

Liturgy For Earthkeeping

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG “Your River O God”

Chorus:

Your river, O God, is full of water
water alive with justice and grace
Your river, O God, it flows with mercy
for every child through every time and place

Every birth on this earth speaks the mystery
Every heart, from the start, light for all to see (Chorus)

Come and hear all who fear, you are not alone
Come and see, be set free, rest here in your home (Chorus)

As we grow, may we know, waves of hope surround
As we live may we give love that has no bounds (Chorus)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground.

Send forth your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world.

Open up the soil of our hearts to your word of life.

May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who you are creating us to be.

OPENING SONG “Come and See”

The song of a wren, the flight of a hawk
a baby's first bond with her mother
first flowers of spring arise and sing
The world is filled with wonder

Chorus:

Come and see what God has done
The earth is alive; thanks to the sun
Every plant that grows
every river that flows
what a miracle gift of creation

Ponder the vastness of the night sky
The distance you see is amazing

The light travels over thousands of years
before you see it stargazing (Chorus)

Look at a seed it knows what to do
New life will spring forth from its falling
And we as people of the Divine
can listen as we know our calling (Chorus)

People of Faith, Grace beckons you home
to Eden in all of its splendor
Do you hear the call? Renew the earth
With care now garden and tend her (Chorus)

CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. *(silence)*

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life....

We confess our part in a broken world.

One: You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life...

We confess our part in a broken world.

One: As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life...

We confess our part in a broken world.

SONG OF MERCY "Mercy On This Fallen World"

Chorus:

Have mercy on this fallen world
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on this fallen world
Mercy, Lord have mercy on us

For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy
For every life, for every heart, have mercy
For all those who hunger and struggle each day, have mercy
For all of the times that we turn away (Chorus)

For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy
For all of the world to live in your peace (Chorus)
Lord have mercy on us

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE "Praise to You"

Chorus:

Praise to you O Great Creator
Maker of the land and sky
Praise to you O Living Water
Hope and breath of every life

We are lost and we are longing
wandering in the wilderness
searching for your holy presence
and the reason we exist (Chorus)

Hear the cries of all creation
how the tears like rivers flow
for your touch of grace and healing
and the love that leads us home (Chorus)

May we live your way of justice
May we walk your way of peace
May we see your sacred vision
May we know your sweet release (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

The eyes of all look to you, O God. Turn our hearts and minds to your open hand that provides for every living thing, so that we may know your generosity and participate in the healing and restoration of all that you have made, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WORD

LESSONS and PSALM

SONG OF THE WORD "Hallelujah"

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

GOSPEL

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY "Your Love is Everlasting"

Since time began, through centuries

God's love is everlasting

To distant unknown galaxies

God's love is everlasting

Splendor springs forth 'cross the land

God's love is everlasting

Abundance, sharing hand in hand

God's love is everlasting

Chorus:

Your love (your love) is lasting

Your love is everlasting

Your love (your love) is lasting

Your love is everlasting

A mother's womb, a brand new life

God's love is everlasting

An empty tomb, the risen Christ

God's love is everlasting

Weeping may last for the night

God's love is everlasting

But joy breaks forth with morning light

God's love is everlasting (Chorus)

Signs of hope, a voice of peace

God's love is everlasting

The prophet's cry for war to cease

God's love is everlasting
For the down and out, for the high and proud
God's love is everlasting
Come all you people shout out loud
God's love is everlasting (Chorus)

CREED/AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (respond with "Hope of all Creation")

Hope of all creation, Healer of relations
We lift our prayer to you, we lift our prayer to you

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "God of Stars and Distant Planets"

God of stars and distant planets the farthest reaches of night
Lead us home to rediscover you, our Living Light
Ignite us with a passion to be your living sparks
May we radiate your splendor
Rays of sun that shine in the dark
Rays of sun that shine in the dark

Praise you God the cosmic artist for dazzling beauty complex
Vibrant colors fill the canvas your image it reflects
You step back from your easel
call good what you first saw
May we all for generations
live with such awareness and awe
live with such awareness and awe

Help us find within creation O God of creatures and trees
a new way to grow with nature, sort out our wants and needs
Transform our way of living
we pray in Jesus' name
Turn our vision into action
that your work of art be sustained
that your work of art be sustained

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION SONG "Healer"

Chorus:

Healer, healer, come and heal this world

Healer, healer, come and heal this world

May we all offer up our hands

May we all, all together stand (Chorus)

May we all lay our weapons down

May we all find our common ground (Chorus)

May we all offer up our hands

May we all, altogether stand (Chorus)

SENDING

BENEDICTION

May God our Creator bless and keep you, may Jesus, child of the earth, walk with you,
and may the Holy Spirit, wind and fire, give you hope and peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG "Go Now"

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Go now with God, go now with God

Into the world as a servant

Go now with God, go now with God

Chorus:

Go now, go now, go now with God

Go now, go now, go now with God

Offering a hand to a stranger

Go now with God, go now with God

Trusting in the risen savior

Go now with God, go now with God (Chorus)

Waters of mercy have found us

Go now with God, go now with God

Grace on the journey surrounds us

Go now with God, go now with God (Chorus)

Crossing every boundary, every nation

Go now with God, go now with God

Dancing in the gift of liberation

Go now with God, go now with God (Chorus)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, care for all creation.

Thanks be to God.

Liturgy for Earthkeeping

A core mission of Lutheran higher education is the integration of faith and learning in service of the common good. One of the ways this mission is lived out at Luther College is through sustainability initiatives that include the long-term goal of a carbon-neutral campus. Practicing the "joyful stewardship of the resources that surround us" is a ministry of Luther College that draws the college into partnership with many communities of faith. In that spirit a liturgy for the broader church was commissioned in honor of Luther's sesquicentennial. It is a collaborative project between Hans Peterson and Larry Olson of Dakota Road Music and Luther College Ministries. The *Liturgy for Earthkeeping* is being offered as a resource for congregations and ministries to help strengthen connections between sustainability, liturgy, spiritual formation and joyful stewardship.

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