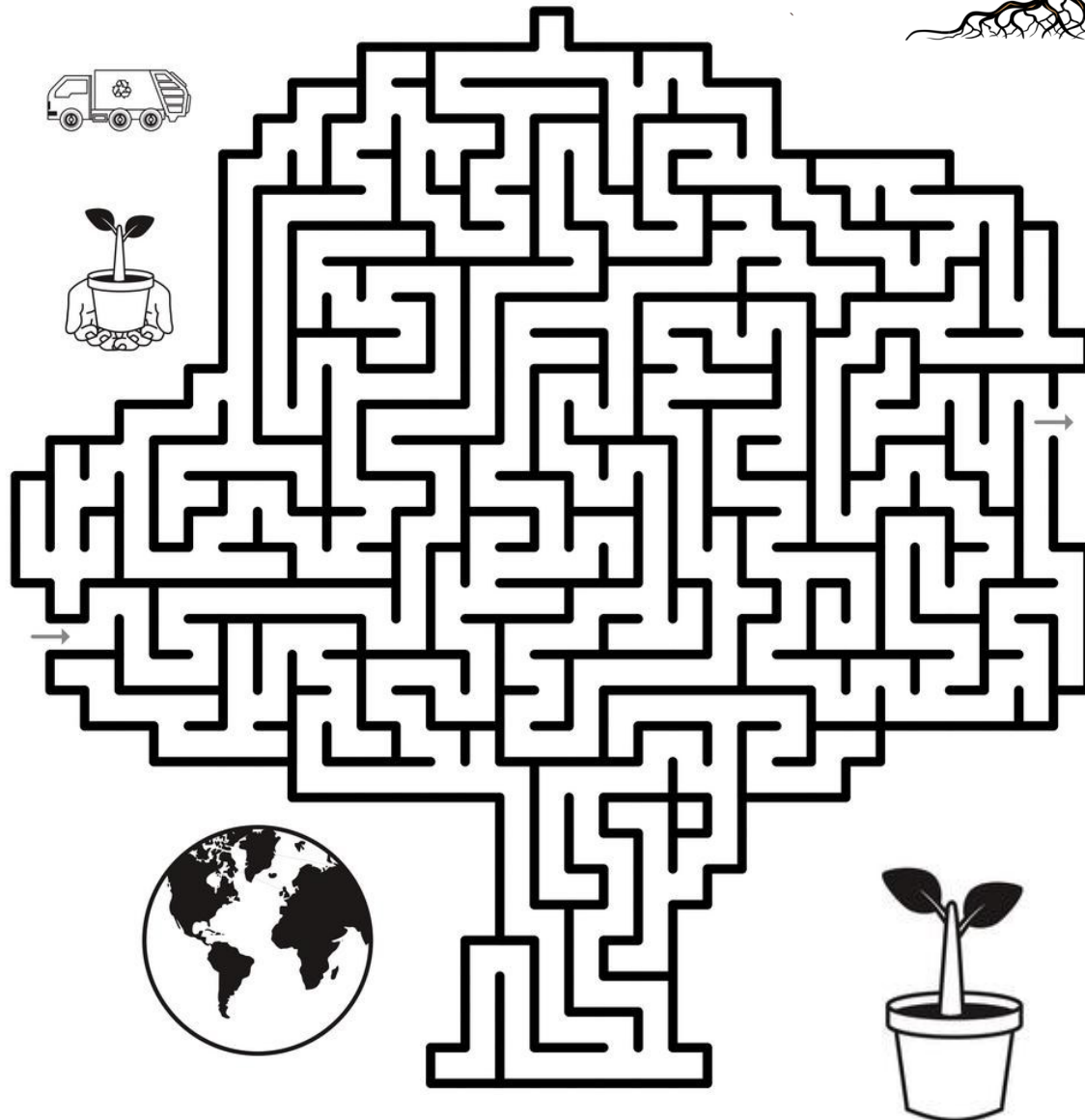


TREE MAZE

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE?



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
 319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620
www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org 402-395-2043
 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

September 6, 2026 ✚ Creation in Christ Sunday

Since the seventh century, September 1st 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 ✚

Prelude

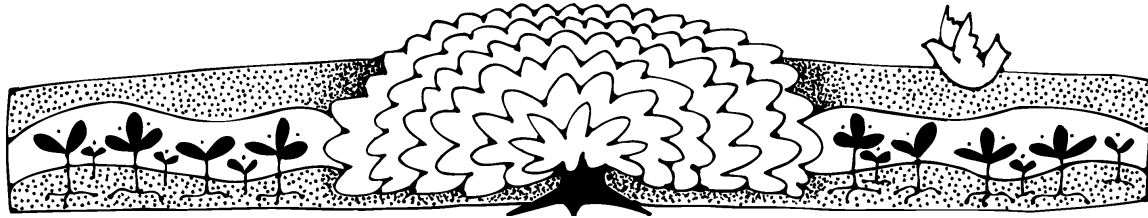
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Creation in Christ Sunday

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.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

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

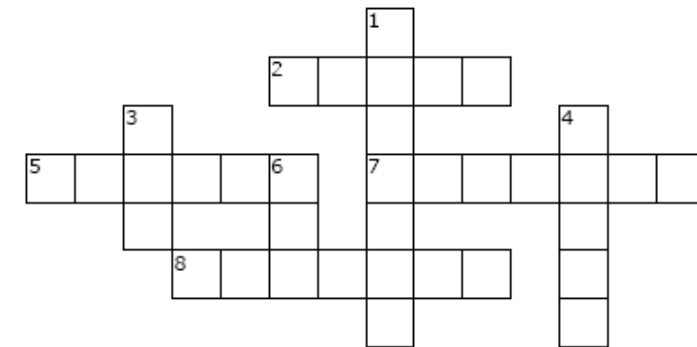
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

And It Was Very Good

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NIV)



ACROSS

2. Creatures with feathers and wings, usually able to fly

5. Living things that have a stem, leaves, roots, and sometimes flowers

7. Living things that can move and eat

8. The space that seems to be over the earth like a dome

DOWN

1. To cause something to exist, or to make

3. General term for the human race, or any member or group of it

4. The planet on which we live

6. The waters that cover most of the surface of the earth

CREATED	BIRDS	ANIMALS	EARTH
HEAVENS	PLANTS	MAN	SEA

And It Was Very Good

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NIV).



N P S B S K N D S B K J G R L
P U D I K O M E A W G N T S I
Y V S R Y U E H N R I V G F G
S B V D U R R P G N K P O G H
C I T S T T X C N A L N D R T
P R X I N U X I P J N T E Y V
C L O K I Y G Y N N X I S S S
J R A O D E C N F Q T T G L S
W E E N B R P H W E E L A H H
U B A A T I V E G B M M M S T
L W I R T S A A B X I A I X X
S A A V T E M V V N P F L Y T
C E N T B H D E A S E S A E U
I F A D E D C N S L S D B E D
N A J S S R N S M A L E Z S G

HEAVENS	EARTH	PLANTS	SEAS	CREATED
NIGHT	DAY	WATER	FISH	SKY
TREES	DARKNESS	BIRDS	FEMALE	GOD
LIGHT	ANIMALS	BEGINNING	MALE	LAND

Opening Hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* #835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. Composite © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623; Public Domain

Opening Litany

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

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.

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.

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

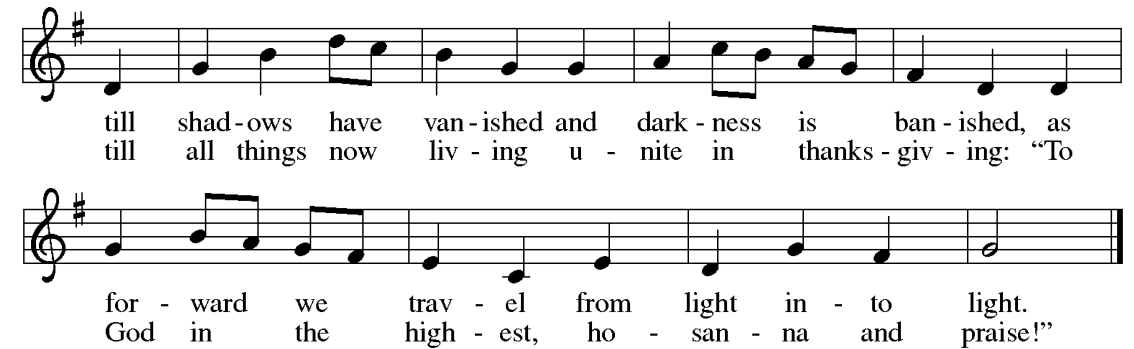
For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God.

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.

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.

Bless us, your creatures.
Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
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.



Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
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Music: Welsh folk tune; Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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Benediction

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 *Let All Things Now Living* #881

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

Apostolic 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 *Father, I Adore You* W&P #37

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,

fore you; how I love you.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
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.

Labor Day Litany

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for the talents, abilities, and skills you have blessed us with,
so that we can serve both you and one another.

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for the jobs and careers that we currently have,
and for the opportunities that those positions have provided for us.**

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor, for giving us the energy and strength
to do the tasks that we have been given to do.**

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor, for all that we have learned
and all that we have come to understand in our work life.**

People of God, whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for all the benefits that the work you have given us to do
has brought to both us and others.**

People of God, keep up the good work.
**Thank you, O Lord of labor,
for all that you do to help us get our work done.**



✠ WORD ✠

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.

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void 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

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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 ✠

Announcements

star - ry con - stel - la - tion to each for - est un - der - layer. Ti - ny
co - ral reefs are dy - ing, floods are rag - ing, droughts are long. Though the
earth as in your heav - en," God, we pray, "Your will be done." By your

crea - tures, moun - tain splen - dor, riv - ers, lakes and o - cean floors— You are
cir - cum - stan - ces dif - fer, when the earth is in di - stress, See! The
Spi - rit, may we lis - ten to the earth and to the poor; May we

lov - ing, kind and ten - der in your care for what is yours.
poor are first to suf - fer from our greed and sel - fish - ness.
care for all you've gi - ven till cre - a - tion is re - stored.

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Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918
Public Domain

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.
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Distribution Hymn *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* #836

- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

called the light Day, and the darkness he 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 he 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 humankind 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 humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he 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, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Let us read Psalm 148 responsively.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

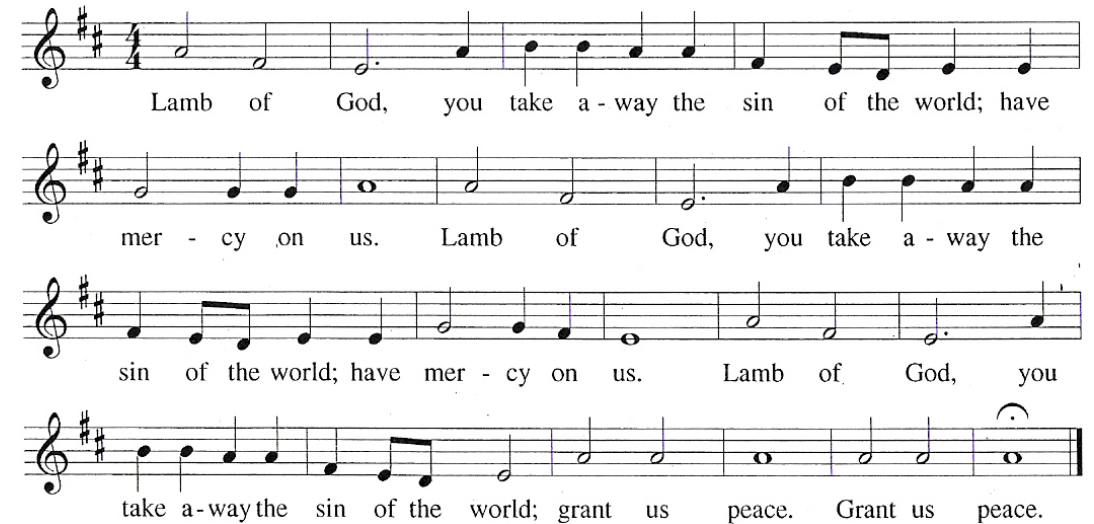
²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

**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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Family of God



Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

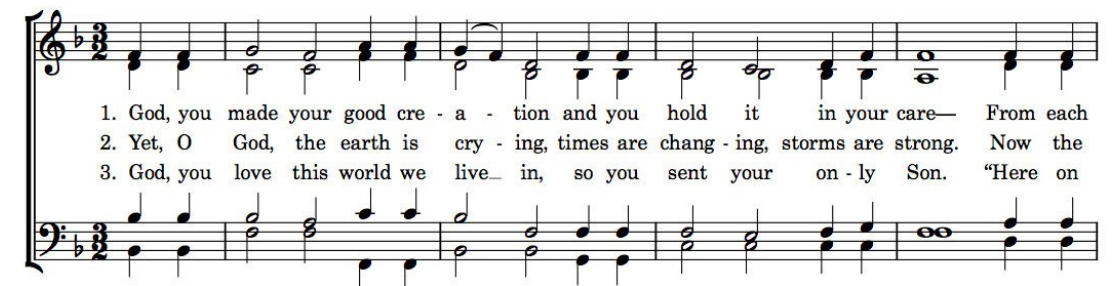
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

God, You Made Your Good Creation

(Tune #712)



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world
that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.

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, Jesus 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.*

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let 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.

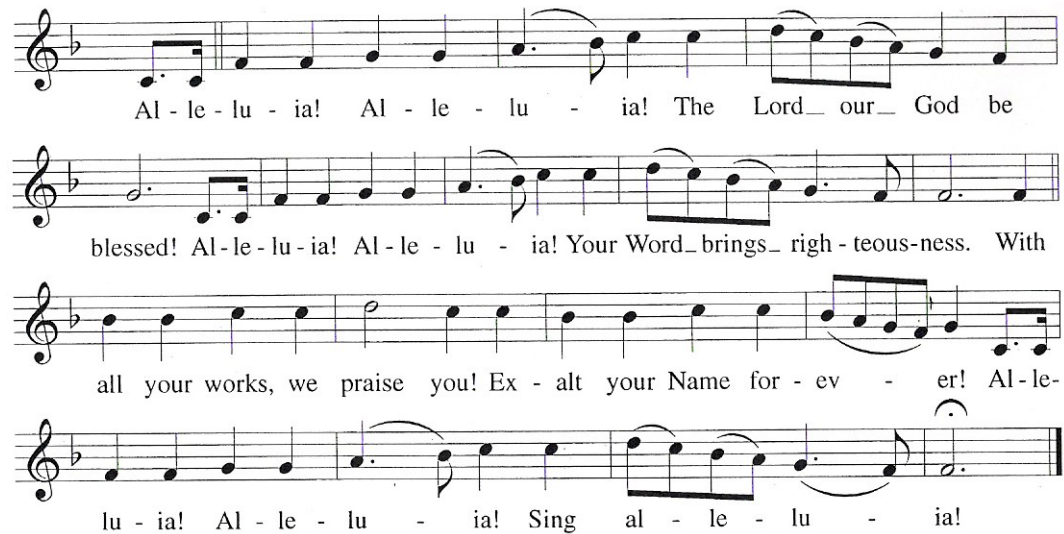
A reading from Acts.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of

their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find
 him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him
 we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets
 have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Holy 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

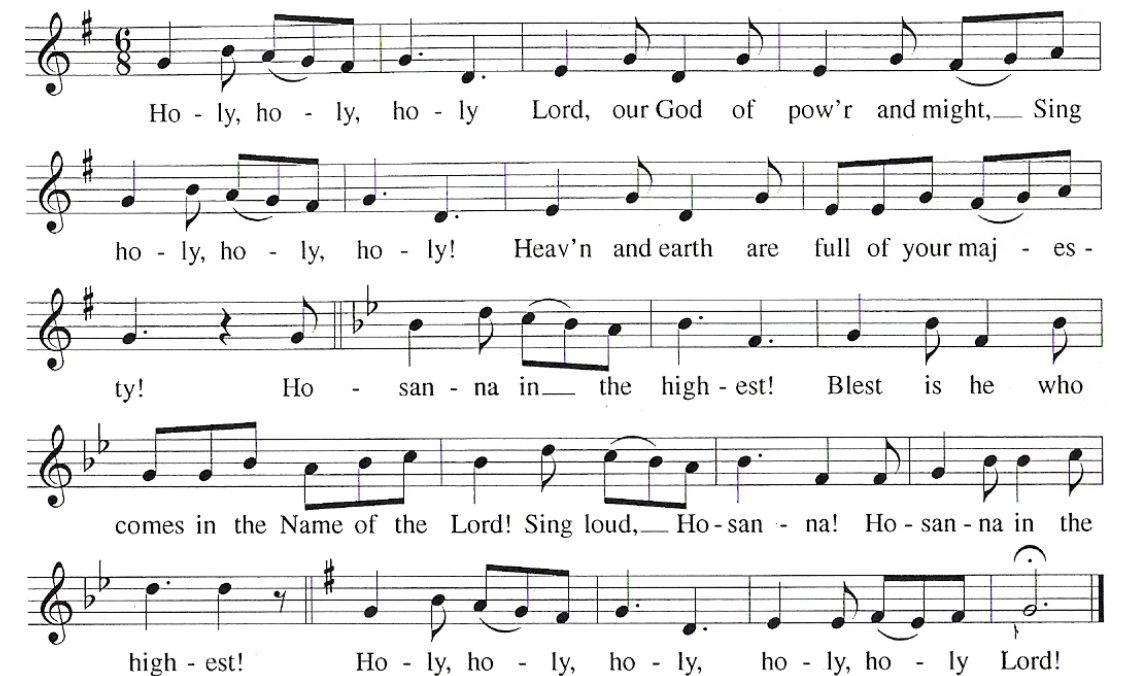
Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection
 opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God



✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - 'ised

bread of life. 2. Now
feast to come. A - - men.

✠ MEAL ✠

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.



Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

This Is My Father's World

#824

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt
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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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 into hell.
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.**

Prayers of the People

P We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator,
praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

A 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.

P For the earth we pray:
that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing,
that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous 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.**

A 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.

P For those in need we pray:
that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and 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...
Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:
Your mercy is great.

A 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.

P Here other intercessions may be offered aloud or in silence.
Hear us, O God, our source of comfort and strength:
Your mercy is great.

A We praise you 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.**

P 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

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

