



LAUDS

SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2020

Sunday 13 September 2020





The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

From: www.seasonofcreation.org/about

THE ANGELUS

✝ The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you amongst women

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,

that as we have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ,

by the message of an angel, ✝ so by his cross and passion

we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection,

for he is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

✚ O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.**

A SONG OF GOD'S GREATNESS

Psalm 104:1,2,2b,22a,26,32,33,35

Bless the Lord, O my soul: *
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
You are clothed with majesty and honour: *
wrapped in light as in a garment.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

The sun knows the time of its setting: *
You make darkness that it may be night.
O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created: *
And you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
May the Lord rejoice in his works;

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.
Amen.

We sit for the psalmody and reading.

PSALMODY

Psalm 8

The Lord is the creator of all that is.
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O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

The Lord is the creator of all that is.

We bless you, master of the heavens,
for the wonderful order which enfolds this world;
grant that your whole creation
may find fulfilment in the Son of Man,
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Psalm 19

The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.
The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

**the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

**Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

Christ, the sun of righteousness,
rise in our hearts this day,
enfold us in the brightness of your love
and bear us at the last to heaven's horizon;
for your love's sake.

Amen.

Continue with the Canticle

CANTICLE

Colossians 1:13-18a, 19, 20a

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

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The Father has rescued us from the power of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers
—all things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end.

Amen.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Responsory follows the reading appointed for the week.

WEEK TWO

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,
The God who made the world and everything in it,
he who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands,
nor is he served by human hands,
as though he needed anything,
since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth,
and he allotted the times of their existence
and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
so that they would search for God
and perhaps grope for him and find him—
though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
For 'In him we live and move and have our being';
as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we too are his offspring.'

Acts 17:24-28

RESPONSORY

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

Your word brings on the dusk of evening.

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons
and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

The Lord of hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

The Benedictus follows. We stand for the Benedictus

BENEDICTUS

May you give light to those who sit in darkness.

✚ **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us.**

**To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of God, the Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

May you give light to those who sit in darkness.

Go to pages 12 for the intercessions.

INTERCESSIONS

God said, 'Let there be light.'

Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.

We praise you for your nurturing care

in creating a universe which proclaims your glory.

Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,

and let your light shine upon our world.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the heavens.'

We thank you for the vastness of the universe

and the mysteries of space.

We pray for all scientists and astronomers

who extend the boundaries of our knowledge.

As we contemplate the wonder of the heavens,

confirm us in the truth that every human being is known and loved by you.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the waters be gathered together, and let dry land appear.'

We thank you for the beauty of the earth,

for the diversity of land and sea,

for the resources of the earth.

Give us the will to cherish this planet

and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day and the night.'

We thank you for the warmth of the sun,

the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.

We praise you for the formations of the clouds,

the radiance of the dawn and sunset.

Save us from wasting or abusing the energy on which all life depends.

Open our eyes to behold your beauty,

and our lips to praise your name.

God of life:

hear our prayer.

God said,
'Let the waters bring forth living creatures and let birds fly across the sky.'
We thank you for the teeming life of the sea,
and the flight of the birds.
Help us to protect the environment so that all life may flourish.
God of life:
hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind.'
We rejoice in the variety of animal life.
Grant us grace to treat all animals with respect and care;
to protect endangered species,
to preserve the variety of habitats,
and to honour the delicate balance of nature.
God of life:
hear our prayer.

God said, 'Let us create human beings in our own image.'
We pray for the human family.
We exult in its diversity and giftedness,
we repent of its sins, divisions and violence.
By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us,
through Christ who came to remake us
by his death and resurrection.
God of life:
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness;
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

From a Common Worship: Times and Seasons.

CONCLUSION

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

The Lord bless us, **+**
and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us stay here in the peace of Christ,
thanks be to God.

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This liturgy comprises materials from the website seasonofcreation.org as well as Common Worship, the prayer book of the Church of England. Psalms and scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the bible.



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