

Week 6: Prayer Service

L - Said by Leader **C** - Said by Congregation **A** - All

OPENING

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- C** **Amen**

- L** O LORD, our Lord
- C** **how majestic is your name in all the earth**

c.f. Genesis 1 and 2

- L** “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”
- C** **And on the sixth day God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth”**

- L** “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
- C** **And God took them and put them into the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**

Psalm 8

- L** O LORD, our Lord
- C** **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

- L** You have set your glory above the heavens.
- C** **Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

- L** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- C** **What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**

- L** Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
- C** **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,**

- L** all sheep and oxen, and also the bests of the field,
- C** **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along paths of the seas.**

- L** O LORD, our Lord
- C** **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

- ℓ “[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- ☉ **For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”** (*Colossians 1:15-16*)
- ℓ “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (*Colossians 1:18-19*)
- ☉ **“Therefore, if anyone is a Christ, he is a new creation.**
- ℓ The old has passed away; behold the new has come.
- ☉ **All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”** (*2 Corinthians 5:17-18*)
- Ⓐ **“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.”** (*2 Corinthians 5:20*)
- ☉ **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 22:34-40

- ℓ This is the word of the Lord.
- ☉ **Thanks be to God**
- ℓ O LORD our Lord
- ☉ **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**
- ℓ What is the fifth commandment?
- ☉ **You shall not murder**
- ℓ What does this mean?
- ☉ **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**
- ℓ (*taken from Luther's explanation of the fifth commandment in the Large Catechism*)
 “[T]his commandment is violated not only when we do evil, but also when we have the opportunity to do good to our neighbors and to prevent, protect, and save them from suffering bodily harm or injury, but fail to do so. If you send a naked person away when you could clothe him, you have let him freeze to death. If you see anyone who is suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve. Likewise, if you see anyone who is condemned to death or in similar peril and do not save him although you have means and ways to do so, you have killed him. It will be of no help for you to use the excuse that you did not assist their deaths by word or deed, for you have withheld your love from them and robbed them of the kindness by means of which their lives might have been saved.” (*LC, fifth commandment paragraphs 189-190 in Kolb/Wengert*)

- ℓ Let us pray
- ▲ **Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for all you have created. You have blessed the earth, making it fruitful, and given us dominion over your creation. You have called us to love our neighbor and tasked us with tending the garden. Bless this time as we gather and attend to what you have created. Create within us a spirit of mindfulness and thankfulness, and show us the work you have prepared in advance for us to do. Amen.**
- ℓ O LORD our Lord
- **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Dismissal for time of prayer and observation.

During your time of prayer and observation consider:

- What do you notice that you have never noticed before?
- In what ways are we responsible for creation here in this area?
- How does this experience “feel”? Is it easy? Hard? Why?

CLOSING

- ℓ O LORD our Lord
- **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

c.f. Ephesians 1 and 2

- ℓ God chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will**
- **which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**
- ℓ Let us pray
Almighty Father, you have given us the task to tend the garden and to love our neighbor. Grant us wisdom to see the good works prepared in advance for us to do, and the desire to do them. We lift up to you now the needs of creation that you have made known to us:

(Petitions may be offered by the people, each petition is ended with “Lord in your mercy” and the people pray “Hear our prayer.”)

- ℓ For all of these things we give you thanks praying in the words given to us by your Son our Lord.
- ▲ **Lord’s Prayer**
- ℓ My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.



- ℣ O LORD our Lord
- ☉ **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

- ℣ Go in peace
- ☉ **and serve the Lord.**

- ✠ **Amen.**