

Morning Worship
Bethesda Lutheran Church 8:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church 11:00
September 12, 2021

Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning “the people”) People, and we honor their elders both past and present.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE/GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of God be with you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS

Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. Together let us respect the truth of your spirit and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. Together let us live by the ways you have entrusted to us Within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as all are gathered in your name.

We face East: To your symbol color gold, The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator’s Spirit, Come**

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, In the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children’s hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator’s Spirit, Come**

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed The Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator’s Spirit, Come**

We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church

Prayer of Confession

Creator of the universe, **everything that we have comes from you. Abundantly you provide for our needs. Even before we speak, you know the deepest desires of our hearts. Graciousness and goodness are your nature. Yet we turn our backs on what is good. We greedily snatch the gifts you hold out to us and hoard them for ourselves alone. We trample upon the works of your hands. Selfishness and greed mark our footsteps. We leave a trail of waste and destruction behind us. What is meant for good, we use for evil. Forgive us, gracious God, and give us a special concern for your world. Amen.**

Blessing/Assurance

The good news is this: In Christ we are reconciled and re-created.
Praise be to God.

GATHERING SONG #693 vs 1 & 2 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield,
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:26-28 (The Message)

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings;
he created them godlike,

Reflecting God's nature.

He created them male and female.

God blessed them:

"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

The word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (NRSV)

1

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

2

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a
bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

3

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the
stars that you have established;

4

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that
you care for them?**

5

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with
glory and honor.

6

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you
have put all things under their feet,**

7

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

8

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-8 (The Message)

1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

The word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel of Mark 10:41-45 (NRSV)

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you O Lord.**

41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.
42 So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Response after the reading: **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON *“Ceremonies, Husking Bees and Fall Hunts” with Dee Sweet*

HYMN OF THE DAY #679 vs 1 and 2 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

CREED STATEMENT

We believe in Creator, **Father-Mother Spirit**, who called the world and all that is in it, into being, who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in community with all.

We believe in Creator, **Son and Brother**, who, because of love beyond our understanding, love for creation, entered the world to share our humanity, to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.

We believe in Creator, **In-Dwelling Spirit**, who invites us into community, that we may through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may be; that we may rejoice in the constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the **Circle of Life**; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together, that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge. We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For rain and sun and insects to pollinate crops; for farmers who work with nature and preserve the beauty and diversity of God's creation; and for wild creatures which enjoy the harvest of berries, nuts, grains and seeds.

We give thanks, O God.

For the soil, rich and precious, home to countless living creatures which maintain fertility and give us food and life.

We give thanks, O God.

For growing awareness that we all depend on the earth for our daily food and fuel; and for the increasing numbers of people who want to eat local food and have closer links with food producers.

We give thanks, O God.

For wisdom to live in ways that will slow down climate change and keep the rains falling in their due season.

O Lord hear our prayer.

For caution in manipulating the building blocks of life in transferring genes between species.

O Lord hear our prayer.

For grace to recognize we are part of God's creation with responsibilities to care for God's earth and our fellow creatures, including farm animals.

O Lord hear our prayer.

Send us out into the world, in service to God's creatures, as disciples of Jesus who blessed bread and wine at the Last Supper – bread which earth has given and human hands have made and wine, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

Lord, send forth your Spirit.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share a sign of God's peace with one another.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for our present abundance and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon this community. We thank you for our faith, for our knowledge of you, and for the assurance of your love. May all these gifts be a blessing to those in need. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief, In the most high place whose home is everywhere, Even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever You want done let it be done everywhere. Give us Your gift of bread day by day. Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil, For everything belongs to You. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen

(Written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Great Spirit, our Creator God, look upon these faces gathered in holy community together and send them anywhere you would have them go. Enlighten them. Sustain them. May God our Creator be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

(Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Oglala Sioux)

SENDING SONG #835 ELW “All Creatures, Worship God Most High”

1 All creatures, worship God most high! Sound every voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright, sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear: (chorus)

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong; drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare: (chorus)

DISMISSAL

We have honored Christ our brother and chief. All my relatives, go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**