



# SEASON OF CREATION

## Prayer Service for the Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth

### Opening prayer

We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its creatures!

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

We gather in the image of the Creator  
**who is a community of love.**

We gather in the name of the Redeemer  
**who reconciles all of creation.**

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver  
**who inspires new life and renews it.**

### Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my Soul!

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God; The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. Then people go out to their work, to their labor until evening.

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal;

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the Earth, wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

The Earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

**All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.**

**May the glory of the Lord endure forever!**

### **Confession** *(based on Leviticus 25:1-25)*

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life.

Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time.

In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest.

But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits.

Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world.

The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify.

Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security.

We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew.

And so we confess. God of mercy and justice,

You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

**We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.**

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

**We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.**

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

**We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.**

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

**We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.**

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is Yours, and everything in it.

**We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.**

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbours, animals, and replenish the Earth.

**We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.**

You call us to fairness and justice.

**We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.**

Turn us from fear and mistrust,

**and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26–27).

**Amen.**

*(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation)*

## **Readings/Reflection**

### **Profession of faith**

We belong to the Creator in whose image we are all made.

**In God we are breathing, in God we are living, in God we share the life of all creation.**

We belong to Jesus Christ, the true icon of God and of humanity.

**In him God is breathing, in him God is living, through him we are reconciled.**

We belong to the Holy Spirit, who gives us new life and strengthens our faith.

**In the Spirit love is breathing, in the Spirit truth is living, the breath of God always moves us.**

We belong to the Holy Trinity, who is one in all and Three-in-One.

**In God we are all made, in Christ we are all saved, in the Spirit we are all united.**

*(Per Harling)*

### **Prayers**

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.

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

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,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

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,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

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,  
**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.  
**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.  
**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Creative Spirit,  
**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.**

*(adapted from A prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis, Laudato Si)*

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

May God who established the dance of creation, Who marvelled 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. **Amen**

*(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)*