

Earth Day Liturgy

Opening sentence and responsorial

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7)

Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it;

Shout, O depths of the earth;

Break forth into singing, O mountains

O forest, and every tree in it.

For the Lord has redeemed Jacob

and will be glorified in Israel (Isaiah 44:23)

Hymn: Psalm 148 – music: Robert Bergner (or CP 355, CP 317)

1. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above
Praise him all his angels, praise him all his heavenly host.
2. Praise the Lord from the earth, fire and hail and snow and ice.
Sea creatures, oceans depths, gales that obey his voice.

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him all you shining stars.
Mountain, hill, fruit tree and forest tame and wild, bird and beast,

Praise him you highest heavens, praise him waters above the sky.
Kings and princes, all people sing praises to the Lord.

Collect

Almighty God, creator of all things, every plant, every rock, every grain of sand proclaims your glory.¹ May we, stewards of this magnificent Earth, learn to care for our blue-green home, and all creatures who share it, with the same sensitivity, the same mercy, the same generosity, the same love you have

shown to us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 1. J. Birch, FaithAndWorship.com

Amen

First reading Genesis 1:26-31

A reading from the book of Genesis

Then God said, "Let us make people in our own 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." So God created people in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, sixth day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 136:1-9, 26 – sung, setting Robert Bergner



2. O give thanks to the God **of** gods,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever.
3. O give thanks to the Lord **of** lords,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
4. Who alone does **great** wonders,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
5. Who by understanding made **the** heavens,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
6. Who spread out the earth on **the** waters,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
7. Who made **the** great lights,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
8. The sun to rule over **the** day,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
9. The moon and stars to rule over **the** night,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever;
26. O give thanks to the God **of** heaven,
for his steadfast love **en**dures forever.

Closing Hymn: The Trees of the Field, CP 662

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace
The mountains and hills will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace
The mountains and hills will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

Second reading: Romans 8:18-25

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Fairest Lord Jesus (CP 619, BB 375)

(note: the text for this hymn will vary depending on which hymnal is used)

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| <p>1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature
O thou of God and man the Son
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honour
Thou my soul's glory, joy and crown</p> <p>2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the
woodlands
Robed in the blooming garb of spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing</p> | <p>3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the
moonlight
And fair the twinkling starry host
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines
purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast</p> <p>4. All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly
Wondrously, Jesus is found in thee
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer
Than thou, my Saviour, are to me</p> |
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Gospel: Luke 12:22-34

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying

add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, the maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he arose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, he is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayers

Heavenly Father, your spirit moved upon the face of the waters at creation. May that same spirit move upon, among and within us now, drawing forth a new creation – new hearts of faith, a new community of love, a new revelation of your glorious presence. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Luminous God, in the beginning, you called forth light from darkness and saw that it was good. Shine, now, that same light upon us that we might see clearly despite the darkness of this world, that our minds might be filled with understanding of you and your ways, that we might carry your transforming light to others. Lord in your mercy

Communion Hymn and/or Anthem

Morning Has Broken, CP 3 (For the Fruits of All Creation, CP 249, would also be appropriate here.)

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| 1. Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for the springing fresh from the word | 2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass |
| 3. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day | |

Suggested Anthem: Gaelic Blessing, by John Rutter (music available at sheetmusicplus.com)

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

Prayer after Communion and Blessing

Jesus Christ, the first fruits of all creation, the one through whom and for whom all things were made, gave his life that we, and all creation, might have life in abundance.

May we, therefore, go out in joy
and be led back in peace;

may the mountains and hills burst into song before us
and all the trees of field clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always.

Amen

Therefore, with all of your holy people and with all creation, we sing the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for sending us your son Jesus Christ, who, on the night he was betrayed to suffering and death, took bread, blessed it and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood, shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Gracious God,
**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they might become the body and blood of Jesus Christ; and that we, feeding upon these holy things, might be transformed to share in his divine life. Pour your Spirit upon us and upon all of your Creation, that we might be reborn and renewed in the wholeness and glory of your unfailing love.

Amen

Now, as our Saviour taught us, we pray

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 for ever. Amen.

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your Kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Hear our prayer

Creator God, you sculpted and named the skies, the seas and the dry land. You called forth vegetation and fruit trees of every kind. Make us properly thankful for the beauty and plenty of your creation – for vast expanses of fresh and salt water; for mountains and plains, deserts and forests; for the brilliance of the sky; for colourful, sweet-scented flowers and towering trees; for the bounty of the harvest that sustains us. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Boundless God, you set the sun, the moon and countless stars in the sky to preside over day and night and to be signs for days and weeks, seasons and years. Help us to see and understand the signs that you place before us, signs that guide us ever closer to you and to your kingdom. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Abundant God, you created all that has life – the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, every creature that crawls and walks upon the earth. Open our eyes to the finely-woven interdependence of your creation – our common fate with the polar bear, the blue whale, the monarch butterfly and the common sparrow. Give us discernment, strength and patience as we seek and create a healthier, cleaner, more sustainable way of life. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Sovereign God, on the sixth day you fashioned woman and man in your own image. You blessed them and appointed them stewards of all creation. Teach us, today, to be just that – stewards and caretakers of all that you have made. Teach us to see as you see – to behold and see that everything you have made is, indeed, very good. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God, on the seventh day you rested; you blessed that day and sanctified it. May we, too, learn to rest from our labour. May we take time for prayer and quiet reflection, allowing ourselves and all of creation to breathe and to be restored, opening ourselves to your presence, your blessing and your sanctification. Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Almighty God, gather these our humble prayers together with the prayers of all your faithful people, hear them with your ever-merciful ear and render them to us as might be best for us. All this we pray in the name of your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Offertory sentence

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; In faith and thanksgiving, offer to God that which belongs to God.

Offertory Hymn: How Great Thou Art, CP 423

1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*
3. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*
4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain*

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, from the bounty of your creation, you have given richly to us. Accept this our meager offering in return, rendering it worthy through your grace and love. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

(The following confession, adapted from that of the Iona Community, may be used.)

Holy God, you are here, in earth, sea and sky, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet. Your presence is 'round us, and we give you thanks. You we have not touched, but trampled, in creation; you we have not met, but missed, in one another; you we have not received, but rejected, in the poor. Forgive us.

(The following absolution may be used.)

"There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." May the Father of all mercy forgive us, draw us forth into life and peace, and make real the hope that we, and all creation, be released from bondage and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Romans 8)

Amen

Eucharistic Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Breaking of the Bread

(The following Eucharistic Prayer may be used, or Eucharistic Prayer 4, BAS, page 201)

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

It is indeed right to give thanks and praise to you, Almighty God, creator of all that is.

Your spirit covered the face of the deep; your voice called light forth from darkness; your words fixed the stars, carved the earth, filled the seas and fashioned creatures of every kind; your breath gave life to woman and man, bearers of your own image. And, though humanity turned from you, exposing your Creation to decay, destruction and death, you remained faithful, gathering a people together, delivering them to the land of promise, guiding them firmly, but graciously, by the yoke of your Commandments.

In the fullness of time, you brought Salvation to them, and to all people, a new Creation, through the Incarnation of your son, Jesus. By his blessed life, death and resurrection, you fully revealed yourself and opened the way of your eternal Kingdom.