



# SEASON OF CREATION

## Opening prayer

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.

(Hildegard of Bingen, 13th Century)

## Opening sentences

One            We gather in the image of the Creator  
**Many**        **who is a community of love.**  
One            We gather in the name of the Redeemer  
**Many**        **who reconciles all of creation.**  
One            We gather in the presence of the Life Giver  
**Many**        **who inspires new life and renews it.**

Song (Sing a hymn that praises God as Creator.)

## Psalm 36:5-9

One            Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,  
                  your faithfulness to the clouds.  
**Many**        **For with you is the fountain of life**  
One            Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the  
                  great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O God.  
**Many**        **For with you is the fountain of life**  
One            How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
                  All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
**Many**        **For with you is the fountain of life**  
One            They feast on the abundance of your house,  
                  and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
**Many**        **For with you is the fountain of life**  
One            For with you is the fountain of life;  
**Many**        **In your light we see light.**

## Confession

One            “We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now”  
(Romans 8:19-22). And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,  
**Many**        **We confess our overuse of transportation,**  
One            the need for speed overriding the healing of the Earth’s fever.  
**Many**        **We confess our hyper-consumption of food and energy,**  
One            producing meat and electrons on demand, but too often exhausting and  
                  poisoning the backyards of the poorest.  
**Many**        **We confess our soaps, our cosmetics, our synthetic clothes,**  
One            ignoring that their unseen, plastic microbeads run into our streams and  
                  oceans, now residing in fish, and probably in some of us.

**Many** **We confess our junk, the piles of what we throw away,**  
 One the sewage smelling of our lack of concern.  
**Many** **We confess our mindset,**  
 One too often concentrating on our ability to buy rather than asking what we  
**Many** really need, what our world needs.  
**We confess our unfaithfulness, not loving you with our whole heart and**  
 One **strength and mind,**  
**Many** not loving our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves,  
 One **not caring for the creation you have given us as a gift.**  
**Many** Turn us from our cursed practices  
**Many** **to life that is really living, giving ourselves away, following Jesus Christ,**  
**in whose name we pray. Amen.**

(Adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)

Reading of Scripture Matthew 6:25-33

Prayers

One We pray in thanksgiving 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. “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Creative Spirit,  
**Many** **enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**  
 One O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth. Creative Spirit,  
**Many** **enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**  
 One Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Creative Spirit,  
**Many** **enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**  
 One We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.” Creative Spirit,  
**Many** **enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.**

(Adapted from a Prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*)

Benediction

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.

Adapted from the 2018 Season of Creation Guide

