

**Wednesday Lent Worship
For the Healing of Creation**

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME

GATHERING

O Divine Voice,

You sing and the universe comes into being;

O Divine Breath,

You breathe and all things spring to life;

O Divine Word,

You call and creation is sustained;

O Divine Flesh,

You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation;

O Divine Spirit,

You contain all that has been formed;

O Divine Life,

You are the pulse of all that is;

And so, in faith and expectation, in wonder and celebration

we gather to remember this mystery:

In you all things live and move and have being,

In all things, you live and move and express your Divine artistry;

And so we join with creation in the eternal song of worship and devotion.

Amen.

PRAISE AND CONFESSION

O God who gives birth to all we see, all that we know, all that we dream,

and all that is unseen, unknown and unimagined,

We celebrate your life that holds and nurtures the universe,

we celebrate your love which joins creation as one and unites all things with you;

We give thanks for your life which is incarnated in Christ

and which is revealed in every created being;

We savor your presence which is limitless and welcoming,

and your Spirit which fills every moment of time and every fragment of matter.

But even as we receive again your vision of life,

we recognize that we have been blind to its universal heartbeat;

Even as we remember the connectedness of all things,

we acknowledge that we have divided and separated ourselves,

and forgotten our part in your creation;

Even as we are energized by your breath within us,

we confess our destructiveness, and repent of the harm we have done to ourselves

and our world.

For the sake of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation, who, in death, disarmed all that is evil,

and, in resurrection, stripped death of power,

We ask you to recreate us, to reconnect us, and to restore to us the vision of your life in

creation, and the power to live it. Amen.

We gather around the cross.

We come to pray for the healing of creation.

We come to pray for the world God creates, sustains, and loves.

We come to hear God's promise to make all things new in Christ Jesus.

HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,
creator of the universe.

You are merciful,
slow to anger and full of love.

Your compassion fills your whole creation.

With all your creatures,

We sing your praise
and look to you for life,

through Jesus Christ,

In whom you make all things new,
now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God brings a charge against the people who live in the land.

A reading from Hosea.

There is no faithfulness or loyalty,
and no knowledge of God in the land.

Swearing, lying, and murder,
and stealing and adultery break out;
bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Therefore, the land mourns,
And all who live in it languish;
Together with the wild animals
And the birds of the air,
Even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Hosea 4:1b-3

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Text: Traditional
Music: Marty Haugen, from *Gift of God*

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The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah concerning a drought.
A reading from Jeremiah.

Judah mourns,
and her gates languish;
they lie in gloom on the ground,
and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.

Her nobles send their servants for water;
they come to the cisterns,
they find no water,
they return with their vessels empty.

They are ashamed and dismayed
and cover their heads,
because the ground is cracked.

Because there has been no rain in the land,
the farmers are dismayed;
they cover their heads.

Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn
because there is no grass.

Jeremiah 14:1-5

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

A reading from Romans.

We know that the whole creation
has been groaning in labor pains until now;
and not only creation,
but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

Romans :22-23

Silence

Let us pray.

Look upon us with mercy, O God,
forgive our unfaithfulness,
our failure to respond to need and suffering,
our wasteful consumption and pollution of your creation,
and our negligence in tending and keeping what you have made.
Send forth your Spirit,
renew the face of the earth,
and restore in us the image of your love,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

LITANY FOR CREATION

Let us name before God the wonders of creation,
pleading for their protection, healing, and renewal
through the life-giving power of the Spirit.

A series of the wonders of God's creation will be spoken. At the conclusion of each series, we invite you to join in singing the leader and assembly parts, "For the healing of creation, we pray to you, O God." (See next page)



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.
or For the heal-ing of cre - a - tion, we pray to you, O God.



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.
For the heal-ing of cre - a - tion, we pray to you, O God.

Text: Susan Briehl
Music: John D. Becker, from *Litany of the Saints*
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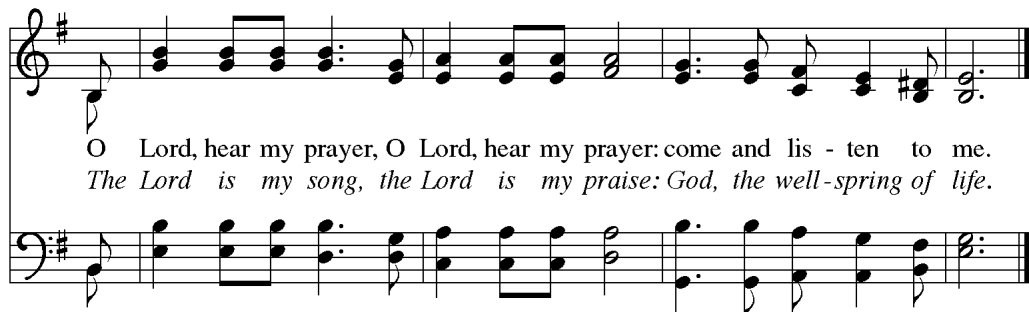
Silence

At this point, we invite you to light a candle at home, direct your attention the cross of Christ and lift your prayers in silence and in song.

HYMN O Lord, Hear My Prayer



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Silence

CLOSING PRAYER

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

You open wide your hand, O God,

And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

You draw near to those who call upon you,

Crying out from their hearts.

Hear our cries, receive our prayers,

And fill us with your blessing,

Until needy no longer,

Your whole creation sings your praise,

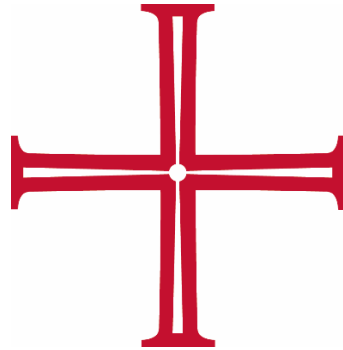
Through your Sin, Jesus Christ, in whom you make all things new.

Amen.

SENDING

God all mighty, God most merciful
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.

Amen.



Thank you for worshipping with us. Join us again next Wednesday.
Visit www.wbbethany.org for additional information about Bethany Lutheran Church.

You are loved!

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