

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Native American Sunday, Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Call to Worship

God, our Creator, made all that is, and proclaimed that 'it is good.' You have placed us together here on this land. You have shown us how to build community.

**Creator, help us to discover in all Your creation,
the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things, about balance
and about living in harmony.**

We are not above nature, we are part of Creation;
we live by the same laws as all of nature
and need to learn from what God has made.

**Creator, help us discover the power that lies
in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the
mysterious web of life and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.**

**ALL: Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours as we gather
in Your worship!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism (Option 1)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Water may be poured into a font as the following is read.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led Israel from slavery into freedom.
Through water you brought forth the Ojibwe people
and delivered them into this land, and
By water you fed them with wild rice, manoomin, the good seed.
Through water you have delivered generations of settlers and immigrants to this
place, and by water, you merge our stories and continue to feed us all.

In the Jordan river,
which flows together with all waters of the earth,
that your Son was baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
It is through water and by your Word
that you proclaim all people beloved.
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, you knit us together
into one human family and connect us to your whole creation.

We praise you for the gift of water that creates life.
We praise you for the gift of water that remembers life.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life.
We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit.
Pour your holy waters into our lives, communities and lands.
Renew us with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Gichi-gizhe-manidoo, Creator, God, the great mystery who is known by many names, to you we give thanks in all you bring, for your presence that surrounds us, and for your teaching ways. In mystery and spirit you have created this world and you invite us to walk in harmony with all created beings. Within this sacred circle, Jesus Christ is our center in all that we do. Help us to speak with honor and respect to all of creation and to be open to the teachings we are given. Open our eyes to understanding. Prepare our hearts to know true compassion, and give us strength so that we may live in truth, humility, love, and show grace. **AMEN**

Readings

- Isaiah 12:1-5
- Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5
- John 4:10-15

First Reading:

Isaiah 12:1–5 (NET)

¹ At that time you will say: “I praise you, O LORD, for even though you were angry with me, your anger subsided, and you consoled me. ² Look, God is my deliverer! I will trust in him and not fear. For the LORD gives me strength and protects me; he has become my deliverer.” ³ Joyfully you will draw water from the springs of deliverance. ⁴ At that time you will say: “Praise the LORD! Ask him for help! Publicize his mighty acts among the nations! Make it known that he is unique! ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done magnificent things, let this be known throughout the earth!

Second Reading:

Revelation 21:1–4; 22:1–5 (NET)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had ceased to exist, and the sea existed no more. ² And I saw the holy city—the new Jerusalem—descending out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Look! The residence of God is among human beings. He will live among them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them.” ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will not exist any more—or mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things have ceased to exist.”

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life—water as clear as crystal—pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ² flowing down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations. ³ And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him, ⁴ and they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night will be no more, and

they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever.

Gospel:

John 4:10–15 (CEB)

¹⁰ Jesus responded, “If you recognized God’s gift and who is saying to you, ‘Give me some water to drink,’ you would be asking him and he would give you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you don’t have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² You aren’t greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

Sermon:

Prayers of Intercession

With gratitude for the gift of life, let us draw near to God in prayer, asking for mercy for the Church, the world, and all who are in need of loving-kindness.

Lord, **make us instruments of your peace.**

Where there is hatred,
Let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;

We come before you, God, carrying all the things that divide our world - disagreements over how to govern, differences in expressions of faith, uncertainties about how to live in community with our neighbors. We remember with grief our failure to embrace the beauty of diversity that you have placed in humanity and all of creation. Compel us to carry your healing love into the world.

Lord, **make us instruments of your peace.**

Where there is fear, let us sow trust;
Where there is despair, hope;

We thank you, God, for your bountiful Creation, for this world that teems with life, and for your gift of water that sustains it. Bring comfort and healing when your creation cries out in pain. Be with all who advocate for healthy waterways, for lakes and rivers, seas and oceans, swamps, marshes, and bogs. Help us to remember your manifold blessings, when we fall sway to selfishness and concerns of scarcity. Where creation is wounded, help us be agents of your healing work.

Lord, **make us instruments of your peace.**

Where there is darkness, let us sow light;
And where there is sadness, Joy.

We thank you, God, for your Church, for pastors and deacons, bishops and the priesthood of all believers. Whether parent or child, retired or employed, married or single, ordained or lay servant, we thank you, God, for inviting us to be Christ's disciples and entrusting each of us to minister through our individual vocations. Lead us into the world and through all our words and deeds, may we reflect the light and joy we carry from your Spirit.

Lord, **make us instruments of your peace.**

Grant that we may
Not so much seek to be consoled
As to console;
To be understood,
As to understand;
To be loved as to love.

Place us among the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer. Teach our hearts to grieve the plight of refugees, prisoners, victims of violence, and all who are in danger. Open our eyes and our ears to the painful history and the legacy of Indian Boarding Schools. Open our hearts and help us repent of the trauma our country inflicted on generations of native children, parents, and communities. Teach us to repent. Show us how to forgive. Lead us to space where truth and healing co-exist.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are
Born to eternal life.

We remember all those who have journeyed before us, traveling the good road and walking in the good way. They have left legacies in this world and imprints on our hearts, providing examples of faith and bearing witness to your constant presence among us. Until we gather again through the promise of eternal life, grant us the ability to hear their encouragement and guidance as we walk the path that you have set before us. May we live life in a way that honors you and respects their examples. By your Spirit, may we know that we never travel alone.

All these things and more, we submit to you, gracious God,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of understanding and peace making.

**The Great Mystery who is God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
The Great Mystery who is God makes peace between us. Let us share it.**

The peace of the Great Mystery be with you in all things.

You are invited to take a moment to offer a prayer of peace into the world.

Offering Prayer

God our provider,
we bring nothing into this world
and we can take nothing out of it.
Accept the gifts you have first given us,
which we bring to your table,
and with them the offering of our lives.
Nourish us now with the life that really is life,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
AMEN

Lord's Prayer

And now we say the Nez Perce version of the Lord's Prayer:

**Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief, in the most high place
whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever
You want done, let it be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread
day by day. Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take
us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil, for everything
belongs to You. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

From the place of the rising sun in the East, to the South where the warm winds blow, from the West where soft rains come, and to the coldness of the North, we unite with all creation from the four directions, to join in everlasting thanksgiving and praise for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. With hearts lifted, we join with angels, the guardian Spirits, the Saints and all our ancestors as we pray;

O Great Spirit, our Creator, from whom all holiness comes, we your servants humbly come before you again today, just as in generations past. Like our Grandmothers and Grandfathers, we come to worship you and acknowledge your greatness. We marvel at your creation!

You sent Jesus into creation because people had turned away from you and no longer loved each other, bringing death and destruction to all. By sharing our living and dying, Jesus opened our eyes and our hearts to understand that we are all relatives and that you, our Creator, are the Father of us all.

Stretching out his arms on the cross, Jesus united us in all that is beauty and with all that has been and all that will ever be.

We thank you, that on that night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks to you, blessed it, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this all of you, this cup is the 'New Covenant' of my blood, poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

In this ceremony that Jesus gave us, we celebrate our salvation. In our offering of praise and thanks, we stand in the memory, strength and love of his death, resurrection and ascension. Remembering him we make our offering:

By your Holy Spirit make our gifts holy, so that they may be spiritual food and drink. Make us holy, so that we may respectfully receive this feast and serve you in each other. Surrounded now by heavenly beings; and all your Saints and angels, we marvel as we see the unity of all things restored in your Son. May we also be this unity and live as relatives to all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you, our God and Creator, as a community of relatives. All honor and glory is yours, now and forever. **AMEN.**

(adapted from the Red Lake Mass)

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come, take your place at the feast.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus Christ, our leader, you are the Son of the Creator.

Today we became your children. Today we became your grandchildren. We will live as you have taught us. We will follow your commandments. Watch over us. Speak to us from the trees, from the grass and herbs, from the breeze, from the passing rain, from the passing thunder and the deep waters. Before us there is beauty, behind us there is beauty. Allow us to walk a long life in happiness, completed in beauty.

Creator together our breath is a prayer to you. As we prepare to leave this sacred space, give us your peace as our time together in this sacred and holy space is done. Grant us rest on this earth, and give us rest we get to heaven once our time on your wondrous Creation is finished.

AMEN

(Adapted from the Liturgy of St. John's, Red Lake MN- Red Lake Band of Chippewa & Elizabeth Gaskins, Muscogee (Creek))

Blessing

Great Spirit, our Creator God, look upon these faces gathered in holy community together and send them anywhere you would have them go, so that they may embody the word of reconciliation through their actions. Walk with them so that they may face the winds of change and walk the good road. Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always.

AMEN

OR

As God has loved you, go forth and love the circle of life created by God's hand. As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Christ. May you be a blessing to all whose paths cross your own.

AMEN

Sending Prayer

Jesus Christ, our leader, you are the Son of the Creator. We will live as you have taught us. We will follow your commandments. Gichi-Manidoo, the Holy Spirit, watch over us. Speak to us from the trees, from the grass and herbs, from the breeze, from the passing rain, from the passing thunder and the deep waters. Gizhe-Manidoo (gee-zhay man-i-do), the Great Mystery who is our God, before us there is beauty, behind us there is beauty. Allow us to walk a long life in happiness, completed in beauty.

Together our breath is a prayer rising to you. Give us your peace. Grant us rest on this earth, and give us rest when we get to heaven once our time in your wondrous Creation is finished. **AMEN**

Dismissal

We have honored Christ, our brother; all my relatives, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood

Digital reading by Melissa Fain can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0itq-Uk43mE>

Possible Hymns:

Many and Great, O God (Wakantanka taku nitawa) (ELW 837)

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind (ELW 400)

When Long before Time vs. 1-5 (ELW 861)

How Marvelous God's Greatness (ELW 830)

Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)

All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (vs. 1-3,6) (ELW 835)

Possible Communion Hymns:

He Comes to Us as One Unknown (ELW 737)

Morning Has Broken (ELW 556)

How Great Thou Art (ELW 856)

Possible Offering Hymn:

Touch the Earth Lightly (ELW 739)

Resources:

- *Colossians 2:6 by Rev. Anita Phillips, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, UMC*
- *ELCA Native American Liturgical Celebration*
- *Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA, Oglala Sioux*
- *Pastor Rebecca LeMenanger, United Church of Christ*
- *Lift Up Your Hearts, CRCNA*
- *Northwoods Service Liturgy, Hope Lutheran Church - Moose Lake, MN*
- *Bishop-elect Amy Odgren, NEMN Synod, ELCA*
- *Sacred Ground*
- *UMC 21st Century Worship Resources for Native American Ministries Sunday*
- *UMC Native American Ministries Sunday Liturgy*