

Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

Storm Sunday

We worship with the winds and the weather



“You make the clouds your chariots, you ride on the wings of the wind and you make the winds your messengers” Ps. 104.3-4

This Sunday we worship with storms. We sing with the winds, the clouds and the thunder. We feel the awesome presence of the hurricane. We connect with the stillness before the storm, the fury of the winds and the aftermath of the cyclone. We celebrate God’s presence in the storm.

Introit Hymn

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We gather in the name of God, present in the thunder of the storm,
the name of Christ, present in the stillness after the storm,
and the name of the Spirit, present in the winds of the storm. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, as we come to into this sanctuary today,
we enter your presence even in the storm.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with your presence.

The Greeting.

The Lord of all creation be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence:

“You make the clouds your chariots, you ride on the wings of the wind and you make the winds your messengers” Ps. 104.3-4

The Gloria in Excelsis,

a suitable hymn of praise or the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace throughout the storms.

The Collect of the Day.

God, our Creator, as we face the storms of this world, we celebrate the wonders of the wind and the weather. Help us to see your presence, not only in the forces of nature, but also among those who suffer from natural disasters. Teach us to recognise that your Wisdom is imbedded in all natural forces, a

Wisdom that guides, controls and limits them. In the name of Christ who is the Wisdom of God renewing all things in creation.
Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

After each reading the reader may say

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

First Reading: Job 28:20-27.

‘God Discovers Wisdom’. Where can wisdom be found? According to the poet in Job, God discovered wisdom imbedded in nature, even in the elements of the weather, when God was creating the cosmos.

Psalm: 29

‘God in the Storm’. Thunder, in this Psalm, is described as the voice of God, a powerful force that strikes Earth with great force, while the beings in the heavenly temple respond with the cry of ‘Glory’!

Second Reading: Corinthians 1:21-31.

‘Christ, the Wisdom of God. According to Paul, the wise in the world cannot grasp the message of Christ crucified. Ultimately the crucified one is also the source of life and the Wisdom of God.

Gradual Hymn:

Gospel Reading: *The reader says*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 8:22-25.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘Jesus knows the Way of the Storm’. The stilling of the storm not only demonstrates Jesus capacity to perform miracles, it also demonstrates that he is in tune with nature and knows ‘the way’ of the storm, its inner nature.

After the Gospel, the reader says

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The following Affirmation of Faith may be used:

Let us together affirm what we believe:

God creates all things,
 renews all things and celebrates all things.

This we believe.

Earth is a sanctuary,
 a sacred planet filled with God’s presence,
 a home for us to share with our kin.

This we believe.

God became flesh and blood
 a piece of Earth,
 a human being called Jesus Christ,
 who lived and breathed and spoke among us,
 suffered and died on a cross,
 for all human beings and for all creation.

This we believe.

The risen Jesus
 is the Christ at the centre of creation
 reconciling all things to God,
 renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

This we believe.

The Holy Spirit renews life in creation
 groans in empathy with a suffering creation
 and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

This we believe.

**We believe that with Christ we will rise
 and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The minister says: Let us pray for the storms and for the world.

[beginning with]

**Jesus Christ, teach us to empathise with Earth.
 Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation,
 cries for justice from the air, the clouds and the sky.
 Jesus Christ, make our faith sensitive to the groans of the
 Spirit in creation, groans of longing for a new creation.
 Jesus Christ, make our hearts sensitive to the songs of our
 kin, songs of celebration from the stars, the storms and the
 light. Christ, teach us to care. Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Invitation to Confession:

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

We remember times when we experienced extreme weather conditions.

We remember fierce storms in our lives, moments when we raised questions about God's role in our world.

We remember asking, 'Why?'

'Where was our God in all of this?'

Let us confess our sins against the earth in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Confession

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

We remember and confess our doubts.

We have doubted God's goodness.

**We have doubted God's purpose when
 destructive storms and floods have hit.**

**We have doubted God's presence
 in the aftermath of human suffering.**

We are sorry.

**Lord Jesus, teach us to trust in you and love the storms
 as a precious part of our planet home. Amen.**

The Absolution.

Almighty God,
 who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
 pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
 strengthen you in all goodness
 and keep you in eternal life;
 enable you to celebrate Earth as your home
 and preserve the storms of life in God's sanctuary,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The minister may add this Kyrie Eleison.

As we come home to Earth,
 Christ, have mercy.
 As we seek to love our home,
 Christ, have mercy.
 As we seek to care for our planet,
 Christ, have mercy.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in Christ's name and share God's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Greeting of Peace may be shared by the people.

Offertory Hymn:

*The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's table.
 A suitable prayer, such as the one that follows, may be used.*

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

**With all creation, we praise our Creator.
Blessed be God forever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The priest takes the bread and wine for the communion, places them on the Lord's Table and says the following or an authorised Prayer of Thanksgiving.

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your Word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and rise from death to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth - land, sea and air - filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of all life,
Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
and glorify your name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,
and we pray that we who eat and drink them
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may be partakers of his body and blood,
and be made one with him and with each other
in peace and love.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant

shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

The memorial acclamation.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,
renew us by your Spirit
that we may be united in the body of your Son
and serve you as a royal priesthood
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Receive our praises, Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

[We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.]

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

[The gifts of God for the people of God.]

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The sacrament is given with the following words:

The body of Christ [the bread of heaven] keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

The blood of Christ [the cup of salvation] keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Bountiful God,

at this table you graciously feed us
with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation.
May we who have reached out our hands to receive
this sacrament be strengthened in your service,
and become agents of healing for Earth and weather.

Christ calls us to be his disciples,
to celebrate storms and discern God's Wisdom, goodness
and suffering presence in all the forces of nature.

Most loving God,

**We will follow our crucified Lord,
listening for cries of injustice from the oceans,
and the groanings of creation.**

We will care for creation!

We will be in awe before the storm.

We will celebrate God's presence!

The Blessing.

May the Spirit of God blowing in the wind, fill you with the knowledge of God's Wisdom in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you.. And the blessing ... **Amen.**

The Dismissal:

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Why, O Why This Wild Tsunami?

(Sung to the tune of *Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee.*)

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| <p>1. Why? O why this wild tsunami?
Why this cruel mystery?
Why? O why these raging waters
Sweeping loved ones out to sea?
Was our God consumed by anger
As when Noah faced his rage?
Or is there a deeper reason
Earth has taken centre stage?</p> | <p>2. Why? O why this mass compassion?
Why this change of human heart?
Why amid the graves of thousands
Do our hatreds fall apart?
Even in the poorest village,
Even where the outcasts live,
Those with something sell their jewels,
Those with nothing give and give!</p> |
| <p>3. Lord, you've suffered down the ages,
Waiting for a surge of love;
People of your planet hating
In the name of God above!
Now you speak in one tsunami,
Stirring what lies deep inside.
Is this how your son once suffered,
Died when love was crucified?</p> | <p>4. Is that God among the debris,
Weeping on a battered shore,
Holding in her arms an infant—
One! No, two! No, maybe more!
God made flesh knows human grieving;
God made flesh knows our distress.
Help us, God, to find you weeping
With an infant at your breast!</p> |

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