

# JUSTICE & JOY



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday April 18, 2021

Assembly Weekend

Proverbs 21:15, Matthew 22, Luke 10

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## + LITANY FOR CREATION +

L: For the marvelous grace of your Creation, we pour out our thanks to You, our God.

C: We praise you, O Lord  
for plants growing in earth and water,  
for life inhabiting lakes and seas,  
for life creeping in soils and land,  
for creatures living in wetlands and waters,  
for life flying above earth and sea,  
for animals dwelling in woods and fields.

L: How many and wonderful are your works, our God! In wisdom you have made them all!

C: But we confess, dear Lord,  
As creatures privileged with care and keeping of Your Creation that we have abused Your Creation gifts through arrogance, ignorance, and greed.  
We confess, Lord, that we often are unaware of how deeply we have hurt Your good earth and its marvelous gifts.  
We confess that we are often unaware of how our abuse of creation has also been an abuse of ourselves.  
For our wrongs, Lord, we ask forgiveness. We offer our repentance. We promise to reverence Your Creation as a gracious gift entrusted to us by You, our God. We promise anew to be stewards and not pillagers of what You have entrusted to us. We offer our covenant with creation to pledge our commitment to care for Your good Earth.

L: Creator God,  
You have given us every reason to learn and promote this wisdom of lives lived in harmony with Creation. May You daily be present with us, gracing our service, our loving, our striving, through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen

## + GATHERING SONG +

### + GREETING +

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### + PRAYER OF THE DAY +

O God, you form all humanity to bear your divine image, and you intend for everyone to live together in harmonious dignity. We pray for all people, whether ourselves or others, who suffer the cruelties of racial or ethnic prejudice. Grant your spirit of power to all who are oppressed. Give healing to victims, of violence, protection to the vulnerable and abused, better housing and worthy employment to the mistreated, courage to the fearful, a remedy for rage, strength to parents and caregivers, and hope to children and youth. Purge the privileged of their sense of superiority, and lead church and society to foster communities of equity and diversity; through Jesus Christ, our loving Savior. **Amen.**

## + SCRIPTURE +

### **Psalm 33:5**

He loves justice and right (sedaqah and mishpat)  
The earth is full of the kindness of the LORD

### **Psalm 85:11**

Kindness and truth shall meet  
justice and peace shall kiss (sedeqah ... shalom)

### **Proverbs 21:15**

When justice is done, (mishpat)  
it is a joy to the righteous, (sedaqah)  
but dismay to evildoers

### **Isaiah 1:17**

Learn to do good, make justice (mishpat) your aim:  
redress the wronged; hear the orphans's plea, defend the widow

### **Zephaniah 2:3**

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth,  
who have observed his law (mishpat).  
Seek justice (sedeq), seek humility

### **Amos 5**

But let justice roll down like waters,(mishpat)  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (tsedeqah)

### **Micah 6:8**

You have been told, O mortal, what is good,  
and what the Lord requires of you  
Only to do justice (mishpat)  
and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God.

### **Zephaniah 2:3**

Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth,  
who have observed his law (mishpat).  
Seek justice (sedeq), seek humility

### **Habbakuk 2:4**

Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous (tsaddiq) live by their faith.

## + GOSPEL READINGS +

+ **Matthew 22:35-40**

+ **Luke 10:25-37**

## + REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

**Option 1: Click on the synod's prepared weekly sermon video & watch it together**

**Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection**

### **Questions:**

- + How would you define justice? What images come to mind?
- + How do your baptismal or confirmation promises impact your faith?
- + What role do relationships play in our faith? Community? Congregation?
- + What questions do you have about the story of the Good Samaritan?

## + MESSAGE +

## + SONG +

## + AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM +

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.  
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God 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.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: t

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and

to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**Responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support each other and pray for each other in our life together in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in us all the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Together we rejoice in the life of baptism. Together we have given voice to our commitment to live a Christian life and intent to do what we can to serve others, care for creation, bring about a just and peaceful world.

I thank God for the partnership we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ, **AMEN**

Thanks be to God, **AMEN**

### **+ APOSTLES' CREED +**

Everything I see – the earth, the sky, the sea, are gifts of God to me.

And, I believe God's greatest gift is Jesus Christ. Jesus was God's only Son, who came to earth to be my friend and sibling. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, long, long ago; he was born of the Holy Spirit, and Mary was his mother, long, long ago. Jesus was very good, and even so, he was put to death, crucified by Pontius Pilot, a powerful Roman judge. All seemed lost when Jesus was buried in a tomb...but it wasn't.

I believe God raised Jesus from the dead.

On Easter Sunday, his friends saw him alive, and all his friends rejoiced and sang – Alleluia!

Yes, the Holy Spirit gives life to me, too, and not only to me, but to all the friends of Jesus, who are his church. God forgives our sins, and gives us hope of life forever. Amen.

### **+ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE +**

- + Unifying God, you bring us together as the church, calling us all to be instruments of your work; guide us by your Word and teach us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. God of justice, hear our prayer.
- + Out of the void you shaped the universe and we are surrounded by your beauty and abundance. We are grateful for your love and goodness. Help us to care for all of your creation with the same generosity you have shown to us. God of justice, hear our prayer.
- + We pray for the sick, poor, grieving, those who are oppressed or have been victims of violence, or anyone else who is suffering or in need that we lift up aloud or silently at this time (pause for silence...) God of justice, hear our prayer.
- + Gracious God, we give thanks for the arrival of spring, for the gift of family and friends, for wisdom, and for new beginnings that remind us that we are Easter people celebrating the resurrection and new life of Jesus Christ. God of justice, hear our prayer.
- + Into your wide embrace, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting you will receive them into your heart of mercy, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **+ OFFERING +**

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

### **+ HOLY COMMUNION +**

If you are participating in Holy Communion in your congregation or at home, you are invited to do so at this time.

### **+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER +**

We thank you, O God, for sharing this meal with us; shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **+ BLESSING +**

May the shalom of God inspire your heart and mind through Christ Jesus. **Amen**

*+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +  
Litany: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/litany-for-our-personal-covenant-with-creation/>  
Hymns/Liturgy: All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress  
Apostles' Creed: adapted from Victor Hoagland, C.P., A Joyful Story*

When justice is done,  
it brings joy to the  
righteous

-Proverbs 21:15