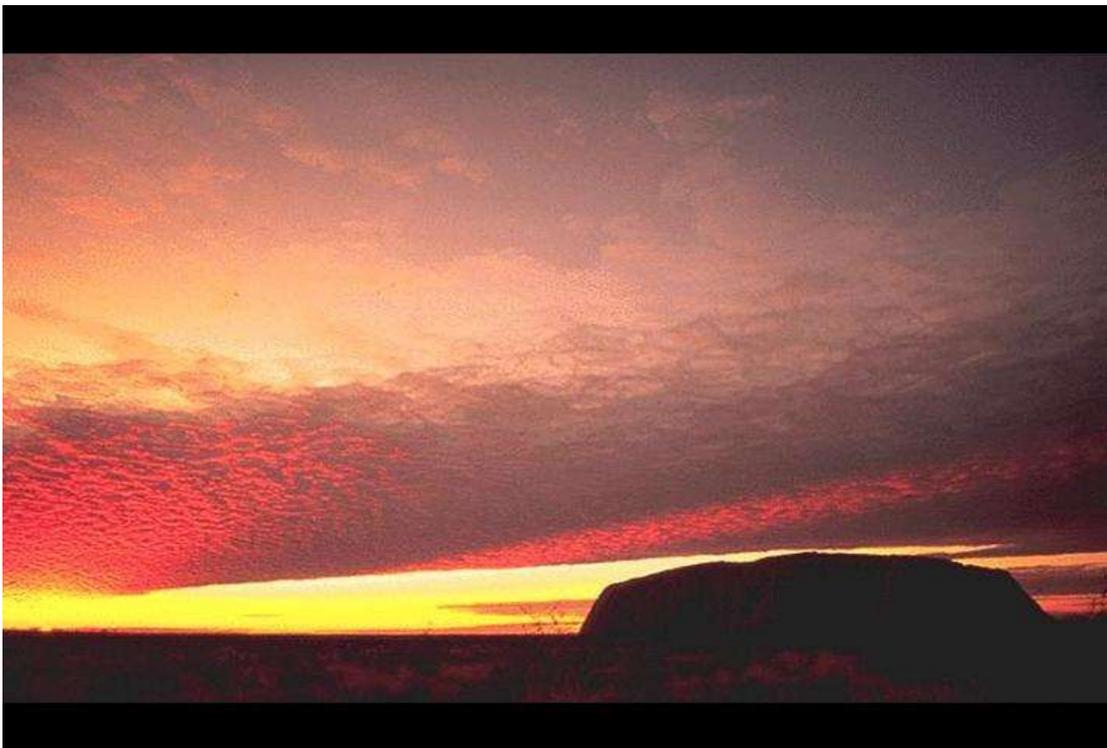


*First Sunday in the Season of Creation
Messiah Lutheran Church, Washburn, WI
First Lutheran Church, Port Wing, WI
Zoom ID 8980296 5268 passcode=church*

***Sky Sunday, September 19, 2021**
We worship with the skies above*



“The sky proclaims the glory of God, and the firmament announces the work of God’s hands. “Psalm 19:1

SKY SUNDAY

Welcome! At the 2021 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Assembly, several resolutions were passed including one on Care for Creation. This fall churches in our synod are encouraged to have several Sunday morning worship services with a Care for Creation theme. Today we worship with the sky. We celebrate with the clouds, the winds, the dusk and the dawn. We listen to the sounds of sky proclaiming God’s presence. We stand in awe before the vast reaches of space above us and thank God for the fragile piece of stardust we call Earth.

Gathering and Call to Worship (outside the church weather permitting)

Leader In the name of the Creator, who colors the sky, the name of Christ, who died under dark skies, and the name of the Spirit, the wind in the sky. **Amen.**

People Holy! Holy! Holy! Sky is filled with God's presence.

L Christ, we come into your presence today, to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

P Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

L We invite the skies to worship with us:

P the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.

L We join the heavens in praising God:

P proclaiming God's glory across the globe & hailing God's name with the evening stars.

L We join with the atmosphere in worship:

P the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind and all the expressions of God's Spirit.

L We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:

P to carry the life giving drops of rain that give hope and healing to Earth.

L We invite the winds to join our petitions:

P to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ in person.

L *We name, silently or aloud, other creatures or parts of the sky or atmosphere and invite them to join us in praising our Creator.*

L We celebrate the song of the skies! **P Sing! Skies! Sing!**

Song: For the Beauty of the Earth ELW #879 LBW #561

**1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

Refrain:

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain]**

**3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]**

**4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]**

**5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: [Refrain]**

Remembering

L Remember your painful prayers, tears you have shed & tears of other creatures on the planet. Remember tears you have shed over wrongs committed against friends, animals & children.

**P We hear creation groaning. We hear creatures crying out in pain.
And we hear the skies weeping with us.**

L We remember and reflect.

P Thank you, God, for eyes that weep and for tears that fall from heaven.

Confession As we remember, we share our tears with the tears from the forest, the tears from the skies and the tears of our kin. We share the sorrow of our planet.

P We share the sorrow. We share the tears.

Absolution

L Christ, who was deeply grieved in Gethsemane, shares your tears and knows your sorrow.

**P Christ, teach us compassion for the life that suffers around us.
Shalom! Shalom! We embrace those in pain.**

L As we come home to Earth. **Christ, have mercy.**

L As we seek to love our home. **Christ, have mercy.**

L As we seek to care for our kin. **Christ, have mercy.**

L Glory to God in the highest! **And on Earth peace with our kin in creation!**

Prayer for the Day **God, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us see your presence in the evening sky, your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. Amen.**

Jeremiah 4.23-28 Jeremiah sees Earth return to chaos and the skies respond with mourning.

Psalms 19.1-6 The Psalmist declares that the sky announces God's presence on Earth, and that space proclaims the work of God's hands.

Philippians 2.9-13 Jesus Christ, after being humbled in death, is exalted above every name.

Mark 15.33-39 When Jesus hangs on the cross, the sky turns black in sympathy.

Children's Time & Prayer: Thank you God for water from the skies. Help us keep it clean.

Affirming our Faith Together

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things & celebrates all things.

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our kin.**

We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation.

We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

Together We believe that with Christ we will rise someday and celebrate a new creation.

Reflection & Song: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky ELW #574 WOV #752

**I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,
I Have Heard My People Cry.
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,
My Hand Will Save.**

**I Who Made The Stars Of Night,
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?
Whom Shall I Send?**

**Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.**

**I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,
I Have Borne My People's Pain.
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, They Turn Away.
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.
I Will Speak My Word To Them
Whom Shall I Send?**

**Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.**

**I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.
I Will Set A Feast For Them,
My Hand Will Save
Finest Bread I Will Provide,
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.
I Will Give My Life To Them,
Whom Shall I Send?**

**Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.**

Offering Prayer God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. **With all creation, we bless our Creator, Amen.**

We thank God for a wondrous creation. We celebrate with all the heavens. We pray for all those in need. We name them now. We close with the following prayer.

Jesus Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation, cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky. Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation. Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our kin, songs of celebration from the stars, the rains and the light. Christ, teach us to care. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks and praise. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and rise from death, to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea and air; filling every element and place; filling the grain and the grape, we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, earth and sea and sky are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen Lord's Prayer and Words of Institution

Invitation All things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin *and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.*

May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and all our kin.

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against God, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin against Earth, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away all sin from the world, receive our prayer.

Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal your wounds and through you to bring healing to Earth. In Jesus' name. Amen

We thank you Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.

Sending *Christ calls us to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation, especially the atmosphere above that gives breath to all creatures of Earth.*

We will celebrate the winds! We will plead for creation! We will flood the sky with prayers!

Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation! We will nurture our planet! We will celebrate with the sky!

Blessing May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in sky and Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you. Go in peace!

Serving Christ and loving Earth!

We go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth. Thanks be to God!

Postlude:

General Announcements:

Thank you for all worship leaders and helpers today!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Today begins our Creation Care series of worship services which we will continue on September 26 and October 3.

Messiah Announcements:

Tonight is LIFE for youth in 6th-12th grades.

6-8th graders-Meet @ Messiah @ 3:30 p.m. to carpool to Good Shepherd Lutheran, Ashland

9th-12th graders – Meet @ Messiah @ 5:00 pm to carpool to Good Shepherd

Wednesday, Sept. 22 is GIFT/WWW. Meet outside on 5th Street in front of the church for supper.

This week's topic is "Who is God?" and "What is prayer" All are welcome.