

Morning Prayer: Rite Two
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
The Feast of Holy Cross Day, September 14

Using The Daily Office: Prayer with Creation
from Season of Creason Episcopal Liturgical Guide

Officers: Maggie Marshall and Linda Masiello

Officiant 1 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. *Psalm 96:11-12*

Officiant 2 Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8*

Confession of Sin

Officiant 1 Let us confess our sins against God and all Creation.

Silence

Officiant 1 Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you. We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives. We confess that we have misused your earth: grant us amendment of life. We confess that we have been intemperate in our appetites: strengthen us in self-control. We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection. Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant 2 Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant 1 This is the day the Creator has made.

Officiant 2 Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Officiant 1 Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation:

Officiant 2 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Officiant 1 The loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole Creation:

Officiant 2 Come let us adore the Creator.

***Invitatory Psalm for Creation* -Psalm 8**

O LORD our Governor, *

how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children *

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *

to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

What is man that you should be mindful of him? *

the son of man that you should seek him out?

You have made him but little lower than the angels; *

you adorn him with glory and honor;

You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *

you put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, *

even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *

and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Governor, *

how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Officiant 1 The loving-kindness of the Lord fills the whole Creation:

Officiant 2 Come let us adore the Creator.

Psalm 98 *Said responsively breaking at the half verse*

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
 for he has done marvelous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm *
 has he won for himself the victory.
The Lord has made known his victory; *
 his righteousness has he openly shown
 in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
 and all the ends of the earth
 have seen the victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
 with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
 shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
 the lands and those who dwell therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands, *
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
 when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the world *
 and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

The Lessons

Officiant 1 **A Reading from Creation and the Cross by
Elizabeth Johnson**

Calvary graphically shows that the God of suffering love abides in solidarity with all creatures, bearing the cost of new life through endless millennia of evolution, from the extinction of whole species to, yes, every sparrow that falls to the ground. The Creator of all flesh is silently present with creatures in their pain and dying. The cross signals that God is present in the midst of anguish, bearing every creature and all creation forward with an unimaginable promise.

Elizabeth A. Johnson (b. 1941) is a Roman Catholic feminist theologian. She is a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Theology at Fordham University, a Jesuit institution in New York City and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. The National Catholic Reporter has called Johnson "one of the country's most prominent and respected theologians."

Canticle **A Song of the Wilderness**

Isaiah 35:1-7,10
said responsively breaking at the half verse

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
 and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
 the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
 and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, “Be strong, do not fear! *
 Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you.”
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
 and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
 and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
 and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
 with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation:
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

Officiant 2 **A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

John 12:31-36a

Jesus said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

Officiant 2 Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God’s Creation.

Officiant 1 Thanks be to God

Profession of Faith

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created:
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers;
all things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased
to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

(Colossians 1:15-20)

The Prayers

Officiant 2 In God all Creation lives, moves, and has being.
Officiant 1 Indeed we all are God's offspring.
Officiant 2 Let us pray.

Officiant 2 Our Father and Mother in heaven
Officiant 1 **You are also at home in the air, soil, forests
and oceans**
Officiant 2 Hallowed be your name
Officiant 1 **By the care we take of your Creation**
Officiant 2 Your kingdom come
Officiant 1 **All that you see is good**
Officiant 2 Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven
Officiant 1 **Your will to till and care**
Officiant 2 Give us this day our daily bread
Officiant 1 **That all may have enough to live life in fullness**
Officiant 2 Forgive us our trespasses

Officiant 1 **Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern
for other species and for future generations**
Officiant 2 As we forgive those who trespass against us
Officiant 1 **By reconciliation with justice and peace.**
Officiant 2 Lead us not into temptation
Officiant 1 **The temptation to equate
dominion with exploitation**
Officiant 2 And deliver us from evil
Officiant 1 **The evil of destroying your gift of creation**
Officiant 2 For yours is the kingdom
Officiant 1 **Yours, Lord, not ours**
Officiant 2 The power and the glory
Officiant 1 **In the cross and resurrection**
Officiant 2 For ever and ever
Officiant 1 **You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen.**

Suffrages B

V. Heal your Creation, O God, and bless your offspring;
R. **Guide and sustain your creatures, now and always.**
V. Day by day your Creation blesses you;
R. **We join our voices to praise your Name for ever.**
V. O God, unite us with all Creation in harmony;
R. **Have compassion on our failings, O God.**
V. O God, show us your love and sustaining power;
R. **For your creatures live and move only in you.**
V. In you, O God, is our hope;
R. **And your Creation shall never hope in vain.**

Officiant 1 Ever present God, whose Son our Savior was lifted high upon the cross that he might renew all Creation through himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our restoration, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him on his way to bring new life to all things; through Jesus the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *Creation Collect of the Day*

Officiant 2 O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *A Collect for Peace*

Officiant 1 Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen. *Prayer for Mission*

The Peace and Greetings

Officiant 2 Peace with yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

Officiant 1 **And also with you**

The worshippers exchange the Peace and greet one another.

One of the Officiants prays Thanksgivings and Intercessions shared in Chat.

Closing Prayers

Officiant 2 Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant 1 Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant 1 Let us bless the Lord.

Officiant 2 Thanks be to God.

Officiant 1 With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Amen.

Ephesians 1:8-10