Liturgical Service

Welcome to the Liturgy for Earthkeeping. Today, we gather to reflect on our responsibilities as stewards of the earth and to confess our sins in the context of a broken world. Let us be guided by the words of Deuteronomy 30:19-20a, which speaks of the covenant between God and humanity:

This day, I call upon heaven and earth to witness concerning you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God’s voice, and cleaving to the Lord.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

Gathering

Gathering Song

"For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW 897

+ Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 30:19-20a

+ Opening Song

“Your River O God” Song 7

Confession

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The complex web of life God created on earth has been broken, not only by others, but also by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence for reflection)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. We confess that we have abused your gifts. We have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air upon which all creatures depend. We have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life, we confess our part in a broken world.

Worship Leaders

Deacon Diane Jacobson
Pastor Amanda Kossow
Pastor Kristin Foster
Laura Raedake
Pastor Jake Dyrhaug
Pastor Dave Carlson
Pastor Erik Roth

Prayerful Reflection and Response

Have mercy on this fallen world.

Lord have mercy on us.
V. 1 - Cantor:
For all of the days that have fallen apart,
For every life, for every heart,
For all those who hunger and struggle each day,
For all of the times that we turn away. (to Refrain)

V. 2 – Cantor:
For all who have fears that come with the night,
For all those who need to be held in the light,
For all of creation through famine or feast,
For all of the world to live in your peace. (to Refrain)

Words of Assurance
As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth,
God’s mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given.
The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death
brings healing and forgiveness to the world today.
In the mercy of God + you are forgiven,
you are restored, you are made new. C Amen

Prayer of the Day C Amen

Word
Psalm 104 (read responsively) In the Psalm Section

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul;
   O LORD my God, you are very great!
   You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

5 You set the earth upon its foundations,
   so that from now until forever
   it shall never be moved.

10 You made the springs in it to rivers
    that flow between the mountains.

11 All the wild beasts drink their fill from them,
    and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests
    among the branches they lift their voice.

13 From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains;
    the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.

14 You make grass grow for the cattle,
    and plants to serve humankind;
    that they may bring forth food from the earth,
    wine to gladden human hearts,
    oil to make the face shine,
    and bread to strengthen the human heart.

16 The trees of the LORD are well supplied,
    the cedars of Lebanon that you planted,
    in which the birds build their nests,
    while the stork makes the fir trees its dwelling.

18 The high mountains belong to the mountain goats,
    and the stony cliffs are a refuge for the badgers.

19 You made the moon to mark the seasons,
    and the sun knows the time of its setting.

20 You bring on darkness that it may be night,
    in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.

21 The lions roar for their prey seeking their food from God.

22 The sun rises, and they withdraw
    and lay themselves down in their dens.

23 People go forth to their work
    and to their labor until the evening.

24 How manifold are your works, O LORD!
    In wisdom you have made them all;
    the earth is full of your creatures.

35 Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Song of Praise “Praise to You O God Creator” Song 5

The First Reading
A The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading
A The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Sermon Diane Jacobson

Hymn of the Day ELW 771 “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Affirmation of Faith
God creates, renews, and delights in all things.
Earth is a sanctuary filled with God’s presence,
a home we share with all other creatures.

God became flesh and blood, a part of Earth, as a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.
The risen Jesus is the Christ at the center of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

The Holy Spirit renews all creation, groans with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.
We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.