

All Creation Sings: News and Preview

Dear partner in ministry,

More than two years in preparation, *All Creation Sings* — the new liturgy and song supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* — is nearing completion.

Today, of course, the world has changed dramatically. The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the church's worship is well known. It is the latest and most far-reaching example of the rapid changes that have affected life in church and society in this century. Over the past few months, the song of so many worship gatherings has been silenced, carried on only in limited, virtual ways.

Yet a central question has deepened in this time. What concerns and themes that affect our communities and the world deserve additional attention in the prayer and song of this whole church?

All Creation Sings has been developed as part of the ELCA's commitment to the ongoing renewal of worship by supporting congregations' mission in these changing times. The process has included research in collaboration with ELCA Planning, Research and Evaluation; inviting submissions of new materials; the contributions and insights of working groups for liturgy and hymnody; and a broad liturgical and theological review.

We invite you to explore what is coming by viewing the digital preview edition available from [Augsburg Fortress](#). You will see highlights of two new Holy Communion settings and a contemplative Service of Word and Prayer. You can view the themes that are addressed in a section of prayers, thanksgivings and laments. Here, too, are just a few of the 200 hymns and songs that *All Creation Sings* will include.

The title, *All Creation Sings*, evokes a recurring scriptural theme. In the psalms and in Revelation we are invited into a vision where earth and sky and sea and all their creatures—including human beings—sing the glory of God. Yet the song of creation and our song with it includes also words and melodies of lament, of indignation, of pleading and ultimately of hope in God's presence and mercy. These prayers and songs concern not only the health of our planetary home and its various creatures but also the health of human beings in community. *All Creation Sings*, hand in hand with *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, invites us to expand our sung prayer with new and timely attention to the world our Creator so marvelously made and to our common life as creatures within it.

We are currently maintaining a schedule that will allow for a fall 2020 release of *All Creation Sings*. At the same time, we are constantly monitoring developments that may cause this timing to change. In the meantime, we invite you to explore the preview and to sign up for future updates about *All Creation Sings* in the months ahead.

Above all, please know that we join you in prayer for the healing of the nations, for the well-being of creation and for health and good courage among all the worshiping communities of this church during a time of immense challenge and change.

In Christ's peace,

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