

SEASON OF CREATION



WILDERNESS

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, September 20, 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 • “Christ, Be Our Light”

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 715



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.

Call to Worship

We invite the wilderness to worship with us:

**vast forests and mountain ranges,
crag and slopes.**

Let the wild places sing their awe:

**Hoh Rainforest and the Enchantments,
they echo God's glories.**

We join with the deep quiet in praise:

**call of the elk and hum of the forest,
tremor of mountains and stillness of snow.**

We join the song of the wilderness.

Sing, wilderness, sing!

We celebrate the song of the wild!

Sing, wilderness, sing!

Confession

Today, we remember and confess that we have become alienated from Earth and have desecrated sites in the wilderness of our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have polluted deserts with radioactive waste.

**We have consumed more than we need
and heaped up piles of garbage.**

We have endangered countless species.

We have destroyed sanctuary wilderness spaces.

We are sorry.

We are sorry. We are sorry.

Absolution

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

**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 wilderness.

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 rocks, the deserts, the “waste lands,”
and the wild places of our world.**

**Help us empathize with your creatures who are suffering.
Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wilderness.**

**In the name of Christ,
who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from Exodus.

Exodus 13:17-18, 21-22

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah 43:15-21

The Word of the Lord.

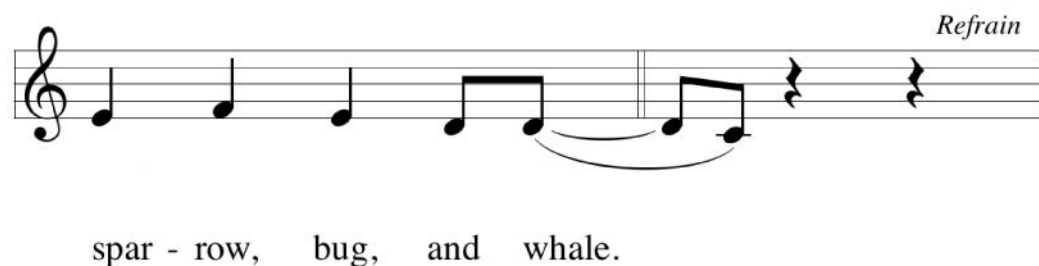
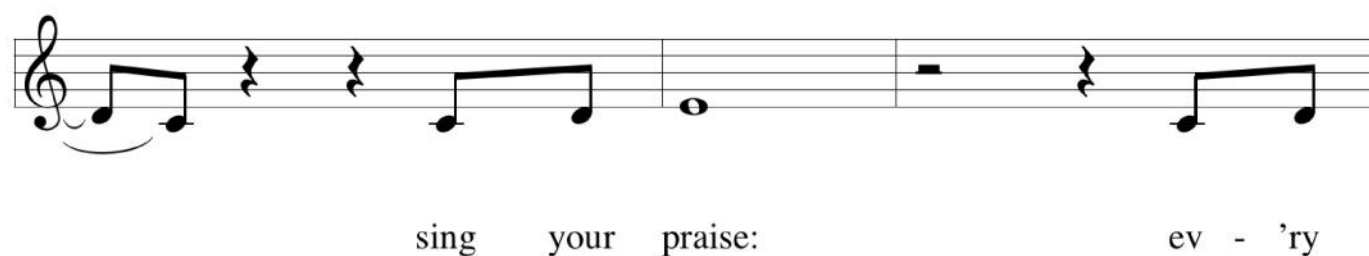
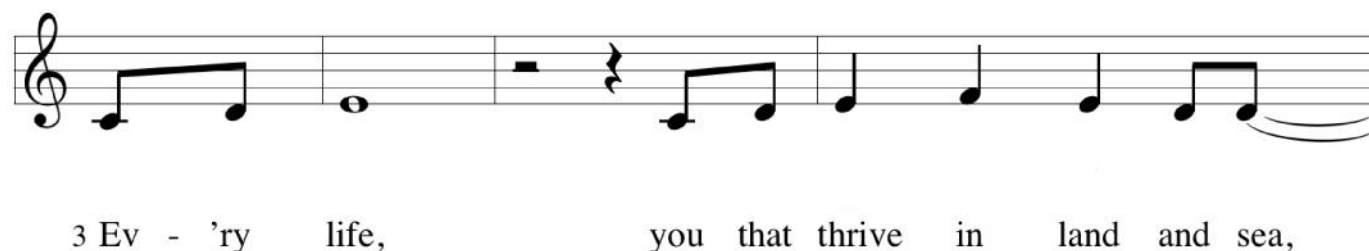
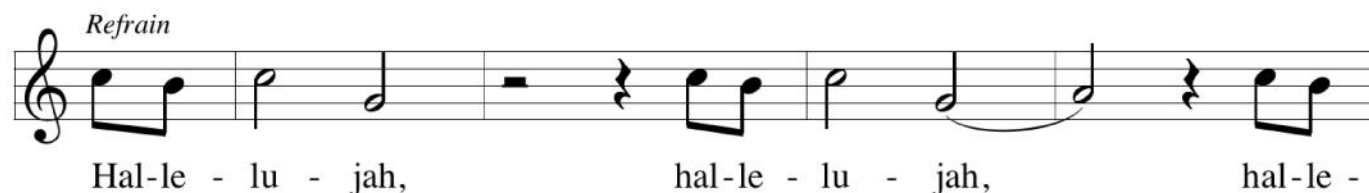
Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Psalm Project: Shout for Joy 11

Sing refrain, verse, refrain, refrain.



Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 3:13—4:2

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Briana R. Merkle.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Hymn of the Day • “As Your Spirit in the Desert”

Peace, Be Still 60 (text) / Evangelical Lutheran Worship 490 (music)

1. As your Spir - it in the des - ert Led the Christ to dust and stone,
2. As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to Ca - naan led
3. Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, And dire thrist may sear and sting,
4. Through the nar - row gate now draw us, Past all em - pire's pull and strife,
5. God of Des - ert, God of Pro - mise, You have bid us jour - ney on

7
So in - still our hearts with cour - age Now to cross where Christ has gone.
May your pres - ence be our com - fort, May your man - na be our bread.
You have prom - ised liv - ing wat - ers Wait - ing for us at the spring.
Where be - yond our fear and cling - ing Stands the thresh - old of new life.
Through the days of dust and dark - ness To the ris - ing of the dawn.

13
Let us cross in - to the wil - der - ness So to walk where Christ has gone.
Let us cross in - to the wil - der - ness With God's man - na as our bread.
Let us cross out of the wil - der - ness To the wa - ters of the spring.
Let us cross out of the wil - der - ness To the thresh - old of new life.
Let us cross out of the wil - der - ness To the ris - ing of the dawn.



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

“Precious Memories”

Joan Kohler, flute and Bill Kohler, saxophone

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

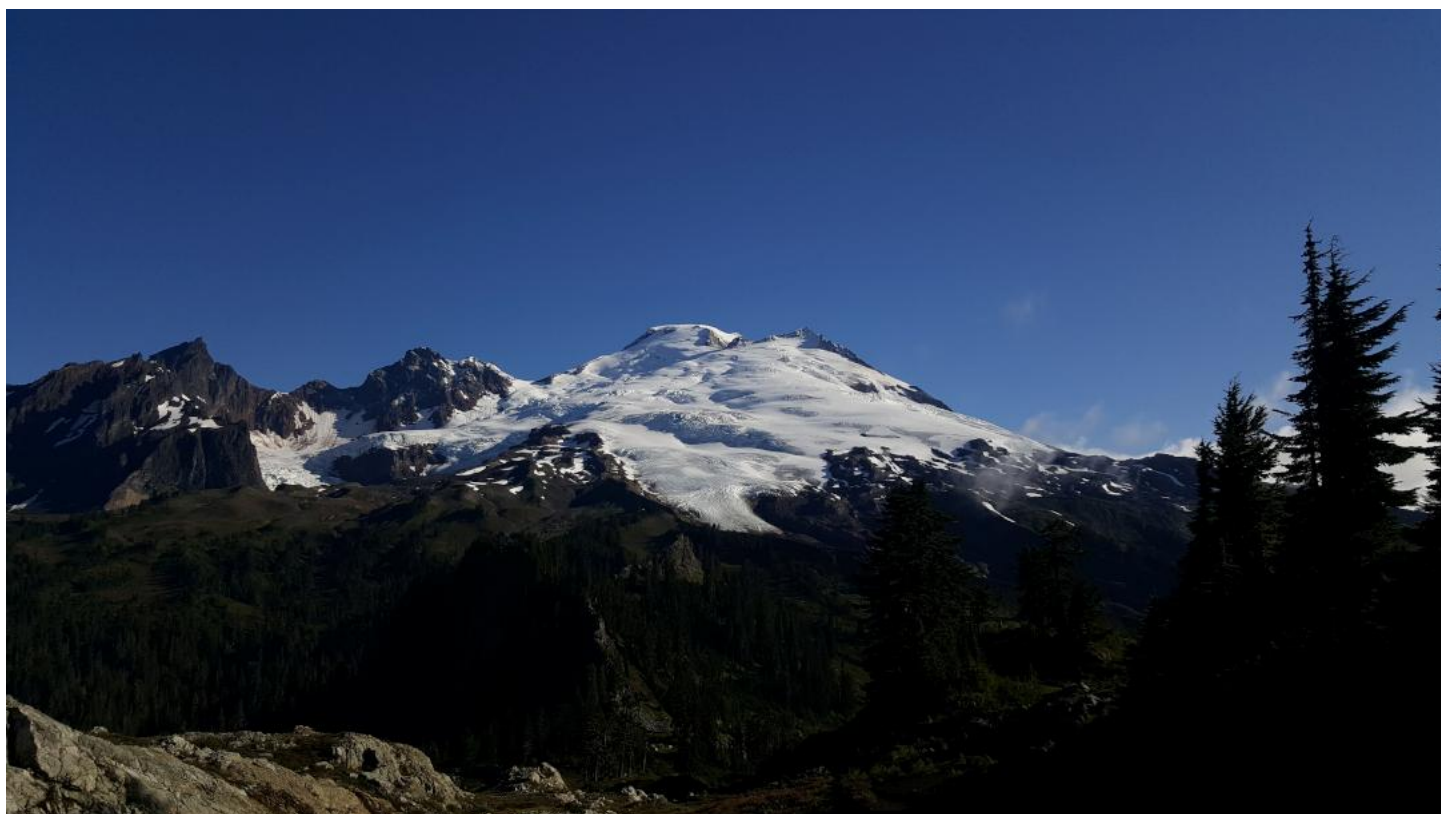
Drawn together in the compassion of God,
we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

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 wilderness!

We will groan with creation!

We will celebrate with the creatures of the wild!

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 • "Spirit of Gentleness"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 396

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



Refrain

"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

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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PREACHER/PRESIDER

Pastor Briana R. Merkle

DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES

Susan Bloomfield

LECTOR/CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

Pat Clement

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SEASON OF **CREATION**

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

