

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Season of Creation: A Service of Holy  
Communion  
Leader's Guide**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**(begins at 10:10a)**

**Opening Sentences**

**Pastor Dustin (begins at 10:20a)**

P. We gather in the image of the Creator

**A. who is a community of love.**

P. We gather in the name of the Redeemer

**A. who reconciles all of creation.**

P. We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

**A. who inspires new life and renews it.**

**Sung Response**

**The Earth is Yours by Michael Gungor**

**A. Holy, Holy! Holy, Holy, Lord**

**The earth is yours, and singing...**

**Holy, Holy! Holy, Holy, Lord**

**The earth is yours, The earth is yours!**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P. 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.

P. And so we confess. God of mercy and justice, You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

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

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

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

- P. You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.  
**A. We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.**
- P. You affirm that our security is found in enough.  
**A. We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.**
- P. You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is Yours, and everything in it.  
**A. We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.**
- P. You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbors, animals, and replenish the Earth.  
**A. We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.**
- P. You call us to fairness and justice.  
**A. We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbors as ourselves.**
- P. Turn us from fear and mistrust,  
**A. 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.**
- P. 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.  
**A. Amen.** *(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation.)*

## **Gathering Hymn**

***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee***

## **Greeting**

- P. The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**A. And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **First Reading**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

AM. Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

### **Musical Meditation**

**(roughly 3 minutes)**

## **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

P. The Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**A. Glory to you, O Lord.**

P. Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P. This, my siblings in Christ, is the Gospel of our Lord.

**A. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon Intro**

**Rev. Dustin Wright**

**Sermon**

**Sermon Outro**

**Hymn of the Day**

***For the Beauty of the Earth***

## **Blessing of Our Community Harvest Table & Expanded Bread of Life Food Pantry**

- Introduction from Pastor Dustin
- Remarks from Asm. Santabarbara
- Remarks from Urban Farming Fellow Sarah Olochnowicz

P. Friends in Christ: Today on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we gather to bless/dedicate our Community Harvest Table and Expanded Bread of Life Food Pantry to the praise and glory of God. Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for those who labor in our expanded Bread of Life Food Pantry and Rev. Richard Rieger Memorial Harvest Gardens and we ask you to bless the fruits of their work. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Greetings from Trinity Reformed**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

- P. We ask that you lift up your prayers in the comments section of Facebook Live (or in your hearts) at this time.
- P. Hear us, O God
- A. Your mercy is great.**

## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

- P. Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school under such difficult circumstances, we ask your blessing on the backpacks being readied in homes across our community this morning, and even more so on the children who will wear them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for nature, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend. We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world. We lift up in our particular our young people at Messiah and Trinity in silent prayer at this time.
- P. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. Send your blessing also on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **Response to God's Call: Micah 6:8**

### **Peace**

- P. And may the peace of Christ be with you always.
- A. And also with you.**
- P. Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

### **Announcements**

*Announcements may be shared at this time.*

# MEAL

## Offering

P. At this time, if you'd like to make an online gift using [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) or via mail to Messiah, feel free to do so.

## Offering Prayer

AM. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A. **Amen.**

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Lord's Prayer

P. God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

### Lord's Prayer Video

A. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

- P. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

- A. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

- P. Even when we cannot be physically together, we are one in Christ Jesus united around a common table. Indeed, at this table, Jesus gathers us all together: the humble and the proud, the joyful and the grieving, the pious and the profane, those of strong faith and those who only long for faith, to everyone, without exception. Come siblings in faith, and join in Spirit filled community!

## **Distribution of the Sacrament**

*At this time, all may share Holy Communion amongst their families. A brief musical reflection can be played here, perhaps with shots of the Community Harvest Table.*

## **Post Communion Blessing**

- P. The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen you, and keep you in God's Grace. Amen.

- A. Amen.**

## **Prayer After Communion**

AM. We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P. Mothering God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**A. Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

***God of Grace and God of Mercy***

## **Benediction**

P. 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.

*(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)*

## **Postlude**