

Where Two or Three Are Gathered
Worship for Smaller Assemblies
Time of Creation in the Season after Pentecost
Sunday, September 2 – Sunday, September 30, 2018

The Time or Season of Creation is increasingly being recognized by churches across the world. It is now designated each year between the Day of Creation, September 1, and the festival of Francis of Assisi, October 4. This year there are five Sundays to recognize this seasonal emphasis on the goodness of God's creation and God's calling all people to care for the earth and its climate.

A simple order for worship, song, prayer and liturgical choices are listed below drawing from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and a few other sources.

Visually, it is a great time to incorporate signs of creation into your worship space. Hang pieces of fabric in earth colours: greens, browns, blues, but essentially any colour fits this time of creation. Emphasizing elements such as rocks/stones, wood, plants and shrubs, water, could all be part of a display(s) in the entranceway and the worship space. People of the community and especially children could be invited to bring items to add to the display and/or take an item such as a small stone to carry with them throughout the week. The table and other paraments, typically green in this season, could remain and other colours added throughout the five weeks. A simple square piece of cloth or poster board could be hung up and people could be invited to add signs of God's good creation in pictures, or words.

Music for these Sundays can include songs from the creation section of ELW, No.730 – 740 and the subject index on "creation," page 1180. There are both very familiar songs like:

No. 733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness,"
No. 835 "All Creatures Worship God Most High"
No. 879 "For the Beauty of the Earth"
No. 836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
No. 556 "Morning Has Broken"
No. 824 "This is My Father's World;"

And newer songs with melodies that can be easily sung:

No. 734 "God Whose Firm Is All Creation"
No. 735 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"
No. 739 "Touch the Earth Lightly"
No. 837 "Many and Great, O God"

A particular creation song could be repeated each of the five Sundays, as an offering song, or at various times in the worship.

The readings –for a smaller gathering you may consider using two of the readings, highlighted in bold

September 2, 2018

Song of Solomon 2:18-13 – The writer references images of creation to describe feelings for the beloved
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-13, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 16

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19 – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handwork.”

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 23

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1 – “They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season...”

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 30

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

A suggested order for the Time of Creation

Gathering

Opening Song

Prayer of the Day

Word

Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel reading

Sermon/reflection

Hymn of the Day

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Sending

Blessing

Sending Song