



Metropolitan New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Pope Francis has established an annual day of global prayer “for the Care of Creation” to boost support for the environment on September 1. The Metropolitan New York Synod is joining our brothers and sisters throughout the world in commemorating and celebrating this day.

Compiled by members of our Environmental Stewardship Committee, we invite congregations and individuals to use these resources on September 1 and the days surrounding this commemoration.

A Christian prayer in union with creation *by Pope Francis*

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

Psalms for Prayer

Psalm 8 (humanity's responsibility and role)

Psalm 19 (human humility and awe)

Psalm 33 (God is in charge)

Psalm 51 (repentance)

Psalm 98 (creation rejoices at the judgment of God)

Psalm 104 (God provides us with more than we need)

Psalm 136 (God creates and God saves)

Psalm 145 (God's goodness pervades the world and perdures throughout history)

Psalm 148 (all creation praises God)

Readings

Numbers 35:33-34

Ezekiel 34:17-31

Hosea 4:1-3

John 1:1-13

Colossians 1:15-20

Revelation 21:1-7

A Litany for God's Creation *adapted from the Liturgy of St. Dionysius*

We praise you, Almighty God

All your creatures praise you.

Truly the celebration of your gifts, O Lord,

Surpasses the powers of mind, of speech, and of thought;

Neither is sufficient every mouth, mind and tongue,

To glorify you worthily.

For, by your word the heavens were made,

And by the breath of your mouth all the celestial powers;

All the lights in the firmament, sun and moon,

Sea and dry land, and whatever is in them.

The voiceless, by their silence,

The vocal by their voices, words, and hymns,

Perpetually bless you;

Because you are essentially good and beyond all praise,

Existing in your essence incomprehensibly.

This visible and sensible creature praises you,

And also that intellectual, placed above sensible perception.

Heaven and earth glorify you.

Sea and air proclaim you.

The sun, in his course, praises you;

The Moon, in her changes, venerates you.

We praise you, Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All your creatures praise you. Amen.

Closing prayer:

God of heaven and earth, you created all things through your powerful Word, and you delight in all the good you have brought forth. By the power of your Spirit, turn us to your works, so that by them we may know and glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.