



Season of Creation

LWF Communion Prayer for Pentecost 2020

Week 19 – Eighteenth Week after Pentecost



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches



SEASON OF
CREATION

Introduction

Welcome to ordinary time! The liturgical season of Pentecost is called “ordinary” because the weeks are ordered, or numbered. Some of our churches order these weeks according to the Sundays after Pentecost, some after Trinity Sunday, and others, until the start of Advent, and a new liturgical year. Though it is called ordinary the season of Pentecost is extraordinary!

Pentecost is a Season of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples like tongues of fire, giving the ability to be understood in diverse languages. In a great reversal of the Tower of Babel story (Genesis 11) the story of Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit equips illuminates a diversity of gifts. As a priesthood of all believers, each of us is uniquely gifted to live out our baptismal vocation. Pentecost is a green time. The prominent liturgical color of this season is green, which signifies growth in many cultures. In some parts of the globe this is the growing season. But regardless of what hemisphere in which we live, Pentecost is a season to focus on the work of the Spirit who nurtures our gifts to bear fruit.

Within this green time, [the weeks from 1 September-4 October mark the Season of Creation](#). This is a season to give thanks for all creation, and the Holy Spirit who renews the face of the earth, and our human vocation to till and keep the garden in a just sustainable peace.

During the Season of Creation, [the LWF joins our ecumenical family in preparing the 2020 Celebration Guide, which includes the ecumenical liturgy that shapes our prayers during these five weeks](#). The 2020 theme, ***Jubilee for the Earth***, invites you to consider the integral relationship between rest for the earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living. This particular year, the need for just and sustainable systems has been revealed by the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We offer this resource to our global Lutheran communion, as a way to be in the solidarity of prayer during this Season of Creation. Daily prayer follows a simple order: psalmody and prayer. Prayers can be adapted for use in your practice of prayer: singing songs, adding your prayers, or any liturgical acts that are meaningful in your context. In addition to the texts, which follow the Revised Common Lectionary, you will notice that these weeks include meditations on themes related to the Season of Creation.

We commend these prayers to your use, whether alone in your home, as a family, or as your community is able to gather at a distance. As you pray in solidarity with the communion across the globe, and the communion of saints in all times and places, be encouraged by the counsel that Luther offers in his letter, *A Simple Way to Pray*:

“Never think that you are kneeling or standing alone, rather think that the whole of the Church...are standing there beside you and you are standing among them in a common, united petition which God cannot disdain. There we find God the Creator, God the Redeemer, God the Holy Spirit, that is, God who daily sanctifies us.”

And throughout this green time, may the Spirit of God bring forth new growth in you.

Prayers are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress, 2006 and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, Augsburg Fortress, 2002. All scriptural texts are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The daily lectionary of the Revised Common Lectionary is followed.

Sunday, 4 October 2020

Psalmody

God made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.

You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.

The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.

Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.

When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works
– *Psalm 104*

Word

Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Meditation

By Ms Thérèse Nocke, head of the Opérationnelle Projet Environnement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon

Another parable that illustrates the terrible state of people and their bad directors. The people of God are supposed to bear fruit. That is to say, to accomplish their work and support justice. However, the fruit that they bear is bad. Jesus said that it is their fruits that identify a tree or a person. What are our fruits? Are they good or bad? Are they helpful or bitter?

The owner of the vineyard is God. When the owner plants the vine, that is God at the moment of creation. God orders the surface of the Earth. God created the plants and the animals, then created human beings. When the owner encircles his vineyard with an enclosure to protect it, the contemporaries of Jesus understood it as God who gives the law to the elect to guard them and protect them in the faith of the covenant. By the way, the enclosure and the law have this in common, that they designate one who is inside and one who is outside, one who is close and one who is far. There are those who apply and respect the Law, and those who transgress it, transform it and stray from it.

The wine press serves to separate the grape juice from the skins, the helpful from the unhelpful, the good from the bad. It is helpful when we ask ourselves what we ought to do. It is helpful for safeguarding creation. It is helpful for rejoicing in life, despite the difficulties. It is helpful above all to recognize our own faults, but also our good qualities. This enclosure, this tower, this press are also three essentials in the life of the vine and of our existence. They are a gift that God gave to human beings after having created them. God gave them these three strengths: God's grace, faith that illuminates our sight, and love for life together.

Then the owner departed on a voyage. To the human beings, God left the freedom to act in their own way; to follow the law or not; to choose to believe and to love, or not. God entrusted responsibilities to human beings. God trusted the human beings, and entrusted them with taking care of creation and all that is found there. We complain sometimes about "the absence" of God. But God entrusted "God's vineyard" to us, creation, God's cosmos. This garden, it is our environment, our common home. God gave me the responsibility. Against the objections and the hostility of the vine-growers, the owner multiplies the number of messengers sent as defenders of the environment.

And still today, we see here and there, the arresting or assassination of environmental defenders around the world. "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" The sins of these vine

growers is not only not having produced fruits of the vine, but of wanting to keep the fruits for themselves – God’s vine, God’s gifts of creation, that did not belong to them; to manage the Earth exclusively for human profit, without taking into account that creation is the property and gift of God. Have you destroyed, polluted, devastated, spoiled God’s creation? A warning is announced. Not to threaten, but to lead us to conversion, to a change of behavior, if each one of us finally welcomes Christ for a new life with God. Jesus is an essential part of the great design of God, for the good management of God’s gifts.

Prayer

We give thanks for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

(from the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God’s glory in creation.

(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

Amen.

Monday, 5 October 2020

Psalmody

Lord, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?

They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.

Part your heavens, Lord, and come down;
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
shoot your arrows and rout them.

Reach down your hand from on high;
deliver me and rescue me
from the mighty waters,
from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

I will sing a new song to you, my God;
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,
to the One who gives victory to kings,
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword deliver me;
rescue me from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful

Then our sons in their youth
will be like well-nurtured plants,

and our daughters will be like pillars
carved to adorn a palace.

Our barns will be filled
with every kind of provision.

Our sheep will increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields;
our oxen will draw heavy loads.

There will be no breaching of walls,
no going into captivity,
no cry of distress in our streets.

Blessed is the people of whom this is true;
blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.

– *Psalm 144*

Word

Ezekiel 19:10-14

“Your mother was like a vine in a vineyard
transplanted by the water,
fruitful and full of branches
from abundant water.
Its strongest stem became
a ruler’s scepter;
it towered aloft
among the thick boughs;
it stood out in its height
with its mass of branches.
But it was plucked up in fury,
cast down to the ground;
the east wind dried it up;
its fruit was stripped off,
its strong stem was withered;
the fire consumed it.
Now it is transplanted into the wilderness,
into a dry and thirsty land.
And fire has gone out from its stem,
has consumed its branches and fruit,
so that there remains in it no strong stem,
no scepter for ruling.

This is a lamentation, and it is used as a lamentation.

Prayer

We give thanks for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

(from the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Tuesday, 6 October 2020

Psalmody

Lord, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?

They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.

Part your heavens, Lord, and come down;
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
shoot your arrows and rout them.

Reach down your hand from on high;
deliver me and rescue me
from the mighty waters,
from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

I will sing a new song to you, my God;
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,
to the One who gives victory to kings,
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword deliver me;
rescue me from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

Then our sons in their youth
will be like well-nurtured plants,

and our daughters will be like pillars
carved to adorn a palace.

Our barns will be filled
with every kind of provision.

Our sheep will increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields;
our oxen will draw heavy loads.

There will be no breaching of walls,
no going into captivity,
no cry of distress in our streets.

Blessed is the people of whom this is true;
blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.

– *Psalm 144*

Word

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Prayer

We give thanks for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

(from the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Wednesday, 7 October 2020

Psalmody

Lord, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?

They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.

Part your heavens, Lord, and come down;
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
shoot your arrows and rout them.

Reach down your hand from on high;
deliver me and rescue me
from the mighty waters,
from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

I will sing a new song to you, my God;
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,
to the One who gives victory to kings,
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword deliver me;
rescue me from the hands of foreigners
whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

Then our sons in their youth
will be like well-nurtured plants,

and our daughters will be like pillars
carved to adorn a palace.

Our barns will be filled
with every kind of provision.

Our sheep will increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields;
our oxen will draw heavy loads.

There will be no breaching of walls,
no going into captivity,
no cry of distress in our streets.

Blessed is the people of whom this is true;
blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.

– *Psalm 144*

Word

Song of Songs 8:5-14

Who is that coming up from the wilderness,
leaning upon her beloved?

Under the apple tree I awakened you.

There your mother was in labor with you;
there she who bore you was in labor.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

*We have a little sister,
and she has no breasts.*

*What shall we do for our sister,
on the day when she is spoken for?*

*If she is a wall,
we will build upon her a battlement of silver;
but if she is a door,
we will enclose her with boards of cedar.*

*I was a wall,
and my breasts were like towers;
then I was in his eyes
as one who brings peace.*

*Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon;
he entrusted the vineyard to keepers;
each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.*

*My vineyard, my very own, is for myself;
you, O Solomon, may have the thousand,
and the keepers of the fruit two hundred!*

O you who dwell in the gardens,
my companions are listening for your voice;
let me hear it.

Make haste, my beloved,
and be like a gazelle
or a young stag
upon the mountains of spices!

Prayer

We give thanks for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted, Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden. Creative Spirit, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

(from the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Thursday, 8 October 2020

Psalmody

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

– *Psalm 23*

Word

1 Peter 5:1-5

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for

“God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.”

Prayer

God who established the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation. Amen.

(adapted from CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme, found in the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Friday, 9 October 2020

Psalmody

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

– *Psalm 23*

Word

James 4:4-10

Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says,

“God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.”

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Prayer

God who established the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God’s glory in creation. Amen.

(adapted from CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme, found in the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

Saturday, 10 October 2020

Psalmody

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

– *Psalm 23*

Word

Mark 2:18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

Prayer

God who established the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation. Amen.

(adapted from CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme, found in the 2020 Season of Creation Celebration Guide)

Our Father in heaven ...

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.