

The Season of Creation

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

– Psalm 19:1-4 *St. Helena's Breviary*



God of Creation:

We give you thanks for your ancient promise
that while the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
will never cease. (*cf Genesis 8.22*)

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary

Opening Hymn (*Please refer to the insert for hymn #.*)

Welcome to St. Stephen's

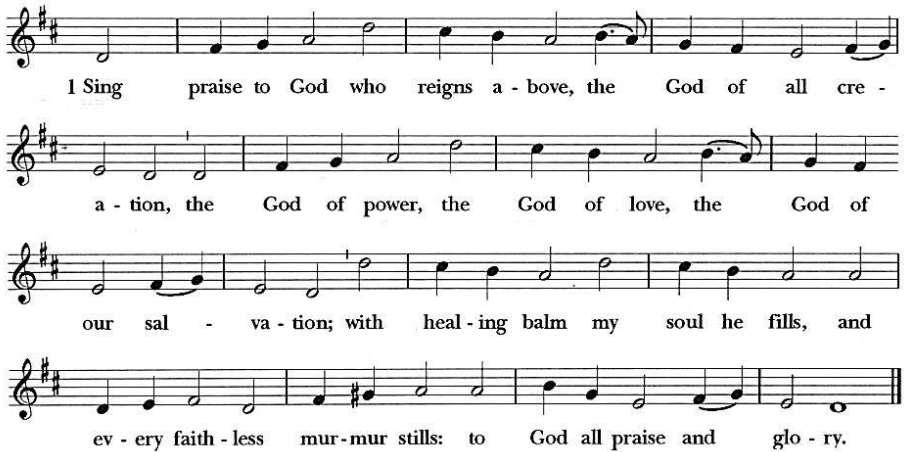
Opening Acclamation

Presider: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Gloria: Hymn 408 (*Verse 1, sung by all*)

Mit Freuden zart



I Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.

Collects for Creation (*See insert for the collect of the day.*)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Please refer to the insert for the following:

The First Lesson

Psalm

The Second Lesson

The Gospel

The Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith *(Please stand if it is comfortable to do so.)*

Let us say together in faith:

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

**And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Eternal God:

We thank you for the beauty of the World:
for the teeming life of the seas,
the flight of birds,
and the diversity of animal life.

Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honor the delicate balance of nature.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

We thank you for the wealth
of blessings from land and sea;
for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun.
We pray for the nations of the earth,
give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all.
God of justice:
hear our prayer.

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church,
called to reconcile and heal:
For this parish and Nina our Rector,
for Douglas our Bishop, and Michael our Presiding Bishop.
God of grace:
hear our prayer.

We pray for the human family.
We exult in our diversity and giftedness,
we repent of our sins, divisions, and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us.
As every human being is known and loved by you,
may we care for one another with love and respect.
We pray for those commended to our care:
(Please refer to the insert for those on our prayer list; add your own intercessions.)
God of compassion:
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died,
whom we entrust to your eternal love;
may we support and comfort those who mourn.
(Please refer to the insert for those who have died; add your own intercessions.)
God of peace:
hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect: (*Presider chooses one of the following.*)

Presider: O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presider: Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. Thank you for calling us by name. Thank you for your continued creating power in water, rivers, forests and oceans. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of all creation, that our children may enjoy its abundance, and a long life on your beloved earth. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us pray for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept.

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

Offertory Anthem *(see insert)*

Eucharistic Prayer for Creation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the God of all Creation.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders.

Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you - for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus *(If spoken)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus *(Sung by all)*

Hymn 858 *(Wonder Love & Praise)*

Land of Rest



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presider continues:

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another; with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

In faith and confidence, let us pray. (*In any language or version*).

The Lord's Prayer

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction (*If spoken*)

Presider: The Living Bread, given for the life of the world.

People: Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

cf John 6:51

The Fraction

S 167 (*Sung by all with Cantor*)

Mason Martens

Antiphon
Cantor; then All

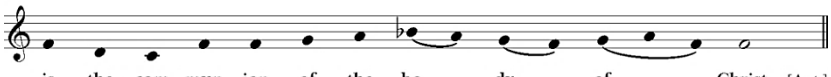


The dis-ci-ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

The Invitation

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Specific information about how to receive communion is found on back page of weekly insert. (Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.**

**May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.**

**Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing, Form I *(Presider may choose this or another blessing.)*

Go forth now to care for God's world.

Use resources wisely. Share your knowledge.

Sacrifice where necessary.

Live in harmony with all creation.

Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all.

And the blessing of our Creator God,
the Risen Son,

and the Promised Holy Spirit

bless you that you might be a blessing to others
today and always. **Amen.**

The Blessing, Form II

May the Creator watch over you.
May the Spirit guide and lead you.
May Jesus be present in all that you do.
And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements (*listed in full in the insert*)

The Recessional Hymn (*Please refer to the insert for hymn #.*)

The Dismissal, Form I (*Presider chooses one of the following.*)

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation;
as you have received freely,
so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Dismissal, Form II

Let us bless our God and all Creation. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary (*see insert*)

Resources for Creation Liturgy

Cover

The first prayer is from *St. Helena's Breviary*.

The second prayer was written based upon *Genesis 8:22*.

The Collects for the Season

Are from the new resource: Season of Creation, Episcopal Liturgy Guide, 2024.

Affirmation of Faith

From Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute (a seminary in South India), adapted by Keld B. Hansen, 2009, as provided in "Listen to the Voice of Creation," *Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022*, 33. Included in Season of Creation, Episcopal Liturgy Guide, 2024.

The Prayers of the People

Adapted heavily from a form in the Anglican Church of England's *Common Worship; Times and Seasons, now included in: 'Let all things their Creator bless,' Liturgy for use during the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guildford, The Church of England*.

Concluding Collects for the Prayers

The first is from the Order of St. Helena Breviary's version of BCP, Collect for the Stewardship of Creation (BCP 259, OSH 258).

The second is adapted from *Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network.

Confession, Absolution and Peace

Enriching Our Worship (1997), p. 56.

Eucharistic Prayer

Adapted from *Eucharistic Prayer One, Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network, and *a Creation specific Eucharistic Prayer, in Eucharistic Prayers*, by Sam Wells and Abigail Kocher, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016.

Fraction

This was written based upon John 6:51 (NRSV) "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*"

Post Communion Prayer

Adapted from *Churches together in Britain and Ireland – resources for creation time*, as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network.

The Blessings

Form I: Crafted from two sources: the first was a prayer included in the Creation materials published by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern African Environmental Network; the second source from *Prayers for the Planet, at a service at Hinde Street Methodist Church, London, before the Climate March, December 2005*.

Form II: Adapted from the Indigenous Peoples' Day liturgy 2022, as posted diomass.org.

The Dismissals

Adapted from Anglican Church of England's *Common Worship; Times and Seasons*.

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.