



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

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Season of Creation  
*River and Stream Sunday*  
September 24, 2023

## **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals (“ELW”) in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

## **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God’s people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child’s life. There’s some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God’s love takes root in their lives!

## **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

## **RESTROOMS**

Men’s and women’s restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

## **COVID Procedure Update**

**Masks are encouraged but optional during worship.** Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*

Walther

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

**We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.**

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

**We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.**

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

**We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.**

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

**We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.**

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

**We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in the Body of Christ with all Creation.**

### **CONFESSION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, one another, and all of creation.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

we harm ourselves, one another, and your creation with our sin and selfishness. We treat others and all of nature as if they exist only to serve our wants and needs. We trample your people and your wild places, and pollute your waters. Forgive us, loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth, and teach us to trust your promise to make all things new. Amen.

Christ, who was buried into the soil of the Earth and raised up to new life, + forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, the Holy Spirit equips you to join God's healing work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #688

*Lord of Light*

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - fering won:  
from the shad - ows, to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

*Refrain*  
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.  
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
Text © Union of Welsh Independents.  
Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Jesus, our living water, the river of God that flows from your throne also flows through  
our local waterways. Bless these waters and guide our efforts to keep them healthy.

Washed in your promise, lead us to live into our baptismal vocation; through you, and the  
Parent of all Creation, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

*When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

### **READING: Ezekiel 47: 1-12**

*Ezekiel offers a vision of a river flowing from God's temple. This river is flowing with life which nourishes, heals, and renews.*

<sup>1</sup>Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup>Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

<sup>3</sup>Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. <sup>4</sup>Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. <sup>5</sup>Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. <sup>6</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. <sup>7</sup>As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. <sup>8</sup>He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. <sup>9</sup>Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. <sup>10</sup>People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglam; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. <sup>11</sup>But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. <sup>12</sup>On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE PSALM 104: 25-33**

<sup>25</sup>Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.

<sup>26</sup>**There go the ships,  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

<sup>27</sup>These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;

<sup>28</sup>**when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

<sup>29</sup>When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

<sup>30</sup>**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.**

<sup>31</sup>May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works —

<sup>32</sup>**who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

<sup>33</sup>I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

## **READING: Revelation 22: 1-5**

*The river of life flows from the throne of God, feeding the tree of life for the healing of the nations.*

<sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## HOLY GOSPEL: John 7: 37-38

*At the Festival of Booths, Jesus proclaims that he pours out living water to the believers.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>37</sup>On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, <sup>38</sup>and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

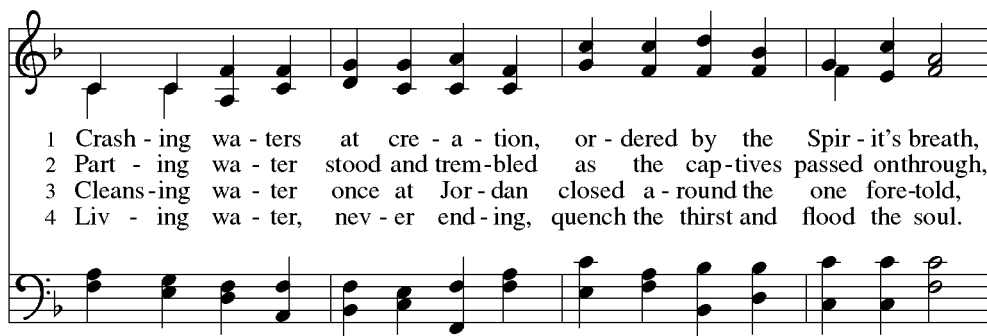
*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*



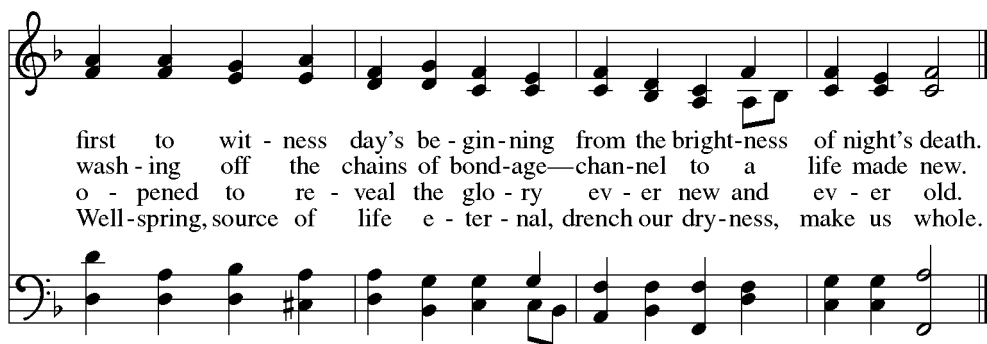
# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #455

## *Crashing Waters at Creation*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.*



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,  
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem-bled as the cap-tives passed onthrough,  
3 Cleans-ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore-told,  
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end-ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin-ning from the bright-ness of night's death.  
wash - ing off the chains of bond-age—chan-nel to a life made new.  
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.  
Well-spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who sends forth the renewing Spirit, you know each bend of your rivers, the twists and turns of streams, the creatures of every marsh, fen, and swamp. Renew the waters of your creation, including Lake Michigan, the Little Calumet and Kankakee Rivers, and Salt Creek. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God whose open hand fills creation with good things, impart your compassionate wisdom to leaders locally, nationally, and throughout the world. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. In Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, continue to call and equip churches to work for justice and reconciliation; guide those responding to climate change and protect the marginalized and dispossessed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God who meets our needs, teach us to drink abundantly of the water you provide. Make your living water flow from our hearts in the vocations we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints at the river of the water of life, especially Jerome. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Compass International Family Center, Valparaiso <http://compassIFC.org> and 66<sup>th</sup> Synod Endowment Fund - “Lutherans for Black Lives”*

*<https://www.facebook.com/66thSynod>*

*If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](http://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](http://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 am)**    *Praise, O Praise Our God and King*    arr. Barker

*Praise, O praise our God and King! Praise Him with hymns of adoration sing; for His mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure. He hath bid the fruitful field crops of precious increase yield. Glory to our bounteous King! Glory let creation sing, glory to the Son, and blest spirit, three in one!*

**OFFERTORY (10:30 am)**

*Fugue in C Major*

Pachelbel

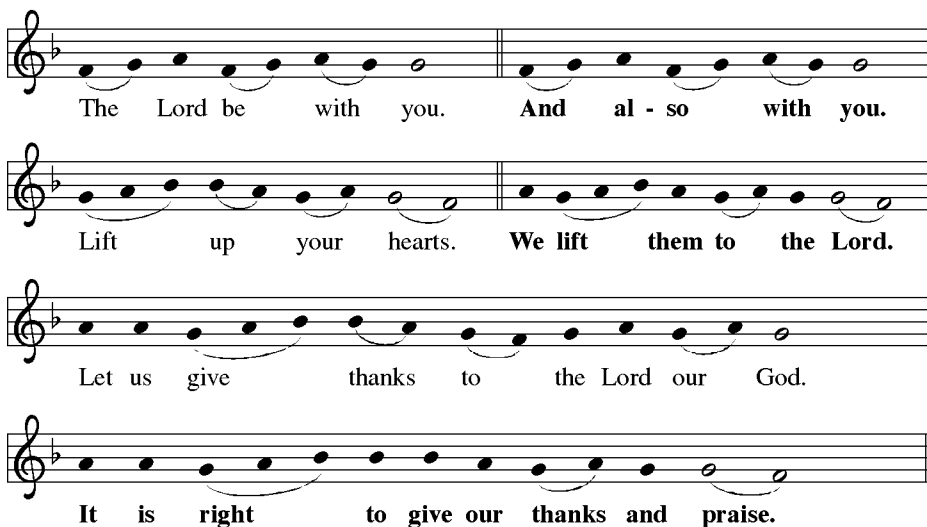
**OFFERING PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

Loving Creator,

**all Creation comes from you – forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

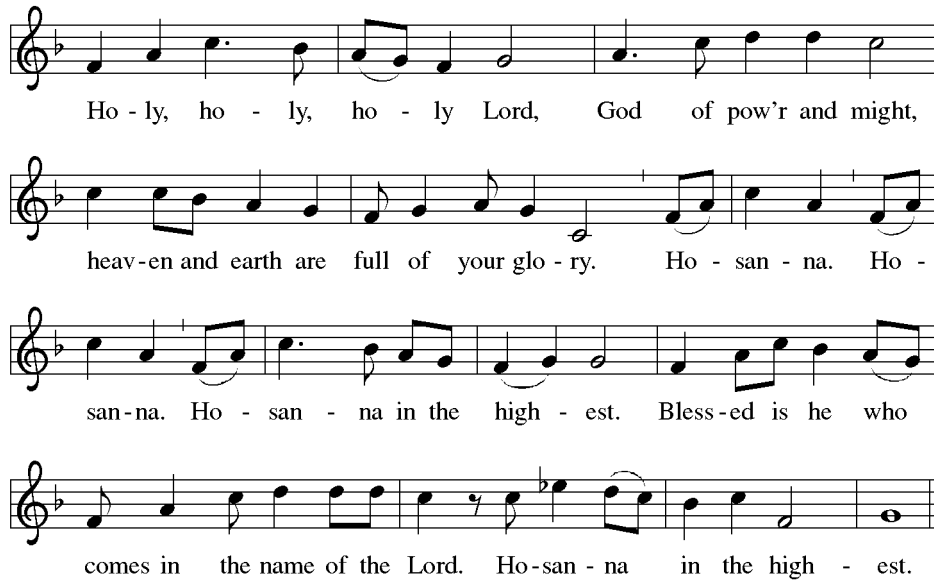
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## **SANCTUS**

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

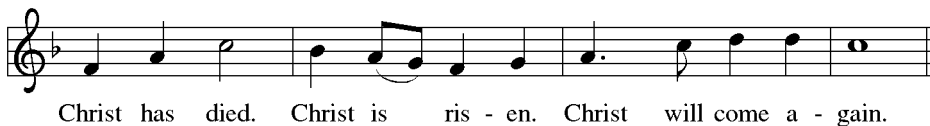
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:  
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;  
you encircled the globe with air;  
you created fire for warmth and light;  
you nourish the lands with water.  
You molded us in your image,  
and with mercy higher than the mountains,  
with grace deeper than the seas,  
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,  
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,  
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
We await his coming,  
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,  
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,  
whose breath revives us for life,  
whose fire rouses us to love.  
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

A - men, a - men, a - men.

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

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## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.





1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

ACS #1068    *The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe*

1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es  
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its  
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's

up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant  
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -  
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your

flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine  
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and  
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is

bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -  
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -  
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -

der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.  
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.  
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015

Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Åhlén, 1894–1982

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*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God, you never give up on us or any part of your creation, no matter how broken things may seem. Jesus was broken on the cross, and in the resurrection the Risen Lord encounters us with new life. Send us, who have received his body and blood, as signs of your redeeming power - restoring our relationship with all of Creation and uniting us with the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things,  
who heals all the world,  
and who sustains all Creation,  
give you peace and purpose,  
in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;  
 give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,  
 the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;  
 a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for Creation.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Rigaudon*

Campra

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

### **Worship Leaders**

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Olivia Hernandez	Danelle Rivera
Lector	Darla Hernandez	Karen Hernes
Prayer Assistant	Sue McPherson	Erin Crill
Communion Assistants	Barbara Clements Linda Mapes	Amy Knauff Jacquie Chevalier
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Irene Adams	
Sound/Light	Zach Wehner	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	Ben Crill
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	Lois Felten	

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the distinctive rhythms, music, dance, food and natural medicine in this area
- the beauty of the region, forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, and ocean coastlines, and especially indigenous peoples' relationship with, and care for, the natural environment
- churches who witness and work both ecumenically and with those of other faiths to build relationships of trust and commitment amid ongoing injustice and oppression
- the diversity of languages and cultures flourishing in the region despite disruptions that have occurred through colonization, and political and economic turmoil.

We **pray** for:

- Christians to have the courage, imagination and energy to build bridges of peace and understanding against conflict and division, and to pursue justice for the poor, marginalized and dispossessed
- an end of corruption in all levels of the society, including economic exploitation which impoverishes and hinders economic growth from benefitting all.
- immigrants and refugees seeking a new home, and those who accompany and support them
- coca farmers to find sustainable incomes from other crops, for an end to drug trafficking, and effective assistance for those who are addicted.



## COMMEMORATIONS

### *Week of September 24*

#### **September 29**

##### **Michael and All Angels**

On this festival day the church ponders the richness and variety of God's created order and the limits of human knowledge of it. The scriptures speak of angels (the word means "messengers") who worship God in heaven, and in both testaments angels speak for God on earth. They are remembered most vividly as they appear to the shepherds and announce the birth of the Savior. Michael is an angel whose name appears in Daniel as the heavenly being who leads the faithful dead to God's throne on the day of resurrection. In Revelation, Michael fights in a cosmic battle against Satan.

#### **September 30**

##### **Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420**

Jerome is remembered as a biblical scholar and translator. Rather than choosing classical Latin as the basis of his work, he translated the scriptures into the Latin that was spoken and written by the majority of the persons in his day. His translation is known as the Vulgate, from the Latin word for *common*. While Jerome is remembered as a saint, he could be anything but saintly. He was well known for his short temper and his arrogance, although he was also quick to admit to his personal faults. Thanks to the work of Jerome, many people received the word in their own language and lived lives of faith and service to those in need.

## **In 2023, the Season of Creation draws on the image of a Mighty River**

The prophet Isaiah proclaims: “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43: 19) Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate.

The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair.



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