

A Season of Creation



God's Covenant with
All Creation

Christ Episcopal Church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 423

Call to Worship

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

The Holy One's love is new every morning.*

The God of Creation be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of peace, let us your people know, that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are,

that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ. **Amen.**

(One of six propers from "Honoring God in Creation," 236-238.)

Song of Praise

Hymnal 428 vs 4-6

The Lessons

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

For the word of God in Scripture;
For the word of God among us;
For the word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24:1-6

- 1 The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

A Reading from The Art of the Commonplace, Wendell Berry

What is good for the world will be good for us. That requires that we make the effort to know the world and to learn what is good for it. We must learn to cooperate in its processes, and to yield to its limits. But even more important, we must learn to acknowledge that the creation is full of mystery; we will never entirely understand it. We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of the majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.

(Wendell Erdman Berry (b. 1934) is an American novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer. Over the years, he has called himself an agrarian, a pacifist, and a Christian—albeit of an eccentric kind. He has written against all forms of violence and destruction—of land, communities, and human beings—and argued that the modern American way of life is a skein of violence. Wendell Berry, The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry (Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint Press, 2003)).

For the word of God in Scripture;
For the word of God among us;
For the word of God within us.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After he left, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them all, “The time has now come for the True Human Being to honor the Great Spirit and to be honored by him. As soon as the Song gives him honor it will come back again - full circle. My little children,” he said to them, “my time with you is almost gone. You cannot follow. This is the same thing I said to the other Tribal Members and I now say to you. I am giving you a new road to walk,” he said. “In the same way I have loved you, you are to love each other. This kind of love will be the sign for all people that you are walking the road with me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(From First Nations Version: an Indigenous Translation of the New Testament)

The Sermon

Creed: A Confession of St. Patrick

**Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.**

**He has his dwelling
in heaven and earth and sea
and all that is in them.**

**He inspires all,
he gives life to all,
he surpasses all,
he upholds all.**

**He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands,
and dry islands in the sea,
and stars to serve the greater lights.**

**He has a Son,
coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father,
neither is the Father older than the Son.**

**And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.**

(This creed is attributed to the 5th century missionary and bishop Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland, in the story of "Patrick and the royal daughters" from the biographical Collectanea by the 7th century Irish Bishop Tírechán. It is included in the 10th century The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick which is traditionally preached during the three-day Feast of St. Patrick in Ireland.)

Prayers of the People

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning,

God was.

Here and now,

God is.

In the future,

God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for [___]. In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for [___].

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: [___]. We pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week: [___]

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help [especially ___].

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially ___, for whom the altar flowers are given].

Silence

God, Giver of life,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

(From "Honoring God in Creation," 239-245.)

Confession

Merciful and sustaining God,

we have sinned against you.

We confess our lack of gratitude

for the beauty and bounty of your creation:

teach us to see that your earth sustains us

and all that lives.

We confess that we have misused your earth:

grant us amendment of life.

We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites:

strengthen us in self-control.

We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted:

make us urgent now for its protection.

Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ,

by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

("Liturgical Materials for Honoring God in Creation," Reports To The 78th General Convention: Supplemental Materials (Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music: SCLM, 2015), 246-247.)

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Music

Doxology

Hymnal 380 vs 3

The Holy Communion

(The Wyoming Eucharistic Prayer)

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 God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of yourself is all around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom, and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom. From the depths of the ocean floor you lifted up massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens.

We, like your Son, our Lord, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you. We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water's edge: and we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

We welcome the passing of seasons in broad circles of time, with anticipation of new things to come, and we recognize that same feeling of hope that encircles our faith. Our lives are lived between sunrises and sunsets and brilliant colors. But at night the limitless stars have a way of pushing back the boundaries of our lives and we dream of heaven and your wonder.

And with all these blessings of your creation around us, O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

And so, we join with saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing:

Sanctus

WLP 858

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

As we gather to praise your name, we see your greatest glory, your Son our Savior, reflected in each other's faces and we know the magnitude of your love for us and ours for you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Communion Music

I am Sure I Shall See

I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May our hearts feel the song of the meadowlark,
our minds the clearness of the mountain air,
and our souls the freedom of the soaring eagle.

May our faith be renewed as the creek in spring,
may we celebrate the saving redemption of the Cross in all its mysteries,
may we always feel the love of the community of Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 427

Dismissal

The worship has ended, the service begins.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

