

Riverside Worship Service

We worship with the rivers in creation.

Sunday, August 28, 2022

Copeland Park | 10:45am



*Congregation response is printed in **bold**.
Offering can be placed in the basket at the Welcome Table.*

PASTORS

Pastor Mark Kvale, Pastor Becky Goche, English Lutheran & Pastor Phil Waselik, Trinity Lutheran

VISITORS, WE WELCOME YOU to our special worship service this weekend! We're glad to have you join us today and hope you find your worship here to be fulfilling and joyful. Feel free to introduce yourself to one of the pastors. We hope to see you again soon!

THANK YOU TO OUR MUSICIANS AND WORSHIP AND LUNCHEON VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT!



1509 King Street, La Crosse, WI
englishlutheran.org | 784 - 9335

WORSHIP SERVICES:
SAT 5:00 PM, SUN 8:30 & 10:45 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church
1010 Sill Street, La Crosse, WI
trinitylutheranlax.org | 782-6200

WORSHIP SERVICES:
SAT 5:30 PM, SUN 8:30 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

INVOCATION

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, in the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and in the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. **Amen.**

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence to worship in this sanctuary called Earth, **a planet pulsating with your presence, a presence quivering the forests, a presence vibrating in the land, a presence pulsating in the wilderness, a presence shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place, and show us your face in all creation. **Holy! Holy! Holy! The whole Earth is filled with your glory.**

We invite the rivers to worship with us: **the Mississippi, the Black, the La Crosse, and all the rivers that flow to the sea.**

We invite the streams to sing: **perch, sunfish, and flashing bass, trout streams and gleaming fountains.**

We invite the fauna to praise God with us: **eagle, heron, and mallard duck, dragonflies, and sleepy turtles.**

We join with the waters in praising God: **waterfalls singing upstream and ripples dancing at the river mouth.**

We celebrate the song of the river! **Sing, river, sing!**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We remember and confess: **We remember the rivers God created in Eden and across our planet, rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and the soul of all that lives. We remember the streams of our past, the pools and ponds where we played and felt the soft caress of water, the touch of life on our skin, and the feeling of celebration as we splashed and played.**

Jesus Christ, water of life, hear our cry. **We regret that we have become alienated from Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed, as a domain to be dominated, and as a place to be ruled for our gain.**

We remember and confess how we have violated and polluted the rivers of our garden planet. **We are sorry we have polluted our rivers with poisons. We are sorry we have treated our streams as waste dumps. We are sorry we have drained our wetlands of life. We are sorry we have turned living waters into currents of death.**

Christ hears our confession, forgives our sins against the river, and calls us now to open our ears and our hearts to revive rather than to desecrate the rivers pulsing through our planet. **Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and all living creatures as our kin.**

Christ invites us to care for this planet with love, to care for all creation as He cares for us, and to join in healing creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *As I Went Down to the River to Pray*

Vs 1: *Cathy Walth, Ann Kvale, Gary Walth, "O Sisters"*

Vs 2: *Choir, "O Brothers"*

Vs 3 All: O fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O fathers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

Refrain All: As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way.

Vs 4 All: O mothers, let's go down, come on down, don't-cha wanna go down.
Come on mothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

Refrain All

Vs 5 All: O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O sinners, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Take Me to the Water



1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.



take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE | Kristen Arends

LESSONS | Isaiah 55:8-13

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

LESSON | Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL | Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel lesson is read.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Cathy Walth

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to the Water of Life



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

CREATION CREED

We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things.

We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures. We believe every creature joins us in praising God. We see many suffer with Earth because of human crimes against creation.

We believe that God became incarnate as a part of Earth, Jesus Christ, that he lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus Christ fills the whole creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all things.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with every suffering creature, and waits with us for the rebirth of the whole creation. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation, reconciled, restored, and renewed. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Creator be with you and all creation. **And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **We open them to our Creator.**

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join every creature in praising God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION & DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

Born, Reborn

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!

1 Drown us. Drown us. Raise us. Raise us.
2 Name us. Name us. Heal us. Heal us.

Refrain

Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!
Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980
Music: BORN, REBORN, Justin Rimbo

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray together... **We thank you, Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION

Christ calls you... honoring the rivers God has created to provide all creatures with the water of life.

We follow our Lord, the crucified Christ, we will listen for cries of injustice from Earth, we will groan with a creation burdened by our sin. We will follow our Lord, the risen Christ, we will be partners with Christ in healing our planet, and we will join the Wounded Healer as he restores all things. We will care for creation. We will nurture the rivers. We will love our kin. We will celebrate life.

MEAL PRAYER

Amen.

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Down by the Riverside

Verse 1: Gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside (3x)

Gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside. Gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more, study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more. Ain't gonna study war no more

Verse 2: Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace

Down by the riverside (3x)

Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace

Down by the riverside. Gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more, study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more, study war no more. Ain't gonna study war no more

Verse 3: Repeat verse 1

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving creation.

We go in peace, serving Christ and loving the Earth.

POSTLUDE