

October 3, 2021 | Sunday Bulletin

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song ELW #835:1-3, 6

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Confession and Forgiveness

Creator God,
In the beginning, your Spirit moved over the deep;
Unfolding new life daily.
Darkness and light: you called them good.
Skies, lands, and seas: you called them good.
The earth and all that fills it-plants and rocks,
The finned, the feathered, the furry: you called them good.
Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness in care for God's creation.

Forgive us, God, for the ways we have exploited earth and its creatures.

We long for new relationships with God's creation that has been entrusted to us.

Help us, God, to make a new community with all that lives alongside us.

May the merciful God who calls us to tend earth and all its creatures,
Deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving, so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace
with all living things; in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Greeting

The joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the compassion of God, and the creative power of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Source and sustainer of life,
we cherish the myriad works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for creatures that nourish and serve us, befriend, enrich, entertain, and protect us. May we, who are made in your image, care for them well. And may your groaning yet wondrous creation rally and thrive, revealing to all who come after us your wise, redemptive, transfiguring love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lesson Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (NRSV)

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise ELW #824:1, 2

This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Preaching Text Genesis 1:1, 20-28, 31a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. (NRSV)

God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"
God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,
And every kind and species of flying birds.
God saw that it was good.
God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!

Birds, reproduce on Earth!”
It was evening, it was morning—Day Five.
God spoke: “Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds.”
And there it was:
wild animals of every kind,
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.
God saw that it was good.
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.”

God looked over everything he had made;
it was so good, so very good! (MSG)

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection Pastor Pam Stalheim Lane

Hymn of the Day WOV #767:1, 2, 4

Refrain

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. ***Refrain***
The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. ***Refrain***

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,

who has made all things well. **Refrain**

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

. . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

We worship God by supporting our church and the mission we share. Our October mission outside our doors is Luther Seminary. Our donations help Luther Seminary provide quality education and scholarships for Seminary students who will be sent out to serve and preach the Gospel.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Blessing of Animals

Prayer for Animals

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all the animals that live with us and around us. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Parking Lot Worship

We invite all who have brought pets to come forward individually for a blessing.

Dialogue

God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

Water, earth, and sky are home to us all. We accept God's call, in the name of the Good Shepherd who taught us to pray:

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.

Sending Song ELW #881

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Blessing

Compassion, creativity, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life on Earth, giving clear witness to the life-giving purpose of our Creator.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures.

Thanks be to God.

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The Prayer for Animals is from St. Paul the Redeemer Episcopal Church (Chicago, IL) as found on <http://www.letallcreationpraise.org/blessing-of-the-animals-episcopal>

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Worship Schedule All Are Welcome!

Worship online, in the sanctuary, parking lot or at home.

Online worship available at faithlilacway.org

9:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary* and Parking Lot - Simultaneously

10:30 AM Coffee and treats in the Parking Lot! (masks optional)

10:30 AM Education Hour Adults and Kids outside, weather permitting

Following CDC guidelines, Faith-Lilac Way's church council asks unvaccinated people to wear a mask and be socially distant while in the church building. Also, in keeping with the CDC guidelines, we recommend that all people mask and be physically distanced from one another while in the building because of the increased spread of the Delta variant even from vaccinated people. Our goal is to follow Jesus' call to love and care for the neighbor, especially those who are vulnerable such as unvaccinated children.