

Liturgy for the Season of Creation – Peace with Creation September 21 – Act

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare your glory O God, *
and the firmament shows your handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun, *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

Confession

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and all Creation.

All **Holy and merciful God,
we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth
as you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant This is the day the Creator has made
People Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
All Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon for Creation

Officiant The heavens and earth rejoice: Come let us sing a new song.

Invitatory Psalm for Creation

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Lessons

Lesson: Cole Arthur Riley

Have you ever stood in the presence of a tree and listened to the wind pass through its leaves? The roots and body stand defiant and unmoved. But listen. The branches stretch out their tongues and whisper shhhhhh.

Trees make symphonies without their trunks ever moving, almost as if the stillness of their centers amplifies their sound. The tree may appear still, but if you look closer, you'll see that each leaf flails with breath. The tree may seem alone, but plow deep and you'll unearth its secret gnarled roots—the grotesque and the beautiful—creeping in the soil, reaching toward the ancestors.

Thomas Merton said, "No writing on the solitary, meditative dimensions of life can say anything that has not already been said better by the wind in the pine trees." I hold this close.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him. As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table. But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

When Jesus heard it, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and learn what this means: I want mercy and not sacrifice. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

Canticle

A Song of Wisdom *Sapientia liberavit*
Wisdom 10:15-19,20b-21

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors *
a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.
To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, *
and led them by a marvelous way;
She was their shelter by day *
and a blaze of stars by night.
She brought them across the Red Sea, *
she led them through mighty waters;

But their enemies she swallowed in the waves *
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.
And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, *
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, *
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

The Creed

A Confession of St. Patrick

Note: This creed is attributed to the 5th century missionary and bishop Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland

All

**Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.
He has his dwelling in heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.
He inspires all, he gives life to all, he surpasses all, he upholds all.
He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands, and dry islands in the sea, and stars to serve the greater lights. He has a Son, coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father, neither is the Father older than the Son.
And the Holy Spirit breathes in them. Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Prayers

Officiant	May God be with all Creation.
People	And restore us to harmony.
Officiant	Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader	Our Creator in heaven
People	You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans
Leader	Hallowed by your name
People	By the care we take of your Creation
Leader	Your kingdom come
People	All that you see is good
Leader	Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven
People	Your will to till and care
Leader	Give us this day our daily bread
People	That all may have enough to live life in fullness
Leader	Forgive us our trespasses
People	Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations
Leader	As we forgive those who trespass against us
People	By reconciliation with justice and peace.
Leader	Lead us not into temptation
People	The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

Leader	And deliver us from evil
People	The evil of destroying your gift of creation
Leader	For yours is the kingdom
People	Yours, Lord, not ours
Leader	The power and the glory
People	In the cross and resurrection
Leader	For ever and ever
People	You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen. (So be it.)

Suffrages

Leader	Show your creatures mercy, O Creator;
People	And grant all Creation your restoration,
Leader	Clothe your beloved ones with all goodness;
People	Let your creatures sing with joy.
Leader	Give peace, O Creator, in all the world;
People	For only in you can we live in harmony.
Leader	Keep every tribe and community under your wing;
People	And guide us in the way of universal communion.
Leader	Let your way of love be known upon the Earth,
People	Your uniting wholeness among all divisions.
Leader	Let not those in need, O God, be lost;
People	Nor the hope of the endangered be taken away.
Leader	Put in us new soft hearts of flesh, O God;
People	And inspire us with your Holy Breath who sustains us.

Collect

Officiant	Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
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Intercessions

Intercessory Prayers for Creation

Loving God, even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she places her young near God, who listens to every living thing,
Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, help us provide refuge to every animal and plant with whom we live.
Help us be attentive to all you have made.

God, in whom all creation subsists,
Help us listen as you do.

Loving God, when Jesus cried out and gave up his Spirit, the earth shook and the rocks split.
You are known by the whole of Creation that listens to you.
God, to whom all creation responds,
Help us respond to you.

Loving God, help us hear and know you just as the earth and rocks do.
Help us to learn from the way in which we see Creation recognize your glorious beauty.
God, to whom all creation responds,
Help us respond to you.

Loving God, you are present in your Creation and seek to heal her wounds.
You can be found walking in the garden. Open our eyes to see you, the gardener.
God, who is present with your Creation,
Help us be present too.

Loving God, we often abandon your creation and cause its wounds.
Help us to follow in your footsteps and learn to walk in the garden like you.
God, who is present with your creation,
Help us be present too.

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth:
Teach us to listen.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it.
Reveal to us the ways in which we have failed to hear your voice in how we treat the earth.
God, who listens to every living thing,
Help us listen as you do. Amen.

Concluding Sentence

In Christ all things hold together. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. **Amen.** *Colossians 1:17b, 19*