

Sunday, October 11, 2020

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!**

Confession and Forgiveness (Option 1)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

God of all mercy and consolation,
Come to the help of your people,
Turning us from our sin
To live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
That we may confess our sin,
Receive your forgiveness,
And grow into the fullness
Of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

The Doctrine of Discovery is a philosophical and legal framework dating to 15th century European papal decrees. This framework gave Christian governments a false moral rationale for invading and seizing indigenous lands and people around the world. Its effects, including intergenerational trauma, still linger in our social and legal systems.

We confess our complicity in this sinful doctrine, and we are grateful that this synod, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, by official repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, acknowledges the harm done to Indigenous people by colonization. We pledge to continue the way of listening and of repentance. With the whole church, we intend to further nurture mutual relationships of loving care and respect.

We acknowledge that we worship and gather on land traditionally cared for by the <visit <https://native-land.ca/> to find the names of the first peoples living on the land on which you gather> who continue to live and work here as members of surrounding communities. Indigenous people are our siblings and neighbors, and we are commanded to love our neighbors as we heed Christ's call to the healing of people, of land, and all Creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**God our helper,
often we get so caught up in the letter of the law
that we lose sight of the spirit of the law.
We remember with shame the impact of laws
like the Doctrine of Discovery
that corrupted your will
and inflicted harm on generations of Native Americans.
In our self-righteous lack of understanding,
we continue to persecute your children.
Too often, we are the instrument that pierces your hands and feet.
Forgive us for the pain that we cause others.
Open our eyes to see you in our neighbor.
Transform us into instruments of your good news.**

Silence is held.

Siblings in Christ, hear the Good News.
There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent.
Put your trust in these promises:
God will never leave you or forsake you.
You who were lost have been found.
For the sake of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice with the angels at this good news.
Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness (Option 2)

SMUDGING CEREMONY

Please Stand.

A Native Person should lead this Prayer. We turn our bodies to the Four Directions as we pray the following prayers. Begin by turning toward the East and continue to turn, with each prayer, in a clockwise direction.

The smudging ceremony is like a prayer of confession, as we purify our minds and hearts. Reach out for the smoke and draw it into your heart. Sage will be burned during the Four Directions prayer.

PRAYER TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS

Creator God, the Great Mystery, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. We respect the truth of your unseen world and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. We honor you by deeds and not words. We live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as we gather together here in your name.

We invite you to participate by reading one of the prayers aloud, if you feel so called.

EAST

We face East: To your symbol color gold, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, where the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All

who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

SOUTH

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, In the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

WEST

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, the place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

NORTH

We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, we look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

EARTH

We face the earth: To your symbol color green, the place from whom we receive those things which sustain our life. It is with your breath, Creator God, and the earth, our mother, that we were created to be part of your whole creation. Keep us mindful, so that we may not despoil, rape, or hurt our mother in any way. Help us to live in harmony with all our relatives. And we pray,

Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

SKY

We face the sky: To your symbol color blue, the place from where your breath moves and the warmth of the sun flows. We see our brother the eagle carrying our prayers to you. From the sky you bring us rain, which refreshes the whole earth regardless of race, class, or other divisions that we have placed in your way. Keep us ever mindful of your grace and mercy, which shines upon us every day. Let us be faithful witnesses to your love and your power in all lives. And we

pray,
Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come

OURSELVES

We face ourselves in prayer to you, Creator God. We feel your presence in our lives. We remember that before we were born, you counted every hair on our head and you called us into relationship with you and into relationship with all our relatives: sun and moon and wind, the winged ones, the two-leggeds, the four-leggeds, those who swim, those who crawl, and those who are rooted into the earth. You have given each of us a calling. Help us not to forsake this calling by thinking only of ourselves. We asked for your help, Creator God. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Creator, to you we give thanks in all you bring and ask for your guidance as we prepare to open our hearts and minds. 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 be open to the teachings we are given. As we walk this sacred journey together with our relations, open our eyes to understanding, and the strength to truly see the way to live with compassion, love and grace. For with your Spirit, we can face the winds together. **AMEN**

Gospel Acclamation

"This is My Father's World" vs. 1-2 (ELW 824)

Readings

Genesis 2:5-9, 18-22

Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-5

John 9:2-7

First Reading: Genesis 2:5-9, 18-22

⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and

there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Second Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-4, 2:1-5

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, ² one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. ³ They replied, "The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire."

⁴ When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

2 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. ² So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. ³ I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴ Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ Then I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it."

Gospel: John 9:2-7

² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

**Triune God,
We come before you
As many parts of a single body;
People drawn from every tribe,
Every nation, every language;
Some Indigenous –peoples of this land;
Some refugees, immigrants, pilgrims –people on the move;
Some hosts, some guests;
All of us searching for an eternal place
Where we can belong.**

Creator, remind us
The earth and everything in it is yours,
But in our arrogance, we think we own it.
In our greed, we think we can steal it.
In our thoughtlessness, we destroy it.
We forget that you created it to bring praise and joy to you,
That you gave it as a gift, for us to steward,
For us to enjoy,
For us to see more clearly your beauty and your majesty.
Restore your creation.
Bring peace to all our relatives.
God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Jesus, save us.
We cry out in response to the pains of this world.
We mourn for the losses we feel.
We hunger for your reconciliation,
For that day when people,
from every tribe and every tongue will gather in peace.

God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Holy Spirit, show us.
Help us remember that the body is made up of many parts;
Each one unique and every one necessary.
Teach us to embrace the discomfort that comes from our diversity
And to celebrate the fact that we are unified,
Not through our sameness,
But through the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**Triune God, we love you.
Your creation is beautiful.
Your salvation is merciful.
And your wisdom is beyond compare.
We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen**

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

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.

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

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

OR

In Ezekiel 38:23, "I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD." As we come together in unity to praise you God our Creator, let us pray each in our own language as Jesus has taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

OR

Non-Communion Sunday or Virtual Service

As a scattered community we won't take communion together in today's service in part because communion is something we do together as one body of Christ. But when the Israelites were wandering in the desert, they cried out to God and God sent manna. We know that in times of crisis, God feeds hungry people. We know there are so many ways that God nourishes our hungry souls. God, give us companions on the way, and God, give us bread and water for the journey ahead.

(Leader holds up a communion wafer or tradition communion loaf and as he breaks it says..)

For all.. for all for whom Christ has died, this is bread for the Journey.
Christ says, "This is my Body, do this in remembrance of me."

(Holds up a Rice cake and as she breaks it says...)

For us, this is bread for the journey.
We do this in remembrance of Christ

(Holds up a tortilla or flatbread and as she breaks it says...)

For us, this is bread for the journey.
We are asked to do this in remembrance of Christ.

(Holds up a cardamom braid and as he breaks it says...)

For us, this is bread for the journey.

What will we do together in remembrance of Christ?

(Holds up a lefse round, and as she breaks it says...)

For us, this is bread for the journey.

May all that we do this day and every day be in remembrance of Christ.

(while allowing the Manoomin to fall from her fingers, says....)

For us, this is bread for the journey.

Let us pray...Gitchi Manitou, we give you thanks that in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us bread for the journey and wine in the dessert. Open our eyes to see you in all things, in every part of creation and in every person we meet.

May we remember that we are on this journey together with you and with all our siblings. Give us grateful hearts that we might say, miigwech, thank you, for bringing us together here and for leading us on the journey ahead. 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

OR

In Ezekiel 38:23, "I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD." As we come together in unity to praise you God our Creator, let us pray each in our own language as Jesus has taught us...

(have multiple voices read the following versions of the Lord's prayers at the same time)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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

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*