



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 electronics 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
really need, what our world needs.
Many We confess our unfaithfulness, not loving you with our whole heart and
strength and mind,
One not loving our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves,
Many not caring for the creation you have given us as a gift.
One 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

