

Celebration of the Seasons

Summer Solstice – 26 June 2022



Welcome

Call to Worship & Confession

Blessed be the triune God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Spirit,
the God of abundance,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

God, our provider,
help us.

We are not always people who live by faith. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors.

We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead we turn our backs on them and on you. **Forgive us, O God,** and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Reading ("*The Summer Day*" by *Mary Oliver*)

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean -
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down -
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

 "For The Beauty Of The Earth" [ELW 879]

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Scripture (*Isaiah 55:10-13*)

A reading from the book of Isaiah

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."

The word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

 "All Creatures Worship God Most High" [ELW 835]

Scripture (*Amos 5:8*)
A reading from the book of Amos

The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
and turns deep darkness into the morning,
and darkens the day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea,
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,
the Lord is his name.

The word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

 **Gospel Acclamation | Praise and Thanksgiving** [ELW 689]

The assembly stands

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
Harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Author: Albert F Bayly, 1901-1984
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Gospel (*John 1:1-5*)

A reading from the gospel of John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The assembly is seated

 "This is My Father's World" [ELW 824]

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator,
who created and is creating everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;

each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.

We believe in God the Christ,

who saved and is saving everything:

the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us:

each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who guided and is guiding everything:

the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;

each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.

**We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us,**

working directly in our lives

and the lives of all who are born into this world,

striving to bring us back into harmony

with all creation and with God:

forgiving, healing, touching everyone,

never rejecting any who willingly receive

this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.

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Intercessions

Kneel as you are able

Holy God, confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need:

Loving Father, you know every creature and its needs. With great trust we offer our petitions in the name of all creation, and we pray that people of all faiths use this Season of Creation as a time to remember, respect, pray and act for the good of all of creation.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Savior, we pray for your creation, the whole cosmos including our common home, and the intricate balance in every part of the ecosystems that sustains life on Earth. We pray that all might be open to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, especially those who are facing the harsh reality of climate change.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

Giving Spirit, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who live only for gain at the expense of the poor of the earth.

Creator God, **hear our prayer.**

Triune God, as we face the storms of this world, we celebrate the wonders of the wind and the weather. Help us to see your presence, not only in the forces of nature, but also among those who suffer from natural disasters. Teach us to recognize that your Wisdom is imbedded in all natural forces, a Wisdom that guides, controls and limits them.

In the name of Christ who is the Wisdom of God renewing all things in creation.
Amen.

Announcements

The assembly is seated

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

 **Doxology** [ELW 885]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Offertory Prayer

God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table
that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.
Amen.

Dialogue

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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Lord's Prayer

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.

 "Lamb of God" [ELW 191]

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution of Communion

Post Communion Blessing

The assembly stands

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Holy and compassionate God,

in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.
Amen.

 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory" [ELW 561]

The assembly is seated

Closing Prayer

Divine Creator,
For the web of life that connects us all,
we give thanks.

For the sacred places where we hear
your small still voice, **we listen.**

For those carrying the heavy burden of
climate injustice, **we speak out.**

Guide us to be good stewards of
your marvelous creation.

Inspire us to advocate for
our common home.

Help us work for justice,
So all may receive your abundance.
Amen.

 "God of Day and God of Darkness"

Sending [Text: Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin]

God of Creation, who made the heavens and the earth to reflect your glory and your love: bless us. Give us eyes to see your wonders and your love in the beauty and the power of nature. Strengthen us to protect the world that you have made – to protect the air and water, to take our food from the land without destroying it, to find joy and peace in all that you have made. Give us courage to go forth in ways that are strong and good. And the blessing of almighty God, creator, redeemer and sustainer, be with you now and always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.