

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

September 20, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrating Creation in Christ Sunday

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.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy. We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from
Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda, washing the disciples' feet.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water
you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness,
and enlivened us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

Opening Hymn *All Creatures Worship God Most High* #835
st. 1-3

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

Litany (*inspired by the poem in Genesis 1*)

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.

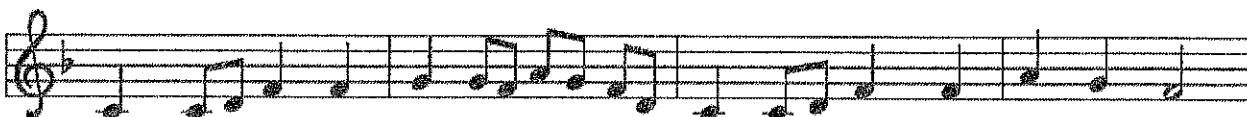
Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and
might be to you, our God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn

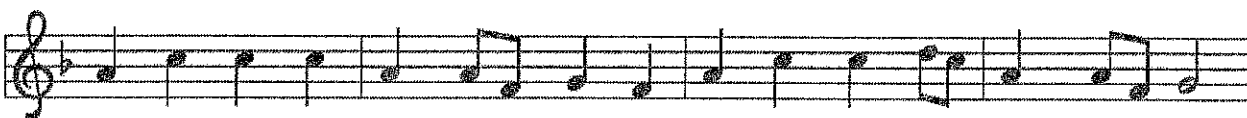
Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom



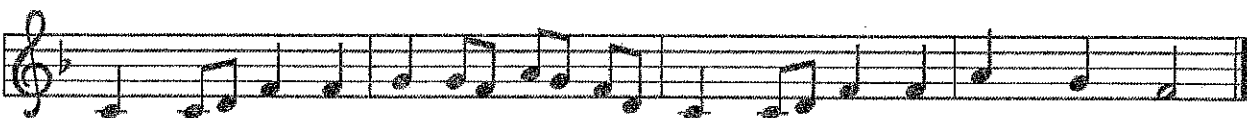
- 1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light-ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won-der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring-ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with-in a sin-gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Psalm 148

- 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, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
- ⁵ Let 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.
- ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing 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!

Job 12:7-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ "The 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, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he 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 for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For '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.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

ALLELUIA

Larry Olson



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Those who fol - low me will not walk in dark - ness.

Those who fol - low me will have the light of life.

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John 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him 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.

Message

Vicar Millie Anderson

Dialogue

Most high, most powerful, good Lord,

Praise, glory, honor and blessing are yours...

Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures,

Especially to my reverent Brother Sun...

Beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great;

singing of your significance.

Praised be my Lord, for Sister Moon and for the stars...

Praised be my Lord for Brother Wind...

Praised be my Lord for Sister Water...

Praised be my Lord for Brother Fire...

Praised be my Lord for our sister, Mother Earth,

Praised be my Lord for those who forgive others for your sake...

Praised be my Lord for our sister, Death...

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks.

Hymn of the Day

O God, Beyond All Praising

#880

Reception of New Members

We confess our faith together using the words of the 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.

Prayers of the People

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

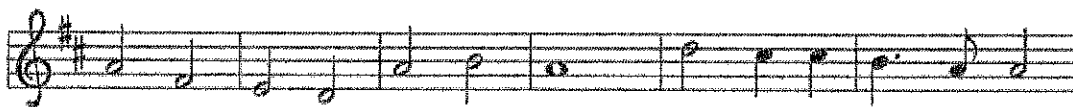
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

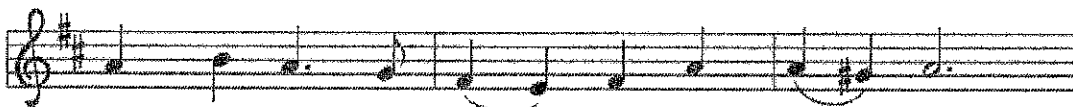
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *It is indeed... we join in their unending praise:*



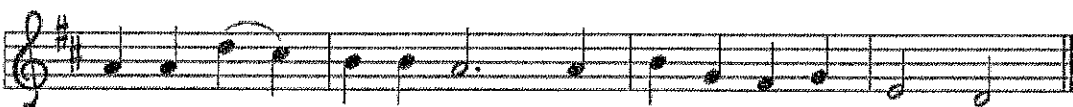
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

Word of Institution

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

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

*All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.*

*Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.*

Please join in singing -

One Bread, One Body

#496

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.

SENDING

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.

Closing Song

How Great Thou Art

st. 1-2

#856

Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Worship Participants

Ministers: All the members
Vicar: Emily Anderson
DYME: Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist: Sharen Borchers
Pianist: Kris Kistenmacher
Lector: Jackie Meyer
Deacons: Mitch Trost and Reuben De La O
Greeter: Janet Volkert
Acolytes: Kelby Butcher and Lincoln Rasmus
Sound & Video: Dave Kistenmacher and Lex Jacobson
Coffee Hosts: Sheree & Steve Vohs
Laura Peuse

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, September 20 ~ Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship / Holy Communion / New Member Installation
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship
5:00 PM Shepherd's Table Free Community Meal @ Holstein UMC

SUNDAY, September 27 ~ Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM Sunday School RALLY DAY