

Welcome to worship at ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Order of Worship for April 25, 2021



A service of worship by Lutherans Restoring Creation

www.LutheransRestoringCreation.org

MINISTRIES

Read about
events at Zion
in the
weekly "eMessenger,"
on the Zion website at
www.zlcw.org.

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WELCOME VISITORS!

Please complete a
visitor registration card
(located in the back foyer)
and give it to an usher,
or drop it in
the offering plate.

GATHERING

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship

Dale Niehaus
Phoebe Morad
Rev. Adrienne Strehlow
Rev. Vera McEwen

We enter the song of Creation!

Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.

We enter the prayer of Creation!

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

We enter the praise of Creation!

Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses.

We enter the silence of Creation!

Humanity between the ground and the heavens.

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

Amen.

Hymn, "Earth and All Stars!"

Martin Luther Lutheran Church



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!



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!



Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing ar - my!
 Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling dry leaves!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime-stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!



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!



Refrain

He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Confession & Forgiveness

Rev. Patricia Wolf Hughes

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of righteousness and justice,

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.

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 all your sins. Rejoice, for the One whose name is majestic in all the Earth raises you up to newness of life.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Sovereign of the universe.....through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading, Acts 4:5-12

Rev. Kelsey Brown

Psalm 23

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

Gospel, John 10:11-18

Deacon Sarah Bowers

Children’s Sermon

Rev. Harold Vanicek

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton

Hymn, “God Created Heaven and Earth”

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church



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.

Sharing of the Peace

Lutherans Restoring Creation Board

Offering

For more information, please go to LutheransRestoringCreation.org and click “Donate.” Or send donations to LRC c/o Phoebe Morad, 22 Waldron Road, Braintree MA 02184.

Offering Prayer

Rev. Sarah Locke

Loving Creator,

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 Prayers

Revs. Chelsea and Mandy Achterberg

Creator God,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Deacon Darcy Mittlestaedt

SENDING

Benediction

Wes Koschmann

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.

Amen

Closing Song, "God of the Sparrow"

Rev. Emily Meyer



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

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

Postlude

A/V Booth: Laurence Wright

Ushers/Greeters: Liz Hardwick and Deb Lalim

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 McEwen, 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 at 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 at All Saints Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO
The Reverend Mandy Achterberg, pastor at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Northglenn, CO
Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt, Bishop's Associate for 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

Lutherans Restoring Creation is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We accomplish this by cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth and neighbor who proclaim God's promise of hope and healing for all.

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning and for supporting us in this important creation-care work.

Board of Directors of Lutherans Restoring Creation

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