



Creation Season

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A, April 13, 2008

Water: Lakes and seas/oceans

God/Jesus is the Good Shepherd for all creation, not just humans

A Bulletin Insert for the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

Lessons (Revised Common Lectionary)

Acts 2: 42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

Collects

Stalwart shepherd of our souls, gaze intently upon us and this whole world you have created. Protect the dispossessed and the poor in spirit, lift up the downtrodden, and strengthen us all for service in your name, for you are the living Christ, who with the Creator and the Sustainer, lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

Creating One, all that is came into being through your Naming: skies and planets, oceans and dry land. Your creating spirit is honored as we live with integrity toward all life. Shape our lives to be shepherds in your image, that all may be safe and nurtured under our watchful care, in the name of the Shepherd, Jesus who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one for all eternity. *Amen.*

Something to consider this next week:

Today, out of the whirlwind of climate change and global warming, the question is not 'where', but 'why'. Woman and man, I have placed you in the garden to be guardians, to keep and serve. And you are watching as creation collapses. I have given you two hands, one for the book of scripture and the other for the book of nature, as your guidebooks along the pathway of life; I've lifted up prophets to hold mirrors to your face; I've lifted up a modern-day prophet – the voice of water – Jacques Cousteau, who said at the Earth Summit in 1992, 'unless we do something radical today, we will be unable to do anything at all tomorrow.' Tomorrow is today. The earth is in our hands. [the Rev Peter Kreitler, host of Earthtalktoday.tv and advisor to the *Episcopal Ecological Network*.(eenonline.org)]

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Psalm 23 tells us that God leads us beside the still water. Water is needed for life itself. All life began in water, and needs water to keep alive. Water refreshes, and water washes clean.

Waves of the ocean such as tsunamis, avalanches, and bergs of ice in water are forms of water that can pose a danger. Still water as quiet pools, poses no threat. The still water is where God the Shepherd leads us to catch our breath and be sent in the right direction.



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The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission (MEESC) has prepared Creation Season materials for the Season of Easter, 2008, with a focus on water. If you find the information on these inserts to be of interest, you may wish to visit the MEESC website for more information (www.env-steward.com). Members of MEESC are available to visit your congregation to assist you in your environmental stewardship walk.