



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

September 17, 2023

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
in the Season of Creation

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

----- A Special WELCOME to all! -----

We are pleased to have you worship with us this morning and hope you **feel warmly welcomed**. Today we continue with a “new season” in the church year, an international and ecumenical observance of God’s presence in Creation; and our roles as caretakers, stewards and fellow creatures. The Season of Creation will conclude on Sunday, October 1, when we celebrate the life and witness of St Francis of Assisi (d. 1226).

Be sure to join us following the service in Vandenberg Fellowship Hall for a time of conversation and refreshments.

New to our church? We’d love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

COVID is still a concern in our area. Face masks are optional; they are provided at all entrances to the worship space. Hand-sanitizing stations are also provided, and recommended for use prior to receiving Communion. **All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here**, no questions asked. The bread is gluten-free. All are offered the cup for a sip of wine; you can decline by crossing your arms in front of your chest. Instead of receiving Communion, you may ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books located near the library entrance to the church.

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude _____

Opening Hymn #1 Please stand _____ Father, we praise thee, now the night is over

Open Acclamation & Collect _____

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Song of Praise Please join in singing _____

1. All crea - tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er
sun, in splen - dor bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
Refrain
O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(continued on next page)

4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve:
alleluia, alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
Still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship god in humbleness,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God all thanks and praise belong!
Join in the everlasting song:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All **O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading *Please be seated* _____ *Exodus 14:19-31*

Reader A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's

horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalm 114*

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
 you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
 at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
 and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Reading _____

Reader A reading from the Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a.

One day, while the sage Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," replied the man. Honi then asked, "Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?" The man answered, "I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for my children."

Reader Here ends the reading.

(The rabbinic writings known as the Talmud were compiled and edited ca 500-700 CE in Babylon, Persia. A taanit is a page in the collection, covered by various texts in Aramaic or Hebrew)

Sequence Hymn #383 *Please stand* _____ *Fairest Lord Jesus*

The Gospel Reading *Please stand* _____ *Matthew 18:21-35*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams
Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *Please stand* _____

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:**

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People *Please stand or kneel* _____

Intercessor Let us pray.

O God, Creator of all, we come before you in this time of deepening social and climate crises to confess our complicity and inaction, to pray for those most severely affected, and to ask for the courage to be diligent in prayer and truth-seeking. Open our hearts to be transformed by prayer and Spirit-led action, for the good of this community, our planet, and all its creatures.

Silence

Hear us, gracious God.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have not valued the air, which sustains every breath, and have instead polluted it with toxic chemicals and waste products. Help us to change our ways.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have wasted and polluted the waters, our drink of life and the main substance of our bodies. We have discharged heavy metals into the seas and rivers, we have choked them with agricultural run-off, clogged the oceans with plastic, and poisoned vulnerable children with industrial chemicals and lead-filled water from old pipes. Lead us out of disaster.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have abused the soil, which you created to provide food and homes for all land creatures. We have squandered the earth's resources, depleting its substance by overuse and greed. We have buried toxic and radioactive waste; we have stolen land from indigenous people who loved and tended the earth with greater respect than we have. Guide us to better solutions.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have caused the deaths of many millions of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and water creatures out of a sense of human entitlement; and we have destroyed their living places so that we can have more hamburgers or housing developments or fossil fuels. We have denied the interconnectivity of all life on our planet. Help us to see more clearly.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We confess that we have dominated, enslaved and exploited our human siblings, for economic gain and political power. We have turned neighborhoods into ghettos, denied the need of every family for living wages and decent health care, and forgotten Jesus' command to love every neighbor. Help us to act more justly.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor Have compassion on us, merciful God;
People **Free us from the gods of greed, wealth, and "private" property.**

Intercessor Free us from despair and paralyzing fear, and from the privilege of caring most about our own well-being while we see others suffer.

People **Free us from the lie that we are separate from our human and non-human siblings.**

Intercessor Let justice and peace flow from our lives like clear water;

People **Restore our relationship to all of Creation.**

Intercessor Gracious God, hear our prayers for the people we love who are in any need, sickness or danger; especially those we name ...

The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for the animals in our lives, who rely on our care and give us joy; especially those we name ...

The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for the places where we find peace and refreshment, reminding us of the goodness of Creation; especially the places we name...

The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Hear our prayers for those who have ended their time upon earth, and now live with you in your heavenly kingdom; especially those we name...

The People add their petitions either silently or aloud.

Priest 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, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand* _____

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider

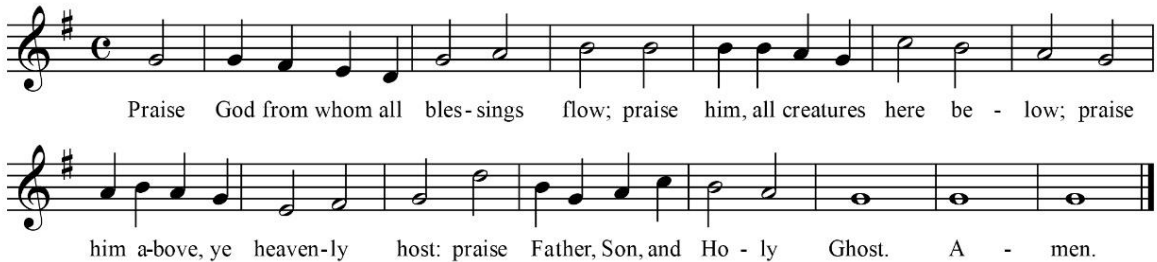
Let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge God's Name; doing good and sharing what we have; for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15,16*

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form!



Offertory Anthem _____ *Joys Like a River, Douglas Wagner*

The Doxology Please stand _____



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise
him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Eucharistic Prayer, For Creation Please remain standing _____

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Priest

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 Holy 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:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,
God of power and might, ——— heaven 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.

S 128--Setting by William Mathias

Priest In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to you, O 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.”

Jesus also took a cup of wine, and gave thanks to God.

He gave it to his friends saying: “This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Priest Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, reconcile us to the world you made and called good; and empower us to restore your creation back to health and balance, in fulfillment of your will. Stir in us your own creativity and redeem our destructive ways. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with your life anew.

As we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, send your life-giving Spirit upon them + and upon us + gathered in faith to receive them. Fill every heart with sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when you are all in all.

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

All **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

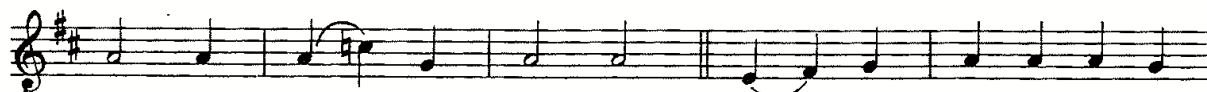
Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread, *silence follows* _____



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



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is



sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Communion *Please be seated* _____

All are welcome but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead.

If you wish to receive bread only, please take the bread and walk back to your seat or, if you wish to remain at the rail, place your arms across your shoulders when the Lay Eucharistic Minister comes by with the cup to indicate your preference. If you wish to drink wine, please drink from the cup only. Please do not intinct (dip your bread) in the wine.

Communion Hymn #593 _____ *Lord, make us servants of your peace*

Prayer after Communion *Please stand* _____

Priest Let us pray.

People Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Out of LEV's _____

Priest or Deacon gives LEV the Visitation Kit,

Priest Let us all pray together:

People In the name of this congregation, we send you out bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The Sending Out

Milestones & Announcements *Please be seated* _____

Blessing _____

The Presider blesses the People and the People respond:

Amen.

Sending Out Hymn #516 *Please stand* _____ *Come down, O Love divine*

Sending Out _____

The Deacon dismisses the congregation, after which the people respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude _____

The flowers that decorate our altar this morning were given to the glory of God and in celebration of our new Priest and Music Director by Bob & Terri Hutchins.

Prayer List _____

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan; for Susan, our Priest-in-Charge; for Judy, our Deacon; for the Vestry.

For Al; Margaret; Bill; Rita; Todd; Diane; Sue; Barbara & Joe; Cindy; Cathy; Molly; Cory; Dale; Sue; Linda; Marcia; Gabe; Kady; Rose; Joan; Rex & Judi; Jim; Bob; Jim; James; Sharon; Mia; June; Ed; Carl; Sydne; Laura; Mike; Mary Lou; Randy; Jack; Sherry; Kathy & Tom; John; Sara; Pam; Marsha; Chet; Leonard; Ellen; Glenn; Jim; Patti; Brad; Vince; and Zack.

SERVING TODAY

LEM: Mary Louise Susalla
Reader/Prayers: Dee Grossmann
Ushers: Dave & Deb James
Live-streamer: ???
Altar Guild: Dee Grossmann & Lisa Cronk
Vestry P. of Day: Heather Ludwig
Coffee Hour: The Johnstons

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Mary Louise Susalla
9/18 Mon. Office Volunteer: Nancy Day
9/19 Tuesday Counter: Francine Johnston
9/21 Thus. Office Volunteer: Kathy Kortge

Serving Next Week, Sept. 24

LEM: Dee Grossmann
Reader/Prayers: Paul Dolza
Ushers: Lisa & Kelly Cronk
Live-streamer: ???
Altar Guild: Terri Hutchins & Francine Johnston
Vestry P. of Day: Paul Dolza
Coffee Hour: CROP Walk Potluck

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Paul Dolza
9/25 Mon. Office Volunteer: Heather Ludwig
9/26 Tuesday Counter: Lynne Ronthi
9/28 Thus. Office Volunteer: Lynne Ronthi

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
(810) 629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com
Facebook: St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Sunday Service In-Person and on Facebook Live @ 10:30 am
Adult Formation: Sundays @ 9:30 am Youth Group: Sundays @ 11:45 am