Creation in Christ Sunday

September 6, 2026 + 9:30am

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998
https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine



Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

GATHERING

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

Confession and Forgiveness

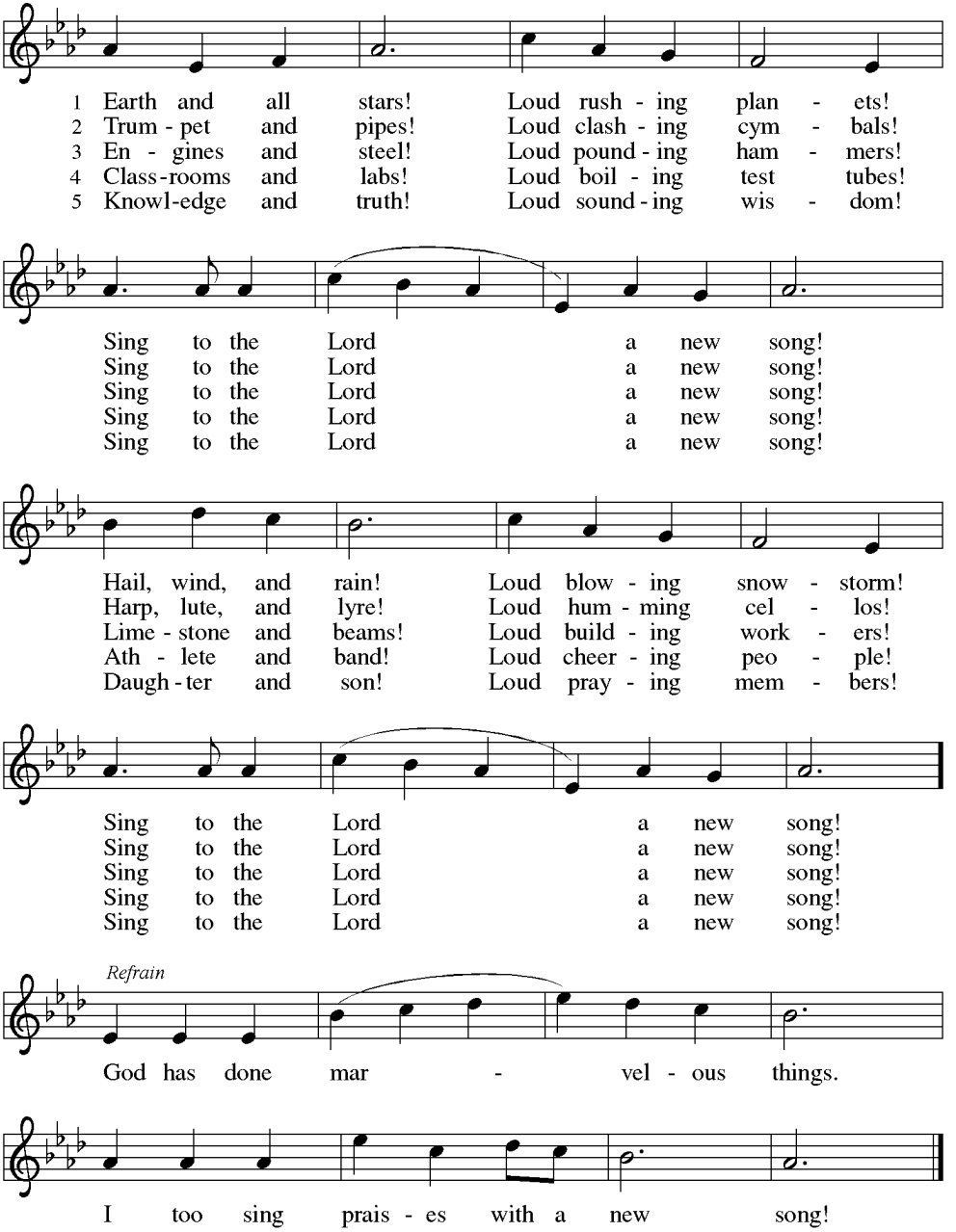
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
A brief silence.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,
we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ***"Earth and All Stars"*** *ELW #731*
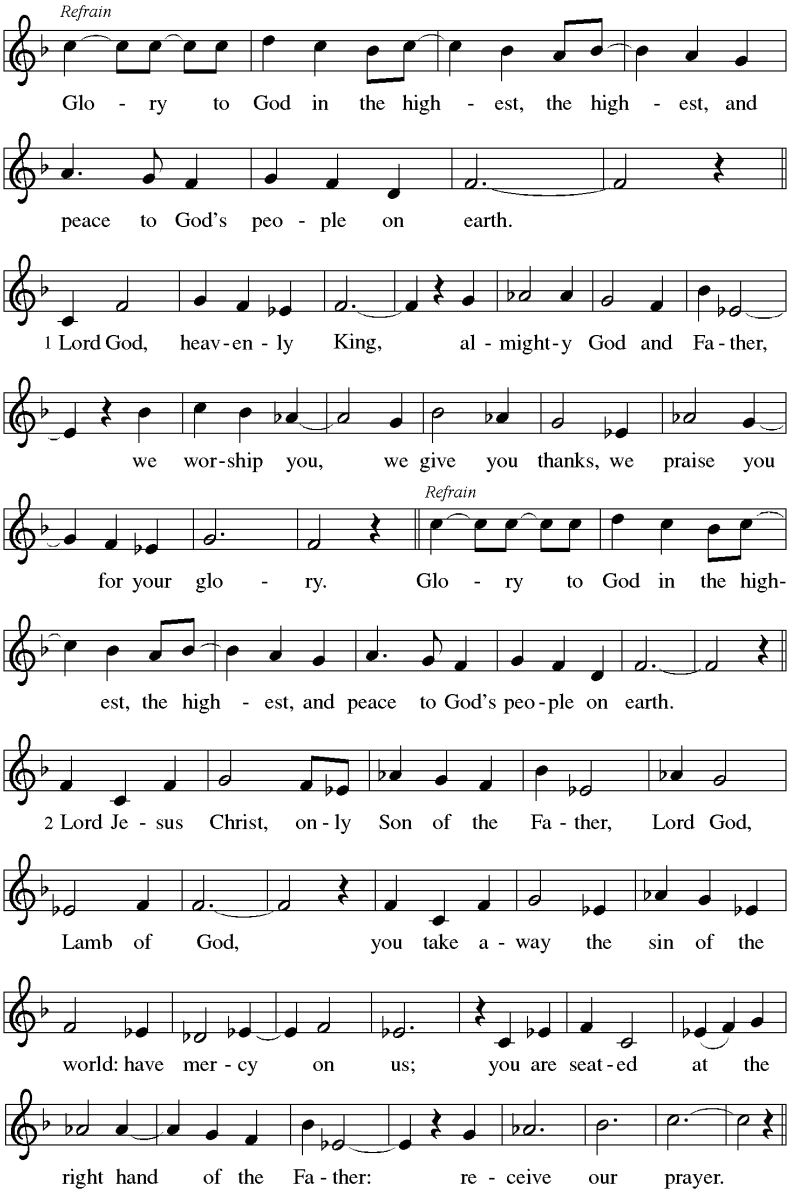


Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
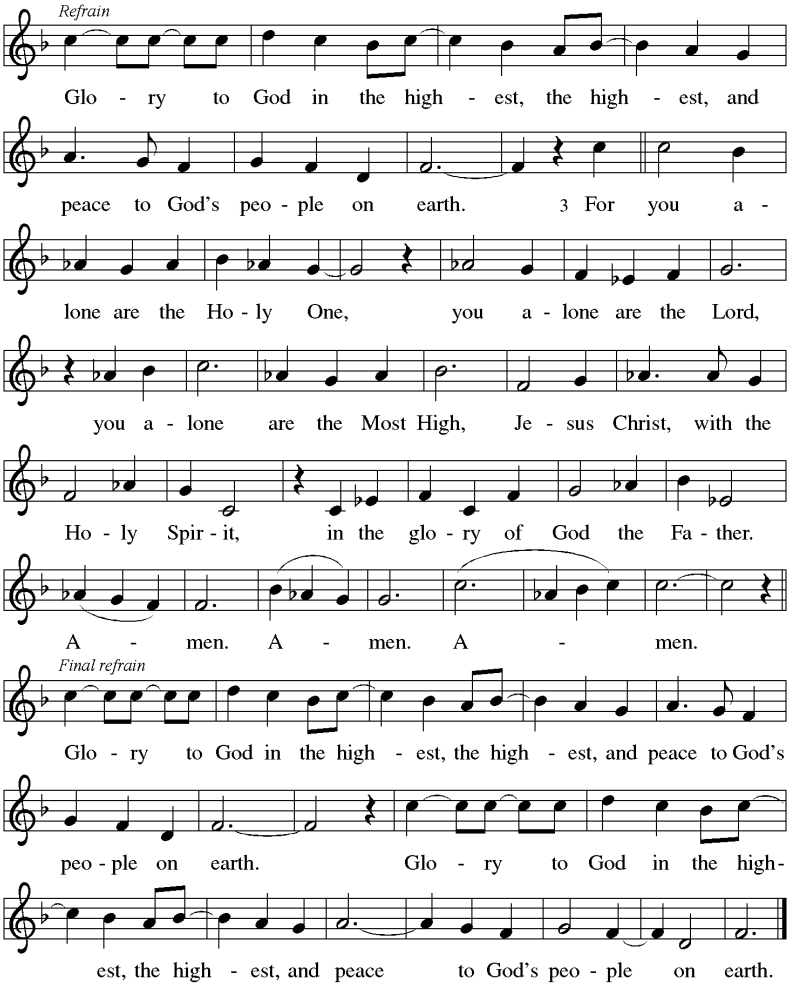
Greeting

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.

Hymn of Praise





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God,

in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



WORD

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

First Reading — Genesis 1:1—2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was complete chaos, and darkness
covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God
said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good, and God
separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from
the waters." 7So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from
the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8God called the dome Sky. And there was
evening and there was morning, the second day.

9And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry
land appear." And it was so. 10God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered
together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11Then God said, "Let the earth put forth
vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed
in it." And it was so. 12The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and
trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13And there was
evening and there was morning, the third day.

14And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and
let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15and let them be lights in the dome
of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16God made the two great lights—the greater
light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. 17God set them in the
dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18to rule over the day and over the night, and to
separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19And there was evening and
there was morning, the fourth day.

20And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the
earth across the dome of the sky." 21So God created the great sea monsters and every living
creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every
kind. And God saw that it was good. 22God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill
the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23And there was evening and there was
morning, the fifth day.

24And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things
and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25God made the wild animals of the
earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of
every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have
dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the

wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
27So God created humans in the divine image, in the image of God they were created; male and female God created them.

28God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31God saw everything that had been made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. 2On the sixth day God finished the work that had been done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that had been done. 3So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation. 4aThese are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

God's splendor is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD| from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.
2 **Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.
4 **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,
6 **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
7 Praise the LORD| from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;
8 **fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
9 mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;
10 **wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;**
11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world;
12 **young | men and maidens, old and | young together.**
13 Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
14 **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**



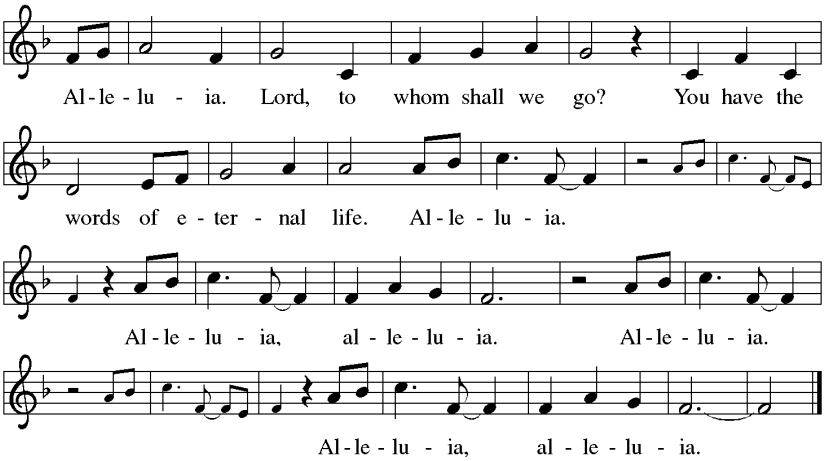
Second Reading **Acts 17:22a, 24-28**

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, [24] "The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, [25] nor is God served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. [26] From one ancestor God made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, [27] so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about and find God—though indeed God is not far from each one of us. [28] For 'In God we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **John 1:1-5**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

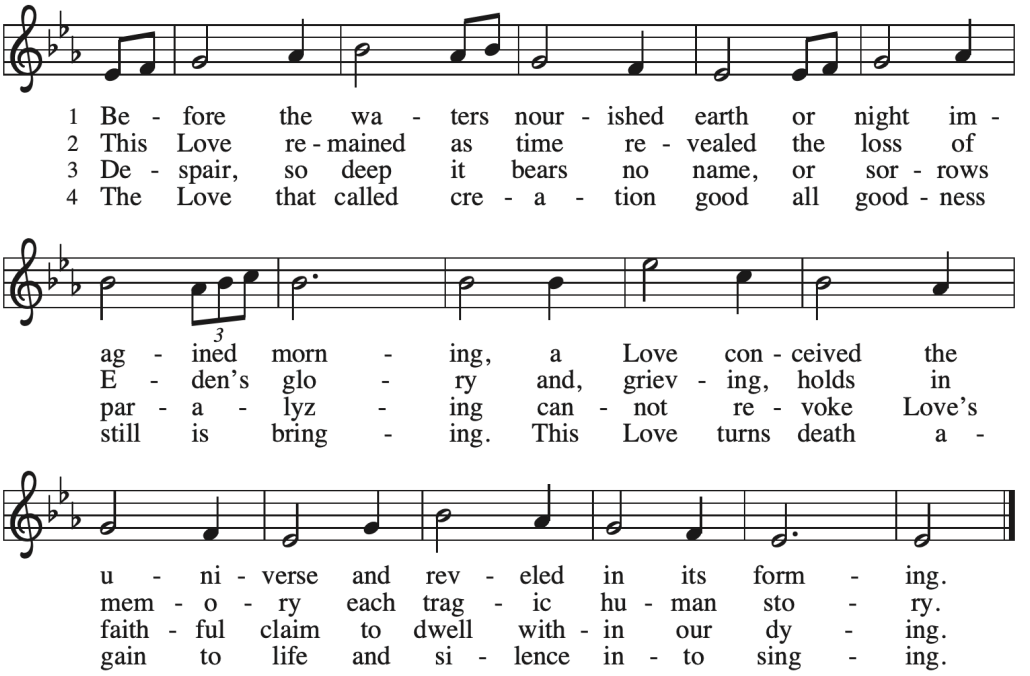
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]The Word was in the beginning with God. [3]All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"*** *ACS #1049*



Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.
At the end of each petition the Assembly responds: **your mercy is great.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Nancy Nelson, William Schultz Jr., John Falk, Carmen Falk, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Mary Scruggs, Linda Losito, Anne Maley, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen, and the family of Nancy Vandewinckel.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.
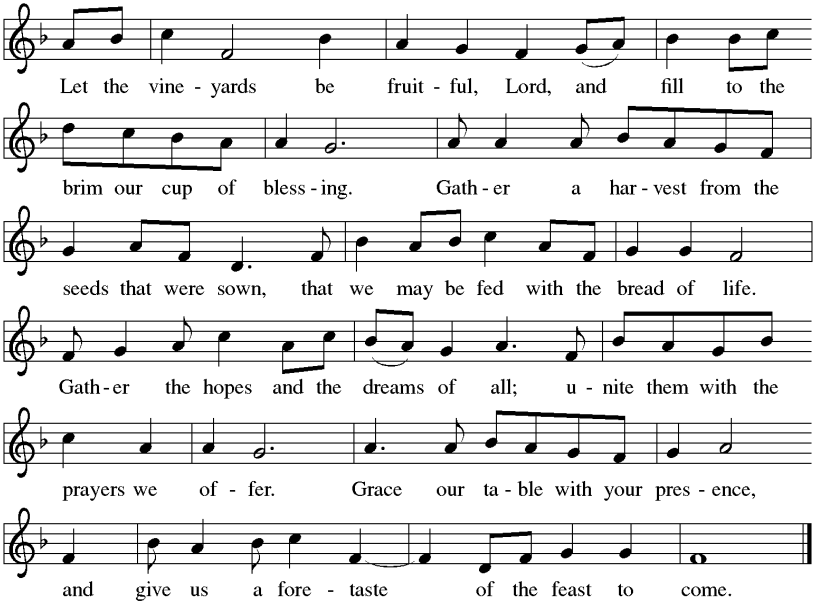
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. O God,

maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

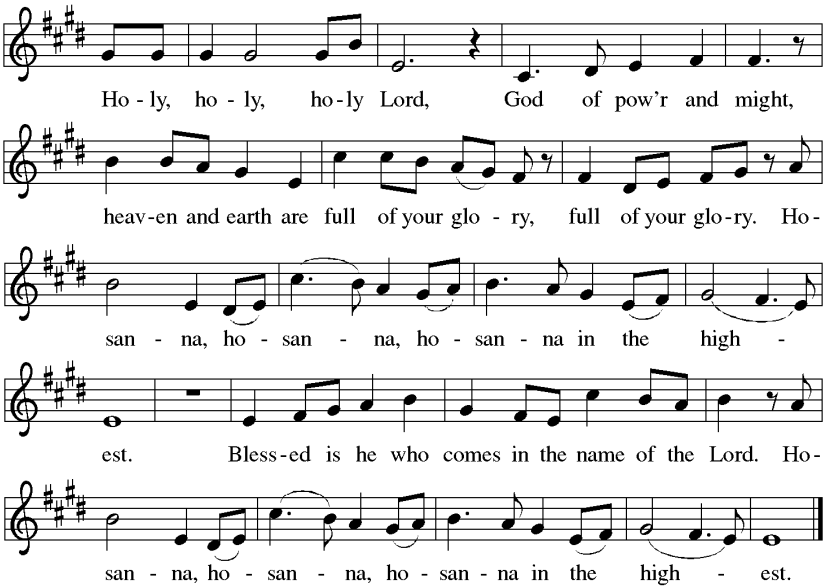
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed, right our duty and our joy….

…. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.



The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

The earth is full of your glory

The earth is full of your glory. …

Amen and amen.

Amen and Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

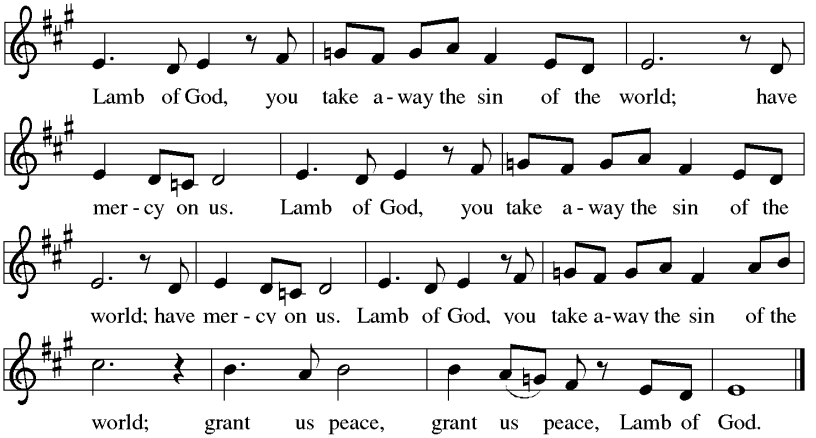
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words



Communion Song ***"For the Fruit of All Creation"*** *ELW #679*

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
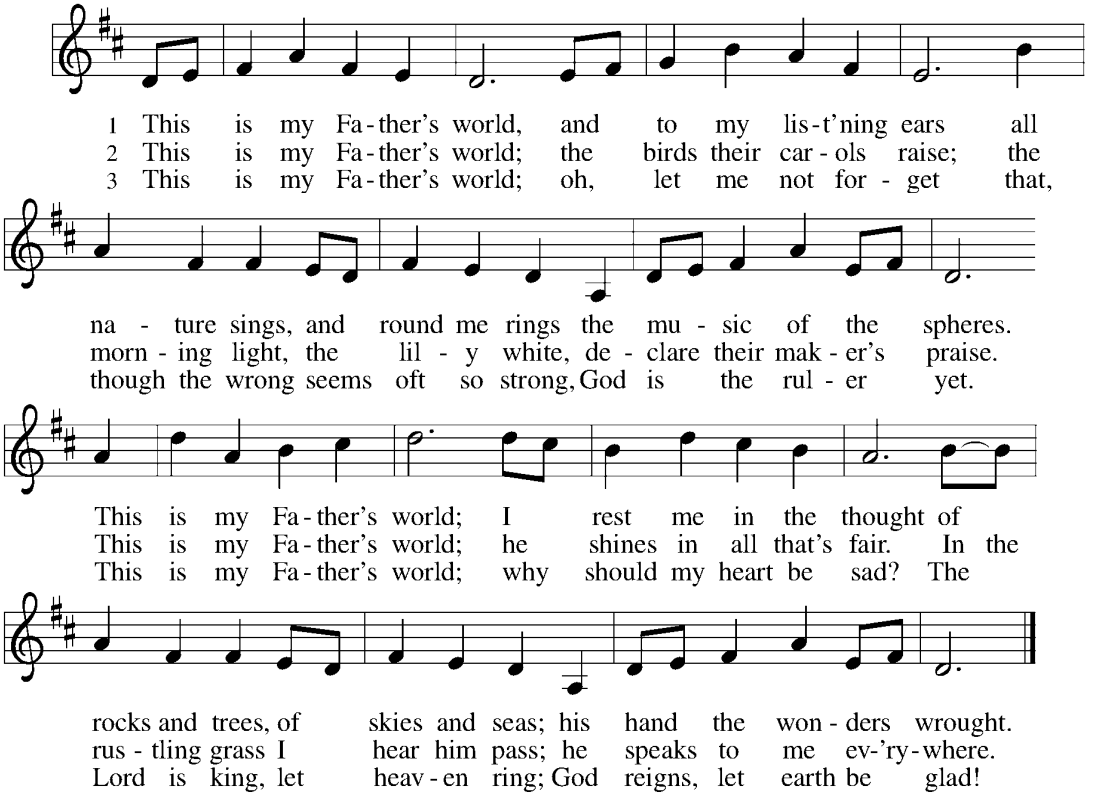
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

God our Mother root you deep in grace. God our Neighbor stand with you in strength. God our Nourishment sustain you in hope and ✝ bless you unto evergreen life. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"This Is My Father's World"*** *ELW #824*



Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

+ + +

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

This Week @ Redeemer

Sunday: Worship – 9:30am
Wednesday: Book Club – 1pm @ Inclusive Bean; 6pm @ Tulip Tavern

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays: Don Rorek(9/8); Liz Rattle (9/12)

Wedding Anniversary: Susan Krikau & Roland Sorensen (9/12)

Texts for Next Sunday, September 13th, 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Serving Today
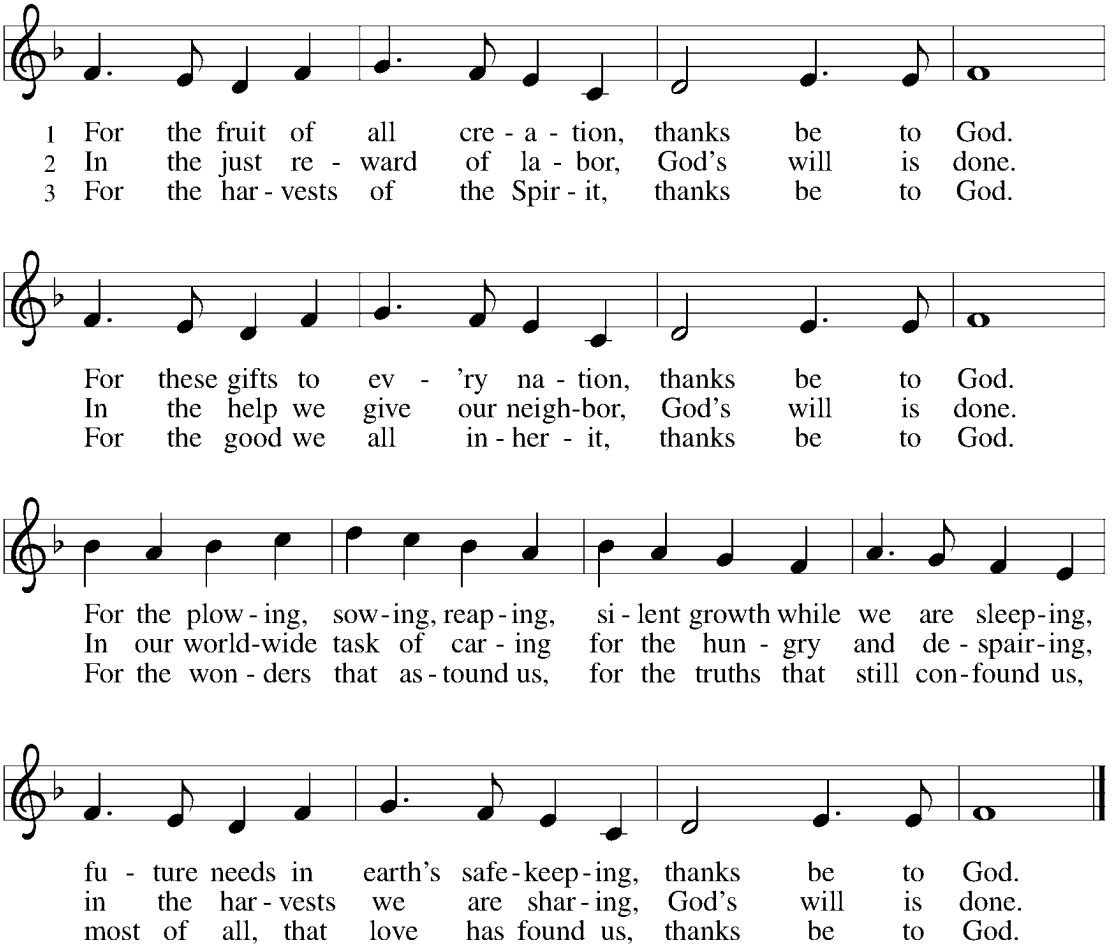
Altar Flowers:	Lori Rennock *In Memory of Mom & Dad*
Assisting Minister:	Lori Rennock
Reader:	Jeanne Schierstedt
Usher:	Linda & Kevin Rattle
Altar Guild:	Jan Brandies & Jennifer Dustman
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

GriefShare Returns this Fall

GriefShare will begin meeting on Mondays from 10 to 11:30am beginning September 14th and run through December 7th.
All are invited to attend!

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Communion Song ***"For the Fruit of All Creation"*** *ELW #679*



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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