

Praying with Creation: the Season after Pentecost
The Holy Trinity through the Reign of Christ Sunday and Thanksgiving
Year B

by Dennis Ormseth & Ben Stuart

The Holy Trinity through the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

by Dennis Ormseth

The Holy Trinity: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Triune God, your infinite glory breaks forth over waters, cedars, and fire – indeed over all created things. In the flesh of your child Jesus, you embrace the whole material cosmos in your love. In and with the winds that caress the earth, your Spirit catches us up together into your divine life. Inspire us to love and care for the world of your creation as perfectly as you do.

Second Sunday after Pentecost: Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14 (12-15 NRSV); 2 Cor. 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

Creator of all life, your love is hidden in the mystery of seeds and growth. It is revealed in the bountiful harvest of their fruit. In and through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to see in the natural world as well as in humankind the birth of the new creation you have promised to bring forth for all things.

Third Sunday after Pentecost: Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

God of the sun and earth, of the winds and the waters, you delivered our ancestors in faith from storms and drought of your making, to new life in the new land you gave them. Now storms and drought of our own making threaten the future of many living things on the earth you have given us. With Jesus' disciples, we cry on their behalf, "do you not care that we are perishing?" At this solstice and in remembrance of Saint John the Baptist, who decreased in order that Christ might increase, help us understand and respect the limits you set to human presence and action, and move the whole earth toward your promised peace.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Lamentation 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Gracious provider of all good things, in your wisdom you balance abundance and need to sustain all living things. On this weekend of celebration of our nation's independence, we confess that we have used our freedom to disrupt that balance in our favor, and acknowledge that our way of life cannot be sustained. In your mercy you heal the destitute woman but also hear the plea of the powerful ruler. Heal the fears that drive our greed, and deliver our children from the desolation to come.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Merciful creator, it is not your habit to leave your people clueless. In your steadfast love, you reveal inconvenient but inescapable truths about our lives, and call us to repentance. Help us to acknowledge the interdependence of all living things, and trusting fully in the

sufficiency of your provision, to walk lightly the way of Christ on our common journey with the earth.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

God of Amos, your plan for the fullness of time encompasses all things both on earth and in heaven. You use those close to the earth, the herdsmen and gardeners of our age, to remind us that righteousness and peace kiss where faithfulness springs from the ground and righteousness looks down from the sky. Give us wisdom and courage to seek from each other those things that sustain the well being of all your creatures.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 23; 1-6; Psalm 23:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Shepherd for the whole creation, there are no strangers to your love. For you there is no 'beyond' where your love will be unknown, no wilderness where your creatures are left to fend for themselves. You break through the fences and walls we build to protect our privileges and preserve our rights. As Jesus fed many with little, surprise us with your amazing bounty, even in the deserts of our own making.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Parent for all families of creation, all eyes look to you to satisfy their needs. Beholding your Christ, they are filled with the vision of your glory. Without you, they are filled with terror. In the feast in the wilderness, Jesus fed all who came, simply because they were there. May we see Christ in the feast that is your daily creation in the world around us, and share his love with all creatures that come.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Gracious creator, you heard the hungry cry of your people in the wilderness and provided manna sufficient to sustain them on their journey home. Hear now the cry of your whole creation as we journey together home to you. Feed us with the bread of life here on Earth, and help us in Christ to see and trust your presence above and through and in all that is. Amen.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

God of Elijah, you led your prophet through the wilderness where he had come to die, and brought him to new life in your presence on the mountain. Help us to conserve wilderness as place for us in which to fathom the dependence of all things on your life-sustaining love. In Christ bring all peoples to see your glory amidst the mountains of Earth. Amen.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

All-encompassing Wisdom, the days and years of our world move to the rhythm of your song of love for the Earth. Our hearts are drawn forward by its melody into the great feast you are preparing for all beings. Lighten our steps upon your holy ground, and help us to make the most of the time you give us on our way. Amen.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Joshua 24:1-21, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

Sovereign of the universe, you are hidden in the infinite recesses of the cosmos but you come to us in the breaking of bread amidst the gathered communities of your people on Earth. We are honored to love and serve you in the good company of all the marvelous creatures with whom we share this planet. By your Spirit, free us from our mutual fear of each other, and empower us to love all that you love. Amen.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Source of all wisdom and truth, you gave your people your law so that we might live in harmony with each other and with the Earth. Help us to see that nothing you create is unclean in your eyes. Guide us into all truth and righteousness, so that our children and our children's children may dwell sustainably on your holy ground.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2: 1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark: 24-37

God of all creation, all earth glories in your presence. Even wilderness is made glad and the desert rejoices and blossoms. Through Jesus you bring hope to creatures for which we have little or no regard. So fill your people with your spirit, that we might bring healing to all that lives.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-8; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

God of infinite mercy, your loving sacrifice is the source of all life. All the broken ones of our wounded world are held together in the hands of your crucified and risen Son. We resist following in his way, and the destruction of your beloved creation is the consequence. Forgive our resistance and empower our work to heal and mend the damage we are doing.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Wise and gracious creator, your greatness is your eternally abundant love. You create the tree and its fruit. We seek a different greatness, and destroy the fruit with the tree. Our way of life is not sustainable apart from your mercy. By your spirit, help us behold the power of your love in all that surrounds us, both in the immensity and in the minutia of the universe.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost through the Reign of Christ Sunday and Thanksgiving

by Ben Stewart

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

God of sun and rain, You shape all your creatures for mutual care, such that none can stand alone. Let no idols of wealth or status keep us from sharing in the beloved community that your wide embrace creates in Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

God of our ancestors, You formed us from the earth to live in loving community with one another. Form us again for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust your goodness like little children, that we may bear your image in our bodies, in the name of Jesus Christ, the first born of your new creation. Amen.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Living God, You bring the universe to being out of nothing. Through the ages, out of death, you bring your creatures to life. Now, by your living word and holy meal, fill us with abundant life, that we, too, may share in the goodness of your promised new creation, in Jesus Christ, our beginning and our end. Amen.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Shepherding God, You turn your greatness into goodness for all creatures on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your new creation, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our living savior. Amen.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Holy One, The cries of your creatures rise up from this suffering earth. In the name of Christ, heal our blindness, dry our tears, and renew our land and waters by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

All Saints Day: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

God of our ancestors, You hold all who have returned to the dust, and even out of death, you act to bring forth life. Keep us in communion with our ancestors in faith, and make us faithful and just to those who come after us, until the day when you gather all generations into your new creation in Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Giver of the land, The whole earth is filled with your glory. Give us reverence for your many dwelling places among us, and, by the power of your Spirit, fill us with your love for our neighbors and ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our living savior. Amen.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Generous God, You desire abundant life for all, and you shower mercy on us like rain. As we gather for worship, by the power of your Spirit, ease our heavy burdens and make us again a people who do justice and love kindness in the name of Christ, our living savior. Amen.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Holy, saving God, You make a way where there is no way. Steady our hearts and minds with your promises, and by the power of your Spirit, Let the wars and destruction of this age give way to the birth of your new creation, where your love is all in all, through Jesus Christ, our strong rock and foundation. Amen.

The Reign of Christ Sunday: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Almighty and ever-living God, You raised up Jesus among us as a tree of life, that all might be drawn together in him. Grant that all the earth, now suffering under the power of sin, may find abundant life again in the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Day of Thanksgiving

Maker of the fields, forests, and streams, Your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the movement of your Spirit over our waters, at our tables, and among our gatherings, help us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your gifts, extend our table to the stranger, and care for the land and water we share on this good earth, through Jesus Christ, the fruitful vine, our living water, and our bread of life. Amen.