



CELEBRATING OUR EARTH:
A Gift from God

Earth Day Worship
Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church
April 21st, 2024

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of your creation, guided by the path of your love.

Welcome/Announcements

Call To Worship

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

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

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

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

Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth (Vs 1, 2, 5)

ELW #879

Confession and Forgiveness

C: God of Perfect Rest, we confess before you and one-another that we have failed to love you and our neighbor fully, and that we have tried to cover our sins by our own power. We have run busily from one activity to the next, one possession to the next, one achievement to the next, and one love to the next, all to avoid admitting our need for your grace. Uncurl us from our self-obsession by the love of your Son. Forgive our sins, help us to accept your love, and guide us on right paths for the sake of the world you so deeply love. Amen.

L: God Creator, who is rich in mercy and abundant in love, hears our prayers and crosses eternity to come alongside us. It is my honor and delight as a fellow saint and sinner, created, redeemed, and loved by the Creator, + Redeemer, and Sanctifier to announce to you the complete forgiveness of your sins and your birth into new life through Jesus Christ. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray, **C: 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.**

Psalm 8

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are humans that you are mindful of them, **mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God **and crowned them with glory and honor.**

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

A Reading From: Genesis 1:26 - 2:3

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

This Is My Father's World

ELW #824

Confession of Faith (A New Creed (1968) United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Intercessory Prayers

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:

L: Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you commanded us to care for it. Your works declare glory and strength, and you call us to praise and reverence. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: As we join together in celebration of the Earth, we know that there are many things that foil our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the environment and conservation are often associated with differing views. For the openness to learn about environmental issues and concerns, we pray: Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: In such a great and complex world, we often feel so small and helpless, as if what we do has no impact on the rest of your creation. Yet we know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray: Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices, silenced as they are by the realities of global life. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray: Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: As the snow melts and the water rises and brings the green of spring, it reminds us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For our own community, our city and state, we pray: Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those in our midst who suffer from sickness and death, we pray: Creator God, **C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of the sun and the moon of the mountains, deserts and plains; God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams; God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air; God of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth, We are formed by Christ into your people, called to bring the world into your marvelous light. As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological vocation. We are entrusted with caring for this Earth which you have created. Help us to love and respect it, to repair what we have damaged, to care for what you have made good and holy. Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our mind, our hearts, and our ways. Let us be the change we pray for, bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation which is to come. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering & Make-A-Change Offering

Holy Communion

*Words of Institution

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

ALL: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

Benediction

L: 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

C: Amen

Closing Song

Have You Thanked The Lord?

ELW #829

Dismissal

L: Go in peace, care for all creation,

**C: By sharing the Good News of God's Word and serving the community and the world.
Thanks be to God.**

Bulletin Donated:

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)

To share the Good News of God's Word and to serve the community and the world.

Matthew 22:39 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord's real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ's name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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