



# SEASON OF CREATION

## Sample Liturgy

Revised Common Lectionary, Year B

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Clergy and parishes should seek permission from their bishop before using alternative liturgies for worship

# Gathering

The heavens declare the glory of God.<sup>1</sup>

**The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

The plants and trees show God's presence.

**Let us join with creation in praising God.**

God of all creation, who moves and inspires us through every time and season,  
We bless you and praise you for the gift of life in your good created world. Grant to us  
grace and humility to so order our lives that we may honor you among all peoples and  
nations, create wholesome and right companionship with our fellow living creatures,  
and work for the healing of this world that you created.

Teach us to see and hear your power in the winds and waves, mountains and valleys,  
and rivers, so that we may glorify your goodness to us and live rightly in your creation.  
We pray to you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the  
Spirit, Three in One, One in Three, now and forever. Amen.

## *Opening Music*

see "Hymn Recommendations for Season of Creation"

## Breaking Open the Word

Shine your light on us, God, as we gather around your word. By your Spirit, make our  
lives fertile ground in which your word takes root and grows, through Christ we pray.  
Amen.

## *A reading from the Old Testament*

as appointed, or as selected if permissible

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1. Much of this text comes from Paul Galbreath, *Leading into the World: Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations* (London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014) and is used with permission.

*A psalm as appointed*

*A non-Gospel reading from the New Testament*

as appointed, or as selected if permissible

*Music*

*Gospel*

*as appointed, or as selected if permissible*

*Sermon*

(if desired), followed by a time of silence

*Creed*

*Confession and Pardon*

All creation invites us to join our voices in praise to God. Trusting in God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

**Generous God, you created us and placed us here to care for all of creation. Forgive us for turning away from you and for neglecting the earth. Raise us up and make us again stewards of your creation that we may see your presence in all that surrounds us; through Christ we pray. Amen.**

Hear and receive this good news to all who long to see and encounter Christ. Today, salvation comes to this house. Know that we are forgiven and live in peace with one another and with the earth.

*The passing of the peace*

if desired

## *Offertory music*

Bless these gifts and our lives, O God, that we may share ourselves and our belongings with those in need. Lift up our voices with those of all creation that sing out in praise for your grace and love. Amen.

## *Invitation to the Table*

Jesus invites us to come to the table. Here, in this bread and wine, may we encounter Christ who calls us to care for the poor, the earth, and all who are in need. All who long for Christ are welcome at this table.

May God be with you<sup>2</sup>

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here . . .<sup>3</sup> where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, orca and salmon, bear and raven, salal and cedar we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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2. Eucharistic prayer developed and used by Salal and Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community <http://salalandcedar.com/> and is used with permission

3. Insert local environmental references here such as flora and fauna, physical features such as mountains and rivers etc.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever. Amen

As our Saviour taught us, let us 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 for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

Christ meets us at this table.

Today, salvation comes to this community.

As bread is broken, and wine shared, we are thankful.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

*Communion is shared; music may be inserted at this point*

## Departing

As we depart, a Prayer for our Earth<sup>4</sup>

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.

**You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.**

**Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.**

Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

**O God of the poor,  
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 look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.**

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

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4. Pope Francis, encyclical on ecology, June 2015, *Laudato Si', On Care for our Common Home*

We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace. Amen

## Music