

# A LITURGY FOR EARTHKEEPING





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In 2012 this liturgy for the broader church was commissioned in honor of Luther College's sesquicentennial. It is a collaborative project between Dakota Road Music and Luther College Ministries. Practicing the "joyful stewardship of the resources that surround us" is a ministry of Luther that draws the college into partnership with many communities of faith. The Liturgy for Earthkeeping is a resource for congregations and ministries to help strengthen connections between sustainability, liturgy, spiritual formation and joyful stewardship.

For more information and resources about care of creation visit:

[www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)

For more information about sustainability initiatives at Luther College visit:

[www.luther.edu/sustainability](http://www.luther.edu/sustainability)

**SENDING SONG** "Go Now"



vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it go now with God,  
 vs. 1 *Lleno del Es - pi - ri - tu San - to va - mos con Dios,*  
 vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger go now with God,  
 vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us go now with God,  
 vs. 4 Cross - ing ev' - ry bound'ry, ev' - ry na - tion go now with God,



go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant  
*va - mos con Dios. En - tran - do al mun - do pa - ra ser - vir*  
 go now with God. Trust - ing in the ris - en sav - ior  
 go now with God. Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us  
 go now with God. Danc - ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion



go now with God, go now with God. Go now,  
*va - mos con Dios, va - mos con Dios. Va - mos,*



go now, go now with God.  
*va - mos, va - mos con Dios.*



Go now, go now, go now with God.  
*Va - mos, va - mos, va - mos con Dios.*

alt. *Las aguas de piedad nos acogen*  
 vs. 3 *La gracia del Señor nos acompaña*

Spanish translation  
 Jim Trelstad-Porter

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, care for all creation.  
 Thanks be to God.

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING SONG** "Your River O God"



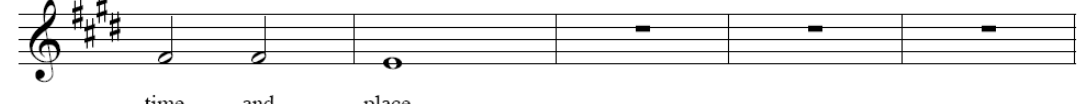
Your riv - er, O God, is full of wa - ter, wa - ter a -



live with jus - tice and grace. Your riv - er, O God, it



flows with mer - cy for ev' - ry child through ev' - ry



time and place.



Ev' - ry birth on this earth speaks the  
 Come and hear all who fear, you are  
 As we grow may we know waves of



mys - ter - y. Ev' - ry heart,  
 not a - lone. Come and see,  
 hope sur - round. As we live



from the start, light for all to see.  
 be set free, rest here in your home.  
 may we give love that has no bounds.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground.  
**Send forth your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world.**  
 Open up the soil of our hearts to your word of life.  
**May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who you are creating us to be.**

**OPENING SONG** "Come and See"

Refrain

Come and see what God has done. The earth is a - live;  
 thanks to the sun. Ev - ry plant that grows ev - ry ri - ver that flows what a  
 mir - a - cle gift of cre - a - tion!

Verse

The song of a wren, the flight of a hawk, a ba - by's first bond with her  
 Pon - der the vast - ness of the night sky. The dis - tance you see is a -  
 Look at a seed, it knows what to do; new life will spring forth from its  
 Peo - ple of Faith, Grace beck - ons you home to E - den in all of its

moth - er; first flow - ers of spring a - rise and sing. The  
 maz - ing. The light trav - els o - ver thou - sands of years be -  
 fall - ing. And we as peo - ple of the Di - vine can  
 splen - dor. Do you hear the call? Re - new the earth! With

to Refrain

world is filled with won - der!  
 fore you see it star - gaz - ing.  
 lis - ten as we know our call - ing.  
 care now gar - den and tend her.

**CONFESSION**

Sisters and brothers, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. *(silence)*

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life....

**We confess our part in a broken world.**

**MEAL**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE/WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION SONG: "Healer"**

Refrain

Heal - er, heal - er, come and  
 heal this world. Heal - er,  
 heal - er, come and heal this world.

Verse

May we all of - fer up our hands. May we  
 May we all lay our weap - ons down. May we  
 May we all of - fer up our hands. May we

to Refrain

all, all, all  
 all find our to - geth - er stand.  
 all, all to - geth - er com - mon ground.  
 all, all to - geth - er stand.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

May God our Creator bless and keep you, may Jesus, child of the earth, walk with you, and may the Holy Spirit, wind and fire, give you hope and peace.

**Amen**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (respond with “Hope of all Creation”)

Hope of all cre - a - tion, Heal - er of re -  
 la - tions, We lift our prayer to you. We  
 lift our prayer to you.

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING SONG** “God of Stars and Distant Planets”

God of stars and dis - tant plan - ets, the far - thest reach - es of  
 Praise you God the cos - mic art - ist for daz - zling beau - ty com -  
 Help us find with - in cre - a - tion, O God of crea - tures and  
 night. Lead us home to re - dis - cov - er you, our Liv - ing  
 plex. Vi - brant col - ors fill the can - vas; your im - age it re -  
 trees, a new way to grow with na - ture; sort out our wants and  
 Light. Ig - nite us with a pas - sion to be your liv - ing  
 flects. You step back from your ea - sel call good what you first  
 needs. Trans - form our way of liv - ing, we pray in Je - sus  
 sparks. May we ra - di - ate your splen - dor, rays of  
 saw. May we all for gen - er - a - tions live with  
 name. Turn our vi - sion in - to ac - tion that your  
 sun that shine in the dark, rays of sun that shine in the dark.  
 such a - ware - ness and awe, live with such a - ware - ness and awe.  
 work of art be sus - tained, that your work of art be sus - tained.

You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life...

**We confess our part in a broken world.**

As Jesus’ disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life...

**We confess our part in a broken world.**

**SONG OF MERCY** “Mercy On This Fallen World”

**Refrain**  
 Have mer - cy on this fal - len world. Have mercy on us. Have  
 mer - cy on this fal - len world, mer - cy Lord have mercy on us.  
**Verse**  
 For all of the days that have fal - len a - part, have mer - cy.  
 For all who have fears that come with the night, have mer - cy.  
 For ev - e - ry life, for ev - e - ry heart, have mer - cy.  
 For all those who need to be held in the light, have mer - cy.  
 For all those who hun - ger and strug - gle each day, have mer - cy.  
 For all of cre - a - tion through fam - ine or feast, have mer - cy.  
**to Refrain**  
 For all of the times that we turn a - way.  
 For all of the world to live in your peace.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God’s mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SONG OF PRAISE "Praise to You"**

Refrain

Praise to you, O Great Cre - a - tor, Ma - ker of the land and sky.

Praise to you, O Liv - ing Wat - er, hope and breath of ev - ry life.

Verse

We are lost and we are long-ing, wand'-ring in the wild - er - ness,  
Hear the cries of all cre - a - tion, how the tears like ri - vers flow  
May we live your way of jus-tice, may we walk your way of peace.

to Refrain

search - ing for your hol - y pres-ence and the rea - son we ex - ist.  
for your touch of grace and heal - ing and the love that leads us home.  
May we see your sac - red vi - sion, may we know your sweet re-lease.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.  
The eyes of all look to you, O God. Turn our hearts and minds to your open hand that provides for every living thing, so that we may know your generosity and participate in the healing and restoration of all that you have made, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**WORD**

**LESSONS and PSALM**

**SONG OF THE WORD "Hallelujah"**

Hal - le - lu jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu jah. Hal - le - lu jah.

**GOSPEL**

**SERMON**

**SONG OF THE DAY "Your Love is Everlasting"**

Since time be - gan, through cent - ur - ies God's  
A moth - ers womb, a brand new life God's  
Signs of hope, a voice of peace God's

love is ev - er - last - ing. To dis - tant un - known  
love is ev - er - last - ing. An emp - ty tomb, the  
love is ev - er - last - ing. The pro - phet's cry for

gal - ax - ies God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
ri - sen Christ God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
war to cease God's love is ev - er - last - ing. For the

Splen - dor springs forth 'cross the land God's  
Weep - ing may last for the night God's  
down and out and high and proud God's

love is ev - er - last - ing. A - bun - dance, shar - ing  
love is ev - er - last - ing. But joy breaks forth with  
love is ev - er - last - ing. Come all you peo - ple

hand in hand God's love is ev - er - last - ing. Your  
morn - ing light God's love is ev - er - last - ing.  
shout out loud God's love is ev - er - last - ing.

love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing. Your

love (your love) is last - ing, your love is ev - er - last - ing.

**CREED/AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**