

**Order of Service**  
**for the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2019**  
**“Salt of the earth”**

*The hymns in this service should be thematically appropriate to the motto “Care of Creation” and taken from hymn books used in your churches; wherever possible, they should be familiar to worshippers of various denominations.*

**Symbolic action**

*In various countries guests are served with bread and salt as a sign of welcome and hospitality. The Day of Creation adopts this custom. On a table at the entrance door two bowls are placed, one containing small pieces of bread and one with salt. A person from the host congregation welcomes the guests as they arrive. Anyone who wants can take a piece of bread and dip it into the bowl of salt.*

*A block of salt from the salt mine in Heilbronn is installed in the sanctuary as a visible sign of the meaning of salt. In other places, one can place a salt crystal or a vessel with salt (e.g. a bowl or a glass cylinder) close to the altar instead.*

**Instrumental music** for the entrance

**Entrance**

**Hymn**

**Liturgical greeting**

**Opening prayer**

Lord, our God, you have created us and led us into this life, you have shown us the way of salvation and brought us to share in your kingdom; you have called us to be housekeepers of your creation, and through it to offer our praise and gratitude; accept today our prayer as we call to you. Open our eyes to the beauty of your creation and transform our hearts, that they may learn to know and love you, the Creator.

To you be honour, thanksgiving and praise, now and always, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Verses from Psalm 148, *spoken or sung alternately by the minister and the congregation.*

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;  
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever;  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and birds on the wing;

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and women,  
old and young together;

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted,  
his splendour above earth and heaven.

He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## **Hymn**

### **Old Testament reading**

*Isaiah 49:1-9*

**Instrumental or choral music**

**New Testament reading**

*Ephesians 4:25-32*

**Hymn ,,**

**Gospel reading**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

**Sermon**

**Instrumental or choral music**

**Creed**

The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (text according to the WCC Commission on Faith and Order)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried;  
on the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven.

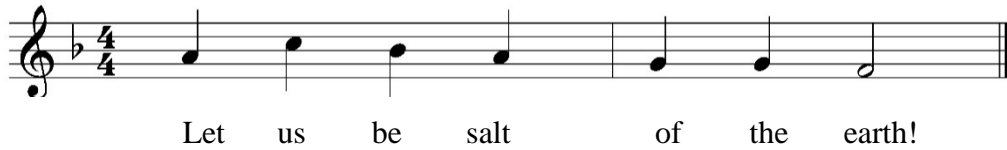
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
he will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father;  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified;  
who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Intercessions

*The congregation (C) responds to each intercession with the sung response  
“Let us be salt of the earth!”*



- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the strength to fulfil your mission and to preserve the creation in its beauty and diversity!
- C Let us be salt of the earth!
- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the knowledge to know your will and to proclaim it boldly!
- C Let us be salt of the earth!
- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the perseverance to stand by our fellow human beings in need, and to be trustworthy witnesses to the gospel in the world!
- C Let us be salt of the earth!
- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the ability to shape the society in which we live in accordance with your spirit and to stand up for justice and peace!
- C Let us be salt of the earth!
- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the joy of being able to start afresh, time and again, as we help to build your kingdom on earth!
- C Let us be salt of the earth!
- M Jesus Christ says to us, "You are the salt of the earth." Gracious God, we pray: Give us the awareness that we are all your children, who may together call you "Father" in spite of all that separates us.

## Lord's Prayer

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### **Announcement of the collection**

**Hymn** during which the **offertory** is taken

**Greeting of peace** in the words of Mark 9:50

**Hymn**

**Blessing**

**Instrumental or choral music**

**Exit**

*As they leave the church, the visitors are given a small bag of Heilbronn salt to take home. Bags of salt printed with the slogan of the Day of Creation and the ACK logo can be ordered from the ACK (<https://shop.oekumene-ack.de>).*



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