

Praying with Creation: the Season after Pentecost
The Holy Trinity through the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
& Twenty-third through Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost
Year A

by Dennis Ormseth & Don Luther

The Holy Trinity through the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
by Dennis Ormseth

The Holy Trinity: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Holy, Triune God, Lover, Love, Beloved: all things live and move and have their being within your relations. You create Day and Night, Sky, Earth and Sea. You make Earth to bring forth plants yielding seed and trees bearing fruit. You set the sun, the moon and the stars in their orbits, and let them measure the passage of time. From the waters and from the earth you bring forth living creatures of unfathomable beauty and variety. And you make us. You make us in your image, with power and responsibility to fulfill the good in all the great web of life. Gather us with all creation into the perfection of your hallowed rest.

Second Sunday after Pentecost: May 25, 2008. Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Faithful, covenanting God, we would join in the joyful song of heaven and earth; we would praise you as the mountains do, for the steadfast love with which you keep and comfort your people along the ways and in the pastures of their journey home to you. Help us to so trust your provision of our lives, that we might be free from the fearful and anxious habits of consumption which threaten to exhaust the resources of your Earth.

Third Sunday after Pentecost: Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28; Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28 (29-31); Matthew 7:21-29

Fountain of all blessing, through your prophet Moses you covenanted to sustain the lives of your people in the land you provided them, generation upon generation. Through the wisdom of your son Jesus, repair our home within your creation, and along with all your creatures, preserve us also as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sovereign of the universe, in their infinite variety and beauty all creatures do indeed belong to you, and you need nothing from us. Yet in your love you share all your creation with us, for our being, for our sustenance, and for our delight. Through the faith of Jesus deepen our gratitude for your unfathomable mercy.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 (9-23)

God of the mountains, God of the wilderness, all creation is yours. All creatures long to be brought into your holy presence. Through Moses you promised to make your people

the means of that priestly blessing. May we also share in that holy calling, as priests in Christ for all creation.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10(11-15) 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Center and source of all good, nothing that exists escapes the embrace of your love. Help us to value each and every creature as you value them. By your life giving Spirit, empower us with the wisdom and courage to sustain in being all that belongs within your great web of life.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

The heavens are yours, the earth also, O God. Yet you show your care of every existing thing, welcoming them all into your space, speaking to them holy words, and righting them in their relationships with each other. May we also know the rewards of such complete caring for your creation.

Eighth to the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

by Don Luther

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Zech. 9:9-12

Jesus, our Sovereign, you entered Jerusalem in triumphant humility. Raised from death, your dominion is from sea to sea and on to the outer limits of the universe. With all your works we praise you. Grant us lives of justice and truth to serve you.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Ps. 65

Sovereign God, each day dawn and dusk sing for joy. Meadows and valleys join their song. Mountains and hills lift their voices and the trees of the field applaud your glory. May we also join their chorus of praise as Earth sings and sings and sings.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Rom. 8:12-25

Spirit of God, to you all creation looks eagerly in hope. Fountain of life, the universe groans in labor awaiting your deliverance. You have placed us within this earthly web of life as your children. Bless our labor on behalf of Earth our home.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Mt. 13:31-33, 44-52

Lord Jesus, for you creation overflows with grace: mustard seeds, yeast, single pearls, catches of fish - each a sign of your royal sovereignty. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the wonder of life all around us.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21

Holy God, Author of all life, your hands are open in perfect generosity to all your creatures. Form in us grateful hearts, that our generosity toward our co-inhabitants of Earth may mirror the grace you have for all.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 1 Kings. 19:9-18

Spirit of God, we often look for you in the spectacles of life, like earthquake, wind and fire. Yet, throughout the vast emptiness of interstellar space you are present, hidden in sheer silence, even as you are present and hidden in the quietness of our next breath. We live in you. May our lives serve the creation you love.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Mt. 15:10-28

Jesus, our strength and our hope, give us the power of persistence. Fill us with the tenacity of the Canaanite woman of old. Equip our hearts for the long-haul of seeking justice for creation, justice for the most vulnerable of your creatures, justice and mercy for Earth our home.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Rom. 12:1-8

Holy Spirit, Source of all life, you weave our lives together as the body of Christ. You set us in the larger network of life by which you bless Earth with the wonder of common grace, grace for all. Transform our minds; open our eyes, that we also may become common grace for the life of the world.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Mt. 16:21-28

Jesus our Savior, you call us to deny ourselves and follow you. You urge us to take up our cross and follow you. You promise that if we lose our life for you we will find it. You offered up your life to restore all creation. Lead us to be self-giving, that in following you we too may bless the earth with our lives.

Twenty-third through Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost

by Dennis Ormseth

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

God of learning, you call us to tell the truth about the state of your creation for the life of the church and the world. Mold our words and actions so that all creatures may discover your dance of life and love.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

O source and goal of all things, our days are in your keeping. Strengthen us to use our hearts, minds, and hands for the mending of creation. Keep us from arrogant judgment so that your compassion extends to the very dust from which we are made.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

God of mercy and steadfast love, your generous care extends from the poorest laborer to the smallest plant. Free us from obsession with status and group pride. Open us to share your gifts with all.

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost: Ezekial 18:1-4,25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Emptying God, you bless us with daily gifts of creation's cycles formed by love. Empower your people with new hearts and spirit to take the humble path of care and servanthood no matter what the cost.

Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Planter God, you have given your people a beautiful vineyard earth. Yet, we have taken its yield as our own and neglected the soil, water, and air needed for growth. Inspire us with sure and certain hope of renewal so that your church may join with others in nourishing what is basic to life.

Twenty-eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

God of hospitality, you insist that your banquet hall be filled with many people and rich, delicious food. Use us to encourage the practice of healthy ways of farming and gardening so that, each fall, the generous harvest we see will stir our yearning for a banquet even more complete.

Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Tuneful God, you call the whole earth to sing your praises. But some refuse and seek power for themselves and use people and creation as mere resources. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see there is no God but you, the one who brings down the mighty from their thrones and loves all that has been made.

Thirtieth Sunday after Pentecost: Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Creator of the stars of night, you have made your whole creation from the elements of the galaxies. As we share this inheritance, help us to care for all that you have made, loving your earth in the most neighborly ways.