

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Bruce Brackman Faith Life Care Coordinator Cell phone: 816-520-1825

Website: smlcestes.org, Pastor's email: Pastor@smlcestes.org



Earth Day – April 21, 2024

Prelude: “Coming Home” by Jeanne Cotler

Take the time to center heart and mind on God's presence in worship.

(Please stand and face the Baptismal Font)

Call to Worship

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all that dwells therein.

We live in God's world, we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form, and with all our sisters and brothers.

God saw all that was made, and behold, it was very good.

(Please turn and face the Cross)

Processional Hymn: "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" Hymn 835



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

(Please be seated)

Act of Confession

God's creation is being abused and violated.

We as human beings often see ourselves as separate from creation, not woven into the web of life.

We are quick to blame and judge others rather than accept responsibility for the part that we play in destroying our environment.

We use more than our share of earth's resources.

We are responsible for massive pollution of earth, water, and sky.

We thoughtlessly drop garbage around our homes, schools, churches, places of work, fields, and places of play. Much of the world struggles for survival; good food, clean water, adequate homes.

We squander resources on technologies of destruction. Bombs come before bread. We are killing the earth:

as mountains of garbage pile up, as uranium and nuclear wastes threaten life for centuries to come, as we use trees faster than they can regrow, and as our precious agricultural land loses its fertility.

We are killing the waters:

as toxic chemicals and human wastes are dumped into lakes, rivers, and oceans, as fish and plants die from acid rain, and as groundwater is poisoned.

We are killing the skies:

as the global atmosphere heats up from chemical gases, as the ozone layer is destroyed, and as clean air is poisoned by car and truck pollution.

We confess these sins to you our God, Creator of the universe. We have not loved the earth as you love it.

(Silent meditation)

Assurance of Pardon

Know that our God is a God of love as well as of judgment. God promises to be with us as we struggle to be faithful. Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Grace

Holy and great Creator, we recognize as your people that these problems will not easily be solved. Give us the courage to truly repent and change our ways. May we genuinely ask for forgiveness, from you, from the earth, and from future generations. May we live this day faithfully loving your creation as you love it. May we walk together toward the future with hope.

Experiencing the Word

First Reading: Job 12:7-10

⁷"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. ⁹Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? ¹⁰In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you

anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Second Reading: Chief Seattle

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children – that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself....”

Third Reading: Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind 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."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God 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."

Gospel: John 10:11-18

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 10.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: "You and I — Co-Creators"

Hymn of the Day: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" Hymn 733



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Act of Thanksgiving

We are thankful for the wisdom among us who remind us of what it means to respect the earth and to live in community with one another.

Thank you Creator and Giver of wisdom.

We are thankful for the insights of the native brothers and sisters who draw on their tradition and teach us about the sacredness of all creation and how to live in kinship with it..

Thank you Creator and Giver of insight.

We are thankful for the inspiration of those among us who have already begun to live their lives in ways that show a caring for the earth, water, and the skies.

Thank you Creator and Giver of inspiration.

We thank you for all signs of hope that keep us from despairing and point us toward new ways of living:

for galaxies stretching out beyond all imagining and for the planet that is our home;

for creating us in your image and inviting us to live in harmony with you and in peace with Your children;

for people of vision who have taught us ways of justice and love; and for our friend Jesus, who points us to your reign.

For all these gifts, and much more, we thank you.

Intercessory Prayers

Each petition ends: God of grace

Response is **“hear our prayer.”**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Anthem “Now the Green Blade” arr by Paul Leddington Wright

Receiving of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

O God, we bring these gifts like red raspberries in a cup. Like dandelions in a bouquet brought by a six year-old. They never seem like enough, and we are never quite enough to get the captives freed, to get the people fed, to get the good news spread. So we offer them for your blessing, confident in your grace, which makes raspberries a feast and dandelions a fragrant garden.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

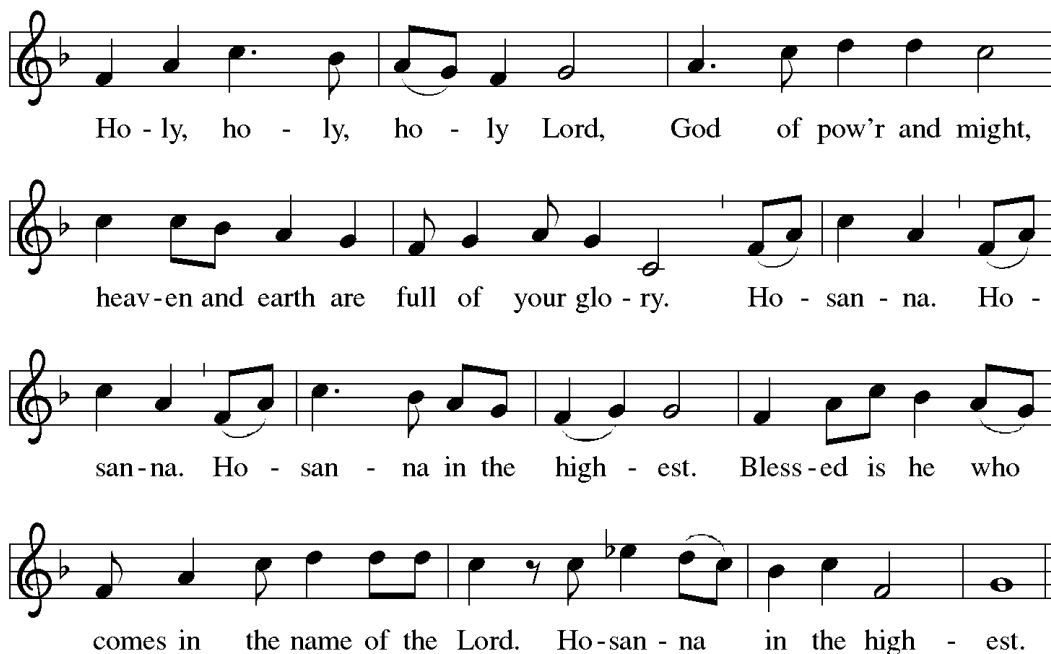
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

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: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 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. With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, and his promise to be with us always as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Communion Hymn: "This is My Father's World", Hymn 824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Post Communion Prayer

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

Benediction

The earth is precious to God, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator. So love it ... care for it ... and with all your mind, with all your heart, preserve it for your children, and love ...as God loves us all.

(Chief Seattle, 1855)

Ministry Highlights

Sending Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living", Hymn 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Dismissal

Postlude "Sing Out, Earth and Skies" by Marty Haugen



Those who ministered this day

	Today	April 28
Accompanist:	Julie Varilek	Ann Knipping
Director:	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
Lector:	Paula Stensvaag	Linda Schlitt
Ushers:	Jan & Larry Kilgore	
Teller:	Ralie Deffenbaugh	Ralie Deffenbaugh
Altar Care:	Nancy Matson	
Comm. Asst.:	Paula Stensvaag	
AV Engineer:	Bruce Adams	Robbie Telfer
Flower Sponsor:	Linda Schlitt	Tara McConnell
Flower Arranger:	Paula Stensvaag	Paula Stensvaag

This week's calendar

Sunday, April 21	9am Sunday Worship 10:15am Why Church in the Library 10:15am Chittester Book Study in Fellowship Hall
Monday, April 22	3pm Community Bible Study
Tuesday, April 23	11am Fire Inspection & Monitoring
Wednesday, April 24	8am Sacred Space (online) 9am Change outside locks at church 4pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 25	1pm Quilters

Our Worship is Recorded Contact Bruce Brackman if you have concerns.

Copyright Information: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23178. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S. One License A-107376. Hymn imprints G.I.A. Publications Inc. Subscription #8943. Used by permission. All rights reserved.