



INTRODUCTION

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 a parallel with the feast of 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.

OPENING MUSIC

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High”

Robert J. Powell (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark,
we bless you, O God:

We bless you, O God.

For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning,
we exalt you, O God:

We exalt you, O God.

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers,
for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
we magnify you, O God:

We magnify you, O God.

For the sun to rule the day,
for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
we extol you, O God:

We extol you, O God.

For the fish in the sea,
for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God:

We glorify you, O God.

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth,
we adore you, O God:

We adore you, O God.

For humankind made in your image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
we worship you, O God:

We worship you, O God.

Bless us, your creatures.
Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

ELW 835, vs. 1-4 (One License)

Please be seated.

WELCOME

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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:

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 1:1—2:3, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 1*

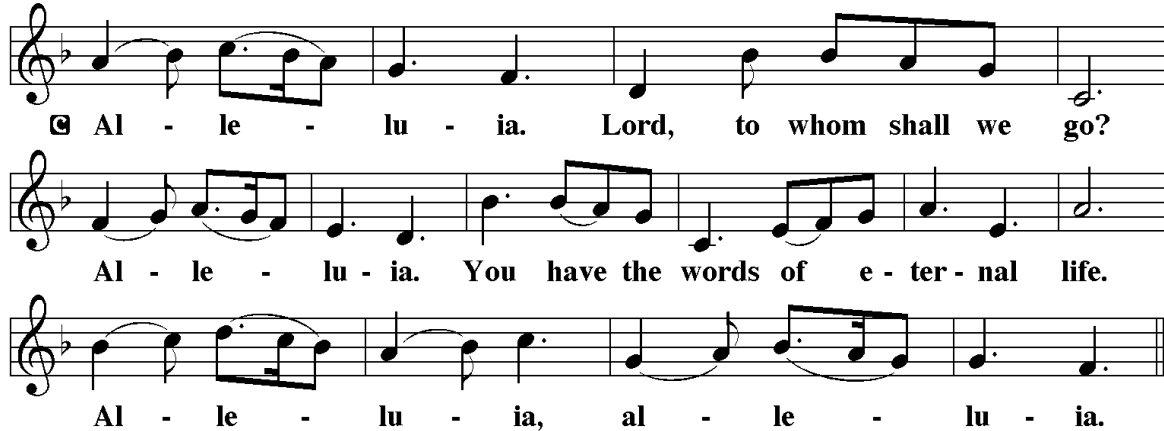
PSALM:**Psalm 148:1-14**

The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.

SECOND READING:**Acts 17:22a, 24-28**, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 137

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:1-5, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 91

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

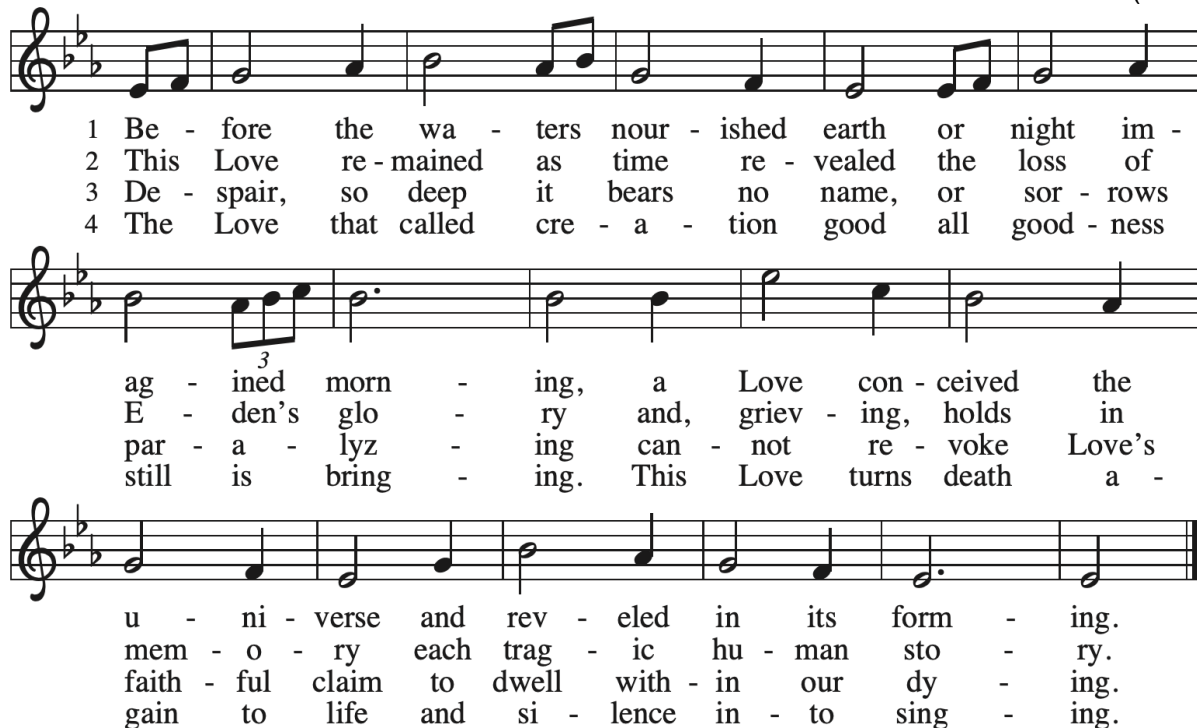
Children are invited to come forward during the message.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY**"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"**

ACS 1049 (One License)



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words, "Your mercy is great." *A brief silence.*

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being: **Your mercy is great.**

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator and fruitful garden: **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice: **Your mercy is great.**

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian and rainbow of promise: **Your mercy is great.**

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe: **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end: **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a sign of God's peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

OFFERING

Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.



OFFERING HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

ELW 679 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg.112, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

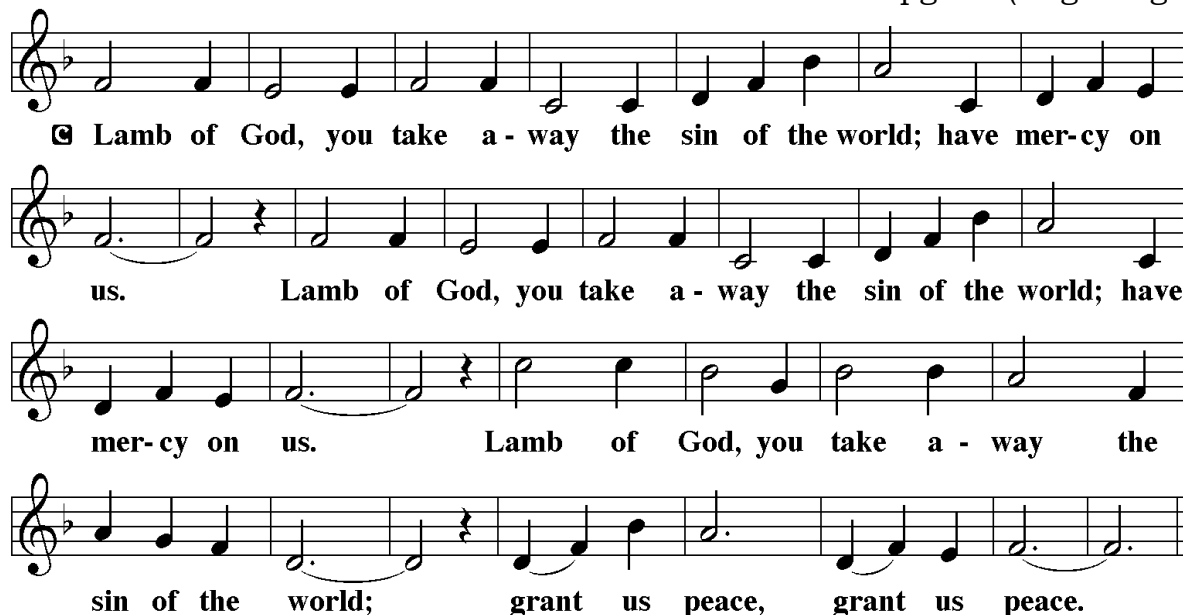
The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

WOV pg. 39 (Augsburg Fortress)



☐ 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, grant us peace.

"When Long before Time"

ELW 861 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

ELW 864 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

setting, Kenneth T. Kosche (One License)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sonia Brzezinski, Sheri Conover,
Sally Sheahan, Bennett Washkowiak

Greeters: Adalynn Wedoff, Eleanor Wedoff

Acolyte: Ally Rychtytzkyj

Reader: Caryl Dierksen

Ushers: Faith Metze

Children's Sermon: Brent Filetti

Musicians: Jan Burns, Sheri Conover

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

In memory of our grandson, Alex Zank-Bauman; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In memory of our grandson, Alex Zank-Bauman; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day. You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.



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God's work. Our hands.

Service Day September 13th

Signups available online or in the Narthex



Sewing Circle

Every 1st & 3rd

Tuesday

8:30am-12:00pm

MAHJONG GAME NIGHT

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

TUESDAY

6:30PM-8:00PM

SIGN UP ONLINE OR WITH THE OFFICE

Daytime Pinochle

Every 1st & 3rd

Wednesday

1:00pm-4:00pm

A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!