

Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

Fauna Sunday

We worship with the whole fauna family



*“Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Praise the Lord!” Ps. 148.10*

This Sunday we worship with the whole fauna family on Earth. We celebrate with birds, animals, reptiles and all earth’s fauna. We listen to their sounds, watch their movements and wonder with them as they praise their Creator. We give thanks for and with all our kin in creation.

Introit Hymn

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We gather in the name of the Creator of all fauna,
the name of Christ, the lamb of God,
and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Creation is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence today,
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with your presence.

The Lord of all Life be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence:

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Let them praise the name of the Lord! Psalm 148.10-13a

The Gloria in Excelsis,

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

Glory to God in the highest!

And on Earth peace with all creation!

The Collect of the Day.

God, our Creator, we celebrate with all living creatures today.
Help us to see your presence, not only in human history
but also in the stories of our kin in creation,
the great fauna family.

Teach us to hear the good news of God's loving care
ringing through the creatures of the wild.

Rejoice with us as we behold the mysteries of your Wisdom implanted in all life.

In the name of Christ who fills heaven and Earth. 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 39:1-8, 26-30

‘The Kingdom of the Wild.’ God shows Job the kingdom of the wild, over which he as a human has no control, but where God’s Wisdom and nurture are ever present. Each part of nature has its ‘way,’ a reflection of that Wisdom.

Psalm: 104:14-23

‘Survival and Celebration in the Wild’. God not only nurtures and sustains all creatures of the wild, but also joins with them and us in celebration.

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1:10-23

‘The Wisdom of the Gospel’. The Wisdom of God may be evident in creation. The wise of the world may search for wisdom. The message of the Gospel, however, which may seem folly to the wise of the world, is the ultimate wisdom.

Gradual Hymn:

Gospel Reading: *The reader says*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 12:22-31

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

‘The Kingdom of God’. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of the wild complement each other, says Jesus. God provides for all and that should lead us to live in harmony with all and not be stressed about possessions or power.

After the Gospel, the reader says

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

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

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 fauna of 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,
 cries of our fellow creatures deserted and dying.**

**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 echoing around us.**

Christ, teach us to care. Amen

The prayers conclude with:

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 birds and animals we have loved or with whom we felt a spiritual kinship. We remember too, those species of fauna who are endangered; those who have had their homes destroyed; and those who have become extinct, through human greed and exploitation.

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

Confession

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

We remember and confess that we have not cared for your created fauna in the way that you would desire. Through human neglect, greed and exploitation we have endangered fauna, caused homes and habitats to be destroyed; and have even caused or allowed some members of your created fauna to become extinct,

We have loved progress more than the planet. We are sorry. Help us to feel the loss, to share the sorrow and to share the memory.

Lord Jesus, teach us to love fauna and flora 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 affirm your compassion,

embrace creatures in pain, and care for those in danger,
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.

God, our Creator, source of everything that is, we bring before you this day, bread and wine and with it we bring before you all creation to say:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Thank you for joining the web of creation for living and dying among us to redeem us and all creation:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Thank you for rising to life, permeating creation with your Spirit to sustain and heal all things:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Therefore, with voices of thanks echoing through the cosmos from the first day of creation until this very moment in time, we praise and thank you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of all life,
The whole cosmos is filled with your presence!
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 our fauna family on
earth.

Christ calls us to be his disciples,
to serve him with love and compassion,
to serve Earth by caring for creation,
and all creatures in danger or need.

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 all creatures!

We will nurture our planet!

We will sustain our endangered kin.

The Blessing.

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill
you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth and the pulsing of
Christ in creation, through whom all things are reconciled and renewed.
And the blessing ... **Amen.**

The Dismissal.

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth!

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Song of the Wild

(This special song/hymn written for Fauna Sunday is located in *Habel Hymns Volume One*. A copy of the song book with music is available from nhabel@esc.net.au

1. Will you come back with Me to
the birth of the Earth,
before all its life forms evolved?
Will you sing with the heavens
amazed at the sight,
A planet with secrets to unfold?

2. Will you walk home with Me on
the way to the wild
And watch baby birds break from
their shells?
Do you know how I serve as a mid-
wife to all?
The lion, the lizard and gazelle?

4. Will you sleep with your God in
the desert one night
And wake with the creatures of the
sand?
Can you fathom the wisdom instilled
in their mind?
To live without water, sun or man?

Refrain:
Will you praise, Be amazed
With eyes as wide as a child's?
Will you praise, Be amazed
And sing the song of the wild?

3. Will you gather with Me as the
wading birds dance,
Preparing to migrate North once
more?
Can you fathom the code I have
fixed in their souls?

5. If you don't feel at home with
the rain forest snakes,
If you're troubled when creatures
change their skin,
Then surrender the claim that you
rule on this Earth
And discover creation as your kin.

Words: © Norman Habel 2002

The following acknowledgements are made:

Adapted from the season of Creation materials produced in Australia; copyright held jointly by Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

<https://seasonofcreation.com/> Used with Permission.

Prayers reproduced from A Prayer Book for Australia, copyright 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation, under the imprint Broughton Books. Reproduced with permission.