

A Special Live Stream Worship Service



Celebrating Creation April 25, 2020

Today we join Lutheran leaders and voices from around the country in a special service celebrating EARTH SUNDAY.

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to worship. We're glad you've found your way to Peace!

Today's service is offered by [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#), a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. The preacher for this service is Dr. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service is being Live Streamed throughout the country on April 25th, and is also being Live Streamed on our congregation's [YouTube Channel](#):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_kC390-EvxqHEpTQR-cxg/

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Dale Niehaus

WELCOME

Phoebe Morad

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Adrienne Strehlow

Rev. Vera McEwen

P We enter the song of Creation!

C **Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.**

P We enter the prayer of Creation!

C **Sky brings darkness and light, holds storms and the stars.**

P We enter the praise of Creation!

C **Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses.**

P We enter the silence of Creation!

C **Humanity between the ground and the heavens.**

P We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form, the maker of space.

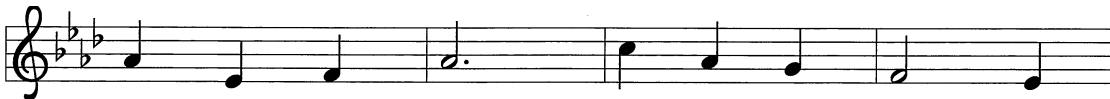
C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Martin Luther Lutheran Church

Earth and All Stars!

ELW # 731



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class - rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl - edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail,	wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp,	lute,	and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!	
Ath - lete	and	band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!	
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!	



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Rev. Patricia Wolf Hughes

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, calls forth Creation, evokes praise from Creation, and stirs life in Creation.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of righteousness and justice,

C **You have made the Earth and all that is in it, but we have failed to honor your good work. We do not recognize your presence among us, and our hardened hearts do not hear Creation’s cry. We have made your good land a desolation, and we dishonor your image in our neighbors. Forgive us, in your steadfast love, O God, for trampling your vineyards and polluting your sky. On your holy mountain, call us again to be stewards of your Earth and to join all Creation in songs of praise. Amen**

P Rejoice, for the Incarnate Word has come to you. Laying aside all heavenly glory, the Servant of all is obedient unto death to make of you and all the Earth a new Creation. Rejoice, for Christ, from whom nothing can separate you, + forgives you for all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the Earth raises you up to newness of life.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Dr. Nineen Sarras

P Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant of mercy was with every living creature. When your beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world’s people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and care, mercy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Rev. Kelsey Brown

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners Peter and John stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

PSALM 23 (Inclusive Bible)

Rev. Christyn Koschmann

YHWH, you are my shepherd –
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
You lead me beside restful waters:
You refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
For the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff –
They give me courage.
You spread a table for me
In the presence of my enemies,
And you anoint my head with oil –
My cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in your house, YHWH,
For days without end.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Rev. Cindy Jacobson

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

Deacon Sarah Bowers

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

Jesus said:] ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Harold Vanicek

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton

HYMN OF THE DAY

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

God Created Heaven and Earth

ELW #738



1 God cre - at - ed heav'n and earth, all things per - fect
2 Let us praise God's mer - cy great; for the Lord in
3 God's rich grace be - yond com - pare saves us all from



brought to birth; God's great pow'r made
hope we wait; God, who fash - ions
death's de - spair. All earth's crea - tures,



dark and light, earth re - volv - ing day and night.
all that lives, to each one a bless - ing gives.
small and great, praise God for that bless - ed state!

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Rev. Ben Sheets
Keith Keel
Lynette Todd

We believe in God who creates all things to live in harmony –
Heaven and Earth, Sea and Sky,
Sun and Moon, Fish and Birds,
Mountains and Valleys, Forests and Deserts,
All animals great and small, all human beings –
and cares for all creation as our perfect, loving parent.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,
Who came to reveal the depth of God's love for all creation,
and teach us to live under God's reign of justice, mercy, and compassion.
Who suffered death on the cross to save creation from oppression, violence, and
hatred,
and free us from brokenness, sin, and self-conceit.
Who raises us with him into new life
to experience joy, peace, and unity with God and all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who calls, equips, empowers, and helps us
To reject hatred, oppression, and violence against anyone,
and to extend justice and mercy, love and compassion
to all created things – Earth, Creatures, and Humans –
regardless of how similar or different we are from one another.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Lutherans Restoring Creation Board

OFFERING

*Thank you for your continued support of Lutherans Restoring Creation and your local congregation. For more information on how to give online, please go to **LutheransRestoringCreation.org** and click “Donate.” Or send donation to LRC c/o Phoebe Morad, 22 Waldron Road, Braintree, MA 02184.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Locke

P Loving Creator,

C you brought us forth from the very earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings, and compel us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother mountain, our mother earth, and all our family in Creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us. Amen

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Revs. Chelsea & Mandy Achterberg

Petitions are offered that end with:

P Creator God,

C hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER

Deacon Darcy Mittlestaedt

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 forever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

Wes Koschmann

P The God of all creation: Of flowers and trees, of butterflies and bees, of squirrels and mountain lions, bless you, keep you, and strengthen you for the work of loving all Creation. In the name of the + Triune God.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG
God of the Sparrow

Rev. Emily Meyer
 ELW #740



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

DISMISSAL

Phoebe Morad

P Go in peace. Care for Creation.
C Thanks be to God.



Please join us next week at Peace when we resume our local Live Stream Worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN ED/FAITH FORMATION

ADULT SUNDAY CLASS @ 8:45am

This Sunday we began conversation on the book, *The River than Made Seattle*, by BJ Cummings. Ms. Cummings will be one of our guests in June for our Season of Creation, whose theme is RIVERS. If you'd like to join the class via ZOOM, please let Pastor Erik know and he will send you an invitation on Sunday morning.

ABC'S, THE BIBLE, AND YOU—Hey, kids, are you age 3 through 2nd grade

And do you like stories? Join Julie and Melanie on Zoom for a Bible story each week. You'll also get to do crafts and sing fun, silly songs, and see you friends. Sounds like a blast! Class will run from 9:45 to 10:15 or so.

WHIRL KIDS calling all 2nd to 5th graders. Chris will meet you on Zoom for Whirl videos, digging into the Bible, and talking about life together. Don't miss out! Class will run from 9:45 to 10:30.

YOUTH ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45. So what did happen after the Resurrection? How did the church start? Where did the disciples go? We will be exploring these ideas Sunday mornings through Kahoot games.
follow.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S CREATION CELEBRATION

Thank you to those whose efforts made this worship service possible, especially:

Dale Niehaus, organist at Ascension Lutheran Church in Paradise Valley, AZ

The Reverend Adrienne Strehlow, pastor at Ocean Park Lutheran Church in Ocean Park, WA

The Reverend Vera McEwan, pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church in Bush Prairie, WA

Bob & Theresa Kaat-Wohlert, members of Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, MO

The Reverend Patricia Wolf Hughes, pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Salem, OR

The Reverend Doctor Niveen Sarras, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau in Wausau, WI

The Reverend Kelsey Brown, pastor at Jehu's Table in Brooklyn, NY

The Reverend Cindy Jacobsen, pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Woburn, MA

Deacon Sarah Bowers, member of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA from Pomaria, SC

The Reverend Harold Vanicek, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Marble Falls, TX

The Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Cantor Tony Cruz and the choir and ringers at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, FL

The Reverend Ben Sheets, pastor at Lanai Union Church in Lanai City, Hawaii

Keith Keel and Lynette Todd, members of St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD

The Reverend Louis Tillman, pastor at St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD

The Reverend Chelsea Achterberg, pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO

The Reverend Mandy Achterberg, pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Northglenn, CO

Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt, Bishop's Associate of the Southwestern Texas Synod

Wes Koschmann, member of Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, MO

The Reverend Emily Meyer, pastor at the Ministry Lab in Saint Paul, MN

The Reverend Carrie Nettles, chaplain at Julie Valentine Center in Greenville, SC

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Affirmation of Faith written by the Rev. Adrienne Strehlow

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