

A Service of Morning Prayer on the Feast of Christ in Creation

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
(John 1:1)*



(with thanks to @freebibleimages.org)

Please join in with the words in bold. ♦ Invites a pause between lines.

Preparation

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All and also with you

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A hymn may be sung

Confession

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it.
Let us confess our failure to receive with gratitude
God's gift of creation,
and report the ways in which we have caused it harm.

A short period of silence for reflection

You laid the foundations of the earth
but we have claimed your world as our own.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those belonging to you.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new,
but our hope has grown dim.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of Love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

Revelation 4.11

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalmody

PSALM 96

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
He has made the world so firm
that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

**Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord.**

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading

EITHER Isaiah 55.12–end OR Colossians 1.15–20 is read.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle – A Song of the New Creation

Refrain:

All **I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

‘I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.’

**Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,**

‘Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.

**‘Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

‘I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,

**‘The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.’**

From Isaiah 43

Refrain:

All **I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

Second Reading

John 1:1-14 is read.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Responsory

The heavens proclaim the glory of God:
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**All The firmament shows God's handiwork:
and one day pours out its song to another.**

The sun goes forth from the ends of the heavens,

All and proclaims the glory of God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All The heavens proclaim the glory of God:
and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

From Psalm 19

Gospel Cantic

**All Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them:
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

**To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68-79

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All **Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them:
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**

A hymn may be sung

*Homily**

Affirmation of Faith

We affirm our faith:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers

The intercessions below may be used with or without appropriate insertions... :

Let us pray to God,
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

Father, Lord of creation,

All in your mercy, hear us.

You have created the universe through Christ, your eternal Word,
and have blessed all creation in the making of the earth.

We pray for the world...
that we may share and conserve its resources,
and live in reverence for all creation
and in harmony with one another.

Father, Lord of creation,

All in your mercy, hear us.

You have given humanity an abundant home,
a land of streams and springs, wheat and barley,
vines and oil and honey.
Yet we have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.

We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction....
that together we may come to share
in the life of your wholeness and plenty.

Father, Lord of creation,

All in your mercy, hear us.

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,
loving our neighbours before ourselves.

Help us to treat with care and respect this our common home....
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.

Father, Lord of creation,

All in your mercy, hear us.

We thank you for those, living and departed, ...
who have shown a true respect for your creation.

Help us to follow in their footsteps,
until, with them, we see you face to face,
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Collect for Creation in Christ

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

A hymn may be sung

Act of Commitment

As the whole of creation looks with eager longing
for the redemption of humankind,
let us pledge ourselves anew to serve our Creator God,
the Father who is the maker of all things,
the Son through whom all things are made,
and the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,
who renews the face of the earth.

Let us affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation.

**All Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste,
to live sustainably,
and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise.**

May the commitment we have made this day
be matched by our faithful living.

All Amen. Amen. Amen.

Conclusion

May God the Father,
whose glory is proclaimed in the heavens,
awaken in us a delight and wonder
in this good creation.

All Amen.

May God the Son, the Word made flesh,
through whom all things were made,
fill us with his risen life.

All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who hovered over the waters of creation
and formed the world from chaos,
form us in the likeness of Christ and
renew the face of the earth.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All Amen.

Let us go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

* The weekly Homilies Project sheet can be downloaded from:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/mission-ministry-discipleship/worship-resources/homily-project/>

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<https://www.feastofcreation.com>