

# Midweek Worship: Creation

March 4, 2026; 7 p.m.



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

## Prelude

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

Linda Ranney

## Call to Worship *(please stand)*

God, this is the creation you love.

**You speak stars into being  
and make us family with every created thing.**

God, these are the people you love.

**You follow us out of the garden  
and never fail us on our journey.**

God, this is the church you love.

**You teach us the way of loving kindness  
and lead us with mercy.**

Send your Spirit among us, O God.

**Speak to us now through the wonders of creation  
and the actions of our neighbors  
and the meditations of our hearts.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW #757; *All My Hope on God is Founded* vs. 1-2

- 1 All my hope on God is founded  
who will all my trust renew,  
who through change and chance will guide me,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, God alone,  
call my heart to be thine own.
- 2 Mortal pride and earthly glory,

sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.  
But thy pow'r, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tow'r.

## Prayer

Let us pray. God of limitless care, **you weave yourself between every thread of our lives' fabric. You dwell deeply in joy and pain, suffering and hope, loss and love. Immanent One, come to us now. Surface all around in the ordinary material of our congregation and our community. Draw us into deeper connections with our neighbors and with one another, for every part of creation reflects a facet of your face. Amen.**

## Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection: All in for Creation

Jim Boulter

### Hymn

ELW #739; *Touch the Earth Lightly*

- 1 Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
  
- 2 We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster—  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
  
- 3 Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.
  
- 4 God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently, and making us one.

### Offering *(please sit)*

*(Ushers collect offering and bring forward to Pastor.)*

Linda Ranney

## Prayers of the People

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*(Confirmation students will offer prayers)*

Petition:

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of infinite love, cradle all for whom we pray in the palm of your hand in the name of Jesus, who pours himself out for the whole world's sake.

**Amen.**

## Candle Prayer

*(Assembly is invited to light a candle and pray at the sand bowls.)*

## The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever. Amen.**

## Blessing *(please stand)*

The fullness of God's love  
floods into every corner of our existence.  
God blesses the works of our minds and bodies,  
the words of our hands and lips,  
the reflections of our hearts,  
that all we say and pray and do  
will reflect God's deep care.

God blesses you with creativity and renewal.  
Christ blesses you with wisdom and courage.  
The Spirit blesses you with insight and transformation,  
here and now

and in every place and time.

**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

*(Acolytes extinguish the candles)*

ELW #757; *All My Hope on God Is Founded* vs. 3-4

3 Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;  
deep thy wisdom, passing thought;  
splendor, light, and life attend thee,  
beauty springing out of naught.  
Evermore from thy store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of God's own Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

## **Sending**

Depart now in peace  
to find Christ in your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Linda Ranney

## **Serving at Worship Today**

Pastor	Pastor Christine Emerson
Ushers	6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> graders
Greeters	6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> graders
Media & Streaming	Lydia Elko
Screen Operator	Lydia Elko
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir
Message	Jim Boulter

---

**Copyright Information**

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006 & Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. Reprinted from With One Voice copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. Reprinted from Worship & Praise copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510. "All Rights Reserved" Used by permission. CCLI License # 1070784. With permission by OneLicense.net license A-703800.