
unless otherwise noted.



Prelude

Welcome

Invocation

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.

Holy! Holy! Holy!
Earth is filled with God's presence.

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

a planet filled with your presence,
quivering in the forests,
vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness,
shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place
and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!
Earth is filled with God's presence.

Opening Hymn • "Sing Out Earth and Skies!"

Gather, Third Edition 577

Verses



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



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:



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!

Call to Worship

We invite the countryside to worship with us:

wildflowers, fields, and pastures!

We join the land as it trembles before God:

**with tremors and earthquakes,
from the Cascades to the Olympics.**

We invite the farmlands to sing with us:

**hopfields, apple orchards, and vineyards,
gardens, and wetlands.**

We join with the fauna of the fields in praising God:

**goldfinches and eagles,
cattle, hares, and chickens.**

We invite the ground to stir deep below:

**life-giving microbes restoring the soil,
beetles and worms preparing our food.**

We celebrate the song of the soil!

Sing, soil, sing!

Confession

Today, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and cleared much of the life from the land in our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have killed living soils with excessive chemicals.

We have depleted fertile fields.

We have cleared rich lands of wildlife.

We have covered Earth's greens, browns, and golds in the gray of concrete.

We are sorry.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

Absolution

Christ hears your confession through the cross and forgives your sins against the land.

**Christ, teach us to love Earth
and return to Earth as our home.**

I speak for Christ:
I invite you to come home to Earth
by rejoicing in the land.

Shalom! Shalom!

Prayer of the Day

Together, now we pray;

**God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet,
help us to discern your vibrant presence among us,
especially in the mysteries of the soil, the fields, and the land.**

**Help us 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.**

First Reading

A reading from Genesis.

Genesis 13:14-18

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A reading from Leviticus.

Leviticus 25:8-12, 18-24

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Third Reading

A reading from Joel.

Joel 1:8-12, 17-20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation

Psalm Project: Shout for Joy 11

Refrain



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le -



lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah.



2 From the soil deep with - in our plan - et's core;



feel it swell from the



Refrain

deep - est, dark - est place.

New Testament Reading

A reading from Romans.

Romans 8:18-25

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Briana R. Merkle.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Hymn of the Day • “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 739



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,
we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

A Creation-Centered Affirmation of Faith

Together, now we affirm our faith.

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

**We believe Earth is a gift, a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence.**

**We believe God became flesh and blood,
made of the stuff of the earth,
a human being called Jesus,
who lived and breathed,
suffered and died on a cross,
whose obedience unto death
saves all humanity and all creation.**

**We believe in the risen Christ,
the heart of all creation who reconciles all things to God,
who renews all creation to the end of the universe.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit breathes life into all creation,
who groans in empathy with all
who suffer from a broken creation,
who waits with us for the rebirth of a new creation.**

**We believe that with Christ,
we will rise and with Christ
celebrate together that gift of a new and eternal creation.**

Offering

We give to the Lord of our tithes and offerings.

Ways that you can give electronically:

TEXT

- Text “Give” to 253-292-9599.
- You will be sent a message to (a) text your giving amount and/or (b) set up recurring giving.

ONLINE via the MVLC WEBSITE

- Visit www.mtviewlutheran.org.
- Hover over the “GIVE” dropbox.
- Choose “Make a Donation via Bank Account” or “Make a Donation via Credit/Debit Card.”
- Fill out all information on the page and then click the blue “GIVE” button.
- If you want it to remember your information, visit “SIGN IN” and create an account.
- NOTE: Online giving is a one-time gift unless you check “Make this Gift Recurring.”

Offertory

Chorale Prelude on “Land of Rest” • Dale Wood

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

**Gracious God,
through your loving care
you give us every good gift to share.**

**Receive our offerings as a sign of our faithfulness.
Make us mindful of and helpful to all those in need.
Teach us again and again to care. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God,
we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

At the conclusion of each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need,
we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

Sending

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

We will remember the land!
We will groan with creation!
We will rejoice with the fields!

Blessing

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 stirring of Christ within you.

Go in peace,
serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace,
serving Christ
and tending Earth!

Sending Hymn • "Sing with Creation"

Justice, Like a Base of Stone 40



1 Sing with cre - a - tion, all that is good, an - cient and
2 Flash - es of col - or dance in the day. Green is the

4 Spark - ling sun - light cov - ers the fields, show - er - ing



ho - ly, dai - ly re - newed. Sing of the fab - ric not made with
grass and brown is the hay. Ros - es are red and vio - lets are

pow - er, al - low - ing the yields, warm - ing the earth and giv - ing us



hands, wo - ven to - geth - er in all of its strands.
blue. Ra - vens are black and the soil is, too.

light, mak - ing the moon shine full in the night.



Praise to you, the Ev - er - un - fold - ing, the Auth - or of



soil and sky a - bove. Well in us, Foun - tain of



wis - dom, that ev - er we turn from de - struc - tion to love.

6 Now let us learn our place on the earth.
Now let us turn from destruction to birth.
May our estate be fertile and real.
It's never too late for the broken to heal.

Postlude

Please register your worship attendance online at
www.mtviewlutheran.org/worshipattendance

Please submit prayer requests online at
www.mtviewlutheran.org/prayerrequest



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SEASON OF **CREATION**

SUNDAYS OF SEPTEMBER • ONLINE ADULT ED AT 9 / ONLINE WORSHIP AT 10
FOREST • LAND • WILDERNESS • RIVER

