

Prayer for Human Industry

L: Loving God, in your image you created humanity, male and female you created them. You have gifted us with minds that are capable of dreaming, building, exploring, and discovering. We have designed machines that ease our burdens and increase our abilities. We have uncovered some of the mysteries of life. Bless us and guide us, O Lord, so that we may wisely use the gifts of science and reason in the service of all creation and not just for selfish ends.

We dedicate this equipment and all agricultural equipment and technology, along with those who create it, to your purpose and ask that you grant protection and safety to those who use it. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*FINAL BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

L: Now may God, who sustains our future with hope, bless all of you in your time at this place. May the good news of Jesus Christ come to you as a refreshing rain, may the Holy Spirit root you in the firm and fertile soil of the Word, and may the face of God shine on you with grace and mercy for a new day. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN....#363 LBW "CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET THE CHRISTIANS SING"

*DISMISSAL: Go in peace and serve the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

This service was written for the 2007 Rural Ministry Conference by Tim Koester who is Wartburg Theological Seminary student and former Nebraska farmer. Permission is granted by Wartburg Theological Seminary's *Center for Theology & Land* for the use of this service or any of its components in congregational worship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

David Zanfes, Joe Neary, Becky Walker, Bill Ortman, Dale Oppedal, Father Clem Currans, Don Crocoll, Roger Will, Robert Mortenson, Jr., Linda Gjerde, Linda & Danny Umbrell, Teresa Jensen, Phyllis Schroeder, Janis Campbell, Connie Yonker, Garwin Anderson, Lucille Anderson, and those we name in our hearts.

*Our missionary: Courtney Davis in Papua New Guinea.

*Our companion synods: The Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania-Yakobi Parish companion with Lost Island and the Evangelical Lutheran Church Laz-Paz Parish in Chile, companion with Bethany .

Bethany Lutheran Church
703 Broadway- Emmetsburg, IA
Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM

Lost Island Lutheran Church
3797-310th St. - Ruthven, IA
Worship 8:45 AM
Sunday School 10:15 AM

We welcome you to worship today
May 2, 2021

ROGATION SUNDAY AND FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS We welcome you to come again.

ORDER OF SERVICE—LBW SETTING ONE— W/COMMUNION

*Please stand if you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: Please read responsively

L: The Word of the LORD is true. Grace shines down on all people and rain falls on the righteous and the unrighteous. We gather now to confess our failings, not to guarantee prosperity, but so that we might be turned back to God and be healed. Hear our petitions, gracious creator, for failing you, one another, and the good creation you have given. Lord God you have called and gifted us to bear fruit in the world but instead of Love **we yield indifference to the poor, the hungry, and all those who are powerless.**

Instead of Joy, **we develop hardpans in our hearts, by overloading them with work and worries.**

Instead of Peace, **we cultivate thorns of mistrust and violence that lead nations into war and congregations into division.**

Instead of Patience, **we stampede toward technology, feeding on efficiency instead of relying on the unhurried pulse of nature.**

Instead of Kindness, **we shovel accusations upon our neighbors, burying the truth under piles of gossip.**

Instead of Goodness, **we erode the earth and fail to conserve and protect what You have created good.**

Instead of Faith, **we sow seeds of doubt and we wilt in the sun by neglecting to put our roots in Your word.**

Instead of Gentleness, **we mow down our enemies with harsh judgments and cutting words.**

Instead of Self-Control, **we milk the creation dry so that we might be full.**

Instead of Self-Control, **we milk the creation dry so that we might be full.**

Lord we confess these failings as individuals and as a community.
Forgive us loving God and stand us upright after the storm so that by the power of your Spirit, we might yield a bountiful harvest for you in this world.

In the waters of baptism, we were all joined to the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, that we might be dead to sin and alive to God. In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. Let us rejoice and make a joyful noise to the LORD! **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN.....#148 LBW “NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES”**

***GREETING:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING.....ACTS 8: 26-40

PSALM.....PSALM 22:25-31

SECOND READING.....1 JOHN 4:7-21

***ALLELUIA RESPONSE.....LBW PG. 62**

***GOSPEL.....JOHN 15:1-8**

Here ends the reading of the Gospel

***GOSPEL RESPONSE: Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY.....“ABIDE”

***THE NICENE CREED:pg. 65**

***THE PRAYERS—Respond with “Hear Our Prayer”**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:pg. 67**

Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING.....LBW PG 68**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION.....LBW PG 69**

***THE LORD’S PRAYER.....LBW PG 71**

HOLY COMMUNION.....LBW PG 72 *Lamb of God.....*

POST-COMMUNION.....LBW PG 72 *Thank the Lord....

ROGATION BLESSING

L: For thousands of years, believers have gathered to seek the blessing of God at the time of spring planting so that the earth might sustain their lives and grow their families. Today we participate in this ancient ritual with new perspectives and experiences while still acknowledging our dependence on the gifts of the Creator for our survival. In addition to the three traditional elements of seed, soil, and water, we add human industry, also a gift from God, whose importance to agriculture is more connected than ever.

Prayer for the Soil

L: Creating God, out of the ground you formed living things. We give you thanks for the creative power that covers the earth and for the new life it births each spring. We thank you for the feel of mud between our toes, for the smell of black earth, and for the intricate cycles of life that never cease beneath the surface. Bless this soil and all soil that is planted or grazed. Empower us to be wise stewards of its use and protectors of its fertility. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Seed

L: Author of Life, in your wisdom, you speak creation into being through every seed, every flower, every spore. We are in awe of the simple complexity that powers a shoot to push out of the ground. Nourish and protect these seeds and all seeds so that the mystery of resurrection might once again sprout and grow to yield a harvest of abundance for all people. Teach us again the profound mystery of planting in faith, caring with love, for the hope of harvest. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Water

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and in the waters of baptism, you wash away our sin and call us to new life. We praise you for the smell of the earth after a refreshing rain, for the sweet satisfaction of drinking well water on a hot summer day, and for the moisture that sustains both plants and animals. We pray Lord that the rains would come when they are needed so that crops will thrive and the harvest will be abundant. In the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**