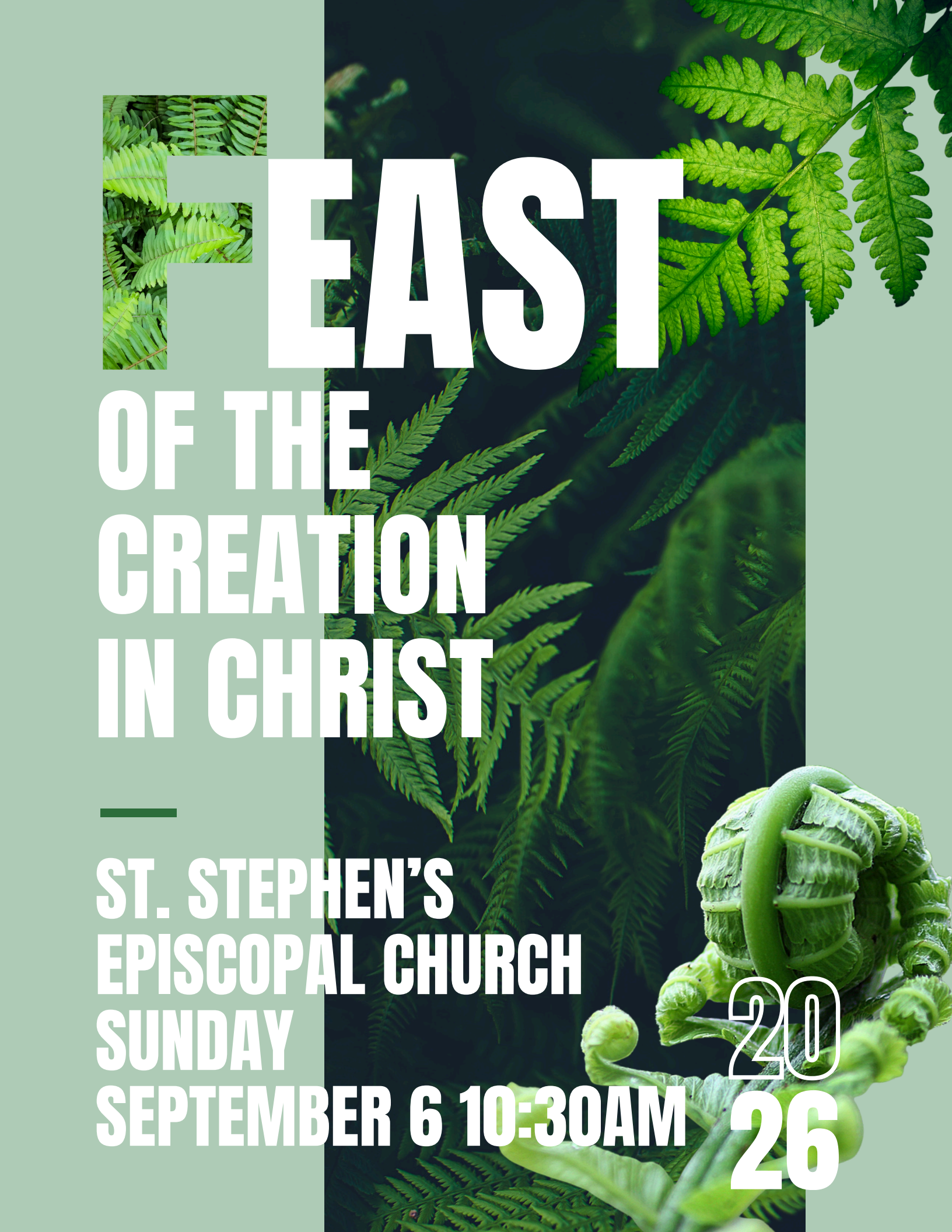




FEAST OF THE CREATION IN CHRIST

**ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 6 10:30AM**

**20
26**

Worship Leaders September 6, 2026

Presider The Rev. Nic Mather

Musician. Riki Davis

Acolyte

Altar Guild Gretchen Niemi, Heather Neimi, Heather Karnofski

Reader. David Piper, Christopher Ortiz

Greeter. Karen Miller

Chalice Bearer. Bev Finlay, Mary Lyons

Usher. Don Willows

Verger. Mary Hoover

Vestry Presence. Lisa Sudar, Mary Lyons

Coffee Hour D. Rowley

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully **acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to **welcome all people just as God created you**. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



Connect with St. Stephen's!

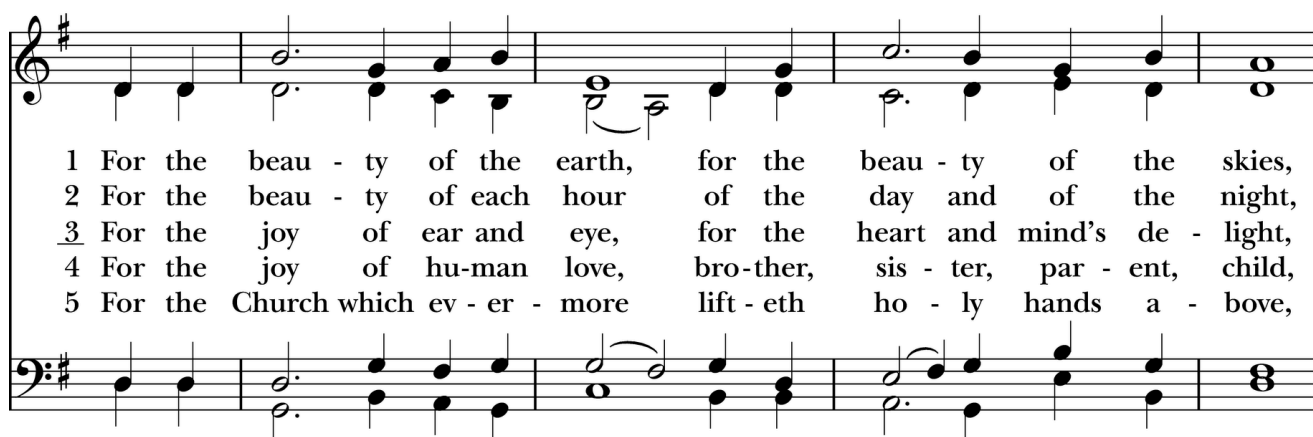
Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

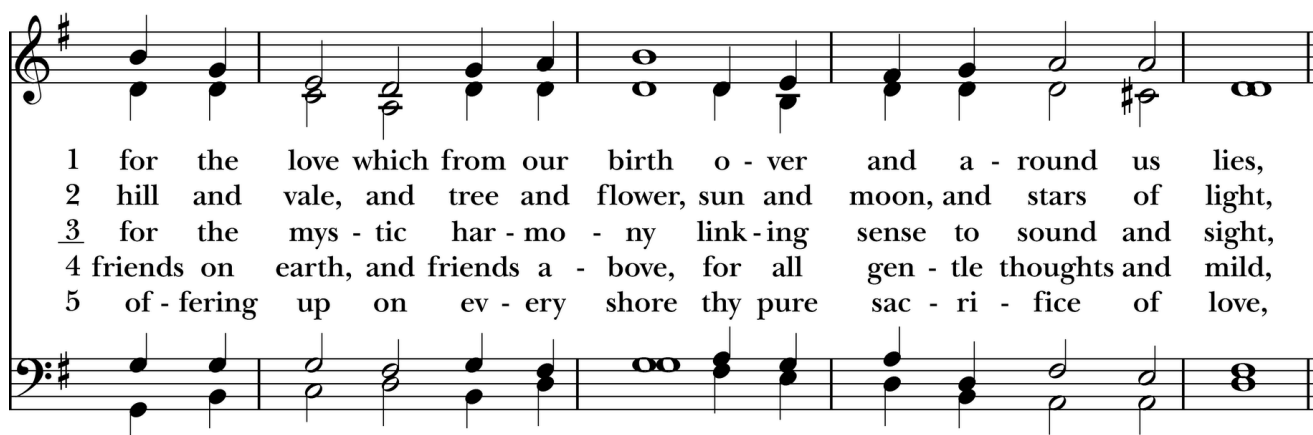
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Your Email: _____



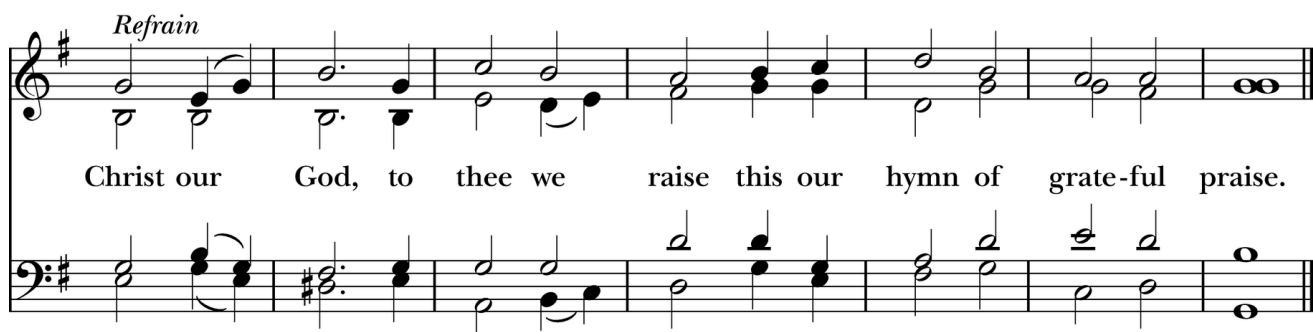


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,



1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain



Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
 to the world so freely given,
 faith and hope and love divine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt. Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Celebrant: This is the day the Creator has made.

***People:* Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

A Penitential Order for Creation

Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to begin with the Penitential Order.

Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

Please kneel in body or spirit. Silence may be kept.

Celebrant: We have forgotten who we are.

***People:* We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.**

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren.

And the waters are poisoned.

And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying.

And the creatures are disappearing.

And humans are despairing.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness.

We ask for the gift of remembering.

We ask for the strength to change.

Help us to remember who we are.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

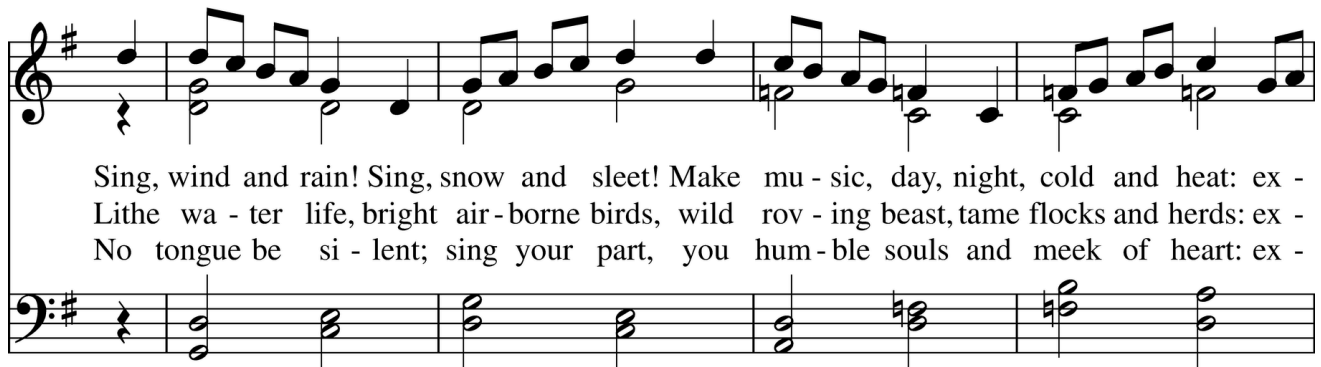
Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless the Lord, till heav'n with praise is ring - ing.
 2. All liv - ing things up - on the earth, green fer - tile hills and moun-tains,
 3. O peo - ple peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of glo - ry;



Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir up the an - gels' sing - ing.
 sing to the God who gave you birth; be joy - ful, springs and foun-tains.
 let all who know God's stead - fast care tell our sal - va - tion's sto - ry.



Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make mu - sic, day, night, cold and heat: ex -
 Lithe wa - ter life, bright air-borne birds, wild rov - ing beast, tame flocks and herds: ex -
 No tongue be si - lent; sing your part, you hum - ble souls and meek of heart: ex -



alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.
 alt the God who made you.

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Stewardship of Creation

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A reading from Genesis 2:4-25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God’s Creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148:1-14

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,

praise for all his faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

A reading from **Acts 17:22a, 24-28**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “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, 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. 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, 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. 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.’”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God’s Creation. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Procession (before reading) & Recession (after reading)

(Please stand in body or spirit)



The Holy Gospel According to John 1:1-5

Glory to you, O Christ.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily--Fr. Nic Mather

A Confession of St. Patrick *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

This creed is attributed to the 5th century missionary and bishop Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland, in the story of "Patrick and the royal daughters" from the biographical Collectanea by the 7th century Irish Bishop Tírechán. It is included in the 10th century The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick which is traditionally preached during the three-day Feast of St. Patrick in Ireland.

**Our God, God of all people,
God of heaven and earth, sea and rivers,
God of sun and moon, of all stars,
God of highest mountain, of deepest valleys,
God over heaven and in heaven and under heaven.**

**He has his dwelling.
in heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.**

**He inspires all,
he gives life to all,
he surpasses all,
he upholds all.**

**He ignites the light of the sun.
He surrounds the stars and tells them to shine.
He makes fountains in dry lands,
and dry islands in the sea,
and stars to serve the greater lights.**

**He has a Son,
coeternal with him and like him.
The Son is not younger than the Father,
neither is the Father older than the Son.**

**And the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
Not separate are the Father and Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayers of the People: Honoring God in Creation Form 2

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Celebrant: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Reader: In the beginning
God was.

Here and now,
God is.

In the future,
God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. *Silence*

God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the People: Honoring God in Creation Form 2

During the silence after each bidding, the people may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help especially Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marg Ofstun, Holly Miller Spieth, Jesse Lucas, Shirley Sonnenberg, Lois Larson, Anna Rangel, Lucy Spencer, Charley, Susan Kobari, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died especially David Piper Sr. *Silence*
God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand in body or spirit.

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Give to the virtual collection plate by scanning or going online @ sslv.org/give



As part of our stewardship of creation, we are called to remember our mission outreach work, specifically the work of our feeding ministry with FISH. On this FISH Sunday we ask your special offerings to support this vital ministry and to keep our volunteers and our recipients in your prayers as they come to shop for vital needs this upcoming month.



Descant



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell



he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
 the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
 how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. Descant, Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

The Holy Eucharist

Please stand in body or spirit.

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Creator.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

The people join together in the Sanctus, and then the presider continues

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

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries reconcile us to our world and empower us to restore your Creation and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive.

Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Fraction Ann Marie Long

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu

4 ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

8 feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

Postcommunion Prayer (*please stand in body or spirit*)

**Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Go forth now to care for God's world.
Use resources wisely.
Share your knowledge.
Sacrifice where necessary.
Live in harmony with all creation.
Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living
and preach the good news to all.
And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into all Creation, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn

Community Invitations on the Last Page

If you are new or visiting please introduce yourself to Fr. Nic and grab a welcome packet, and then join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall (across the courtyard, follow the people & the signs).



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



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

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Fall Save the Dates:

Welcome Back Sunday--September 13, 2026

- Blessing of the Backpacks and Bags
- Annual Pie-Off
 - Awards for Best Savory Pie, Cream Pie, Fruit Pie, and Champions Award

Sunday Morning Bible Study: A Deep Dive Into Romans

- Sundays Beginning September 20 @ 9am
- Purchase “Into the Heart of Romans” by NT Wright
- Read Chapter 1 for September 20
- RSVP to Fr. Nic

Fall Book Study: What Make You Come Alive by Lerita Coleman Brown

- 5 Wednesdays beginning October 4
- 6pm @ Scythe Brewing
- RSVP to Fr. Nic

Annual Chili Cook Off: Sunday October 25

- Please bring a Chili, a Cornbread, or a Dessert
- Award given to People’s Choice for Best Chili

All Saints Sunday: Sunday November 1

Service of Remembrance: Monday November 2 @ 7pm

First Sunday of Advent: Sunday November 29

- Potluck & Advent Wreath Making for the Whole Family!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Pageant Sunday: December 20

- Rehearsal at 9am
- Breakfast for Pageant Participants & Families at 9:30am
- Pageant at 10:30am