Praying with Creation: the Season of Easter
The Resurrection of Our Lord through the Seventh Sunday of Easter
Year B
by Dennis Ormseth

Creator of the universe, great is your mercy. At the heart of your new creation you have transplanted the very tree on which your Son hung in death. Sharing its fruit, we taste eternal life here on earth. With Mary and all your creatures, welcome us anew into the garden of your creation, and for their sake and ours, teach us again how to till and keep it.

Source of all that is and ever will be, you sustain the lives of your creatures with whatever they need. You give us from the earth its waters, oils, airs, and soils. Help us to see that we hold these good things, and even life itself, in common with all living beings. By the power of Jesus’ resurrection, overcome within us the deadly and destructive desire to hoard these gifts for ourselves alone.

The light of your face shines on us, O Lord, and upon your whole creation. You uphold the value of every being you make. By the power of love manifest in Jesus’ resurrection, you mend each break and heal every wound. May the grace of his incarnate presence in our Lord’s Supper draw us into a right and respectful use of all your gifts.

Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Wondrous power of love, you author all creation and sustain all life, but hide yourself in the immensity and the minutia of the universe. By your Spirit, help us to trust in your creative and healing presence, and to discern those habits and actions that contribute unfailingly to the true well being of all creatures.

O Vine that reaches from earth into the heavens, your love flows from deep roots to feed the wondrous and varied fruit of creation. Even in the deserts of human carelessness, you regenerate the lives of your creatures. Let none of your good branches, humankind or other kind, be cut off to wither and die, but graft them anew onto your great tree of salvation.

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
All the earth sings your praise, O God. The seas throb with secret pleasure in hidden depths; the hills wake to the trill of birds and the valleys fall asleep to the whisper of grass; clouds dance across the circle of the sky from one end of the earth to the other. All rejoice in your presence. Grant in Christ that your human children might also dwell so fully in your love and join their glad, unceasing song.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, for you hold all the earth within your loving care. In you all creatures hope for peace and justice to be established in every reach of the great web of life. By your mercy, make it happen here in this place, too, and soon.

Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 47 or 93; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Source and goal of all that is, who gives place and purpose to each one of all your creatures, your great work of the universe moves on now to completion. We rejoice with the great company of your creatures to share in this cosmic journey. By your spirit, grow in us your love for all things, and guide us on the way to the fulfillment of all that you have promised.