

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

FOR THE CHERISHING OF CREATION

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 6:15 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
Northfield, Minnesota

OUR WORSHIP TONIGHT

At the time of the Winter Solstice the church celebrates the Feast of the Nativity—Christmas. Around the time of the Spring Equinox is the Feast of the Resurrection—Easter. Now, in this time of climate uncertainty and anxiety regarding the well-being of God’s beloved creation, the worldwide church has proposed a new festival associated with the Autumnal Equinox—the Feast of Creation. Tonight, we acknowledge the role creation has in giving glory to God, and we join that never-ending song of praise that began with creation itself.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

St. John’s Lutheran Church stands on the ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation. We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.

Worship Leaders:

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Pastor Jonathan Davis

Piano: Nathan Proctor

Organ: David Sims

Percussion: Dave Hagedorn

The bulletin cover, “Tree of Life” by Vonda Drees, is part of the *Wonders of Worship* curriculum used during our children’s messages this year. Used with permission.

The Litany of Praise for Creation is written by Gail Ramshaw from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks* © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prelude — “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

Greg Bottomley

Welcome and Announcements

Reading — Story of St. Francis

Reading — “Creation”

excerpted and adapted from Genesis 1
Gerald McDermott

***Hymn** — “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Stanzas 1–3

All crea - tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound
Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you
Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive
ev - 'ry voice in earth and sky:
grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
far the shad - ows, join the throng:
Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor bright; sing,
Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful, clear, make
Dear moth - er earth, so rich in care, praise
sis - ter moon and stars of night:
mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia,
God in col - ors bright and rare:
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; tr. composite © 1997 Augsburg Fortress; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623

***Litany of Praise for Creation**

- P** Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.
- C** **We praise you, O God.**
- P** For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark,
- C** **we bless you, O God.**
- P** For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning,
- C** **we exalt you, O God.**
- P** 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,
- C** **we magnify you, O God.**
- P** For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
- C** **we extol you, O God.**
- P** For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
- C** **we glorify you, O God.**
- P** For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth,
- C** **we adore you, O God.**
- P** For humankind made in your image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
- C** **we worship you, O God.**
- P** Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
- C** **We praise you, O God.**
- P** Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

Reading — Revelation 22:1-5

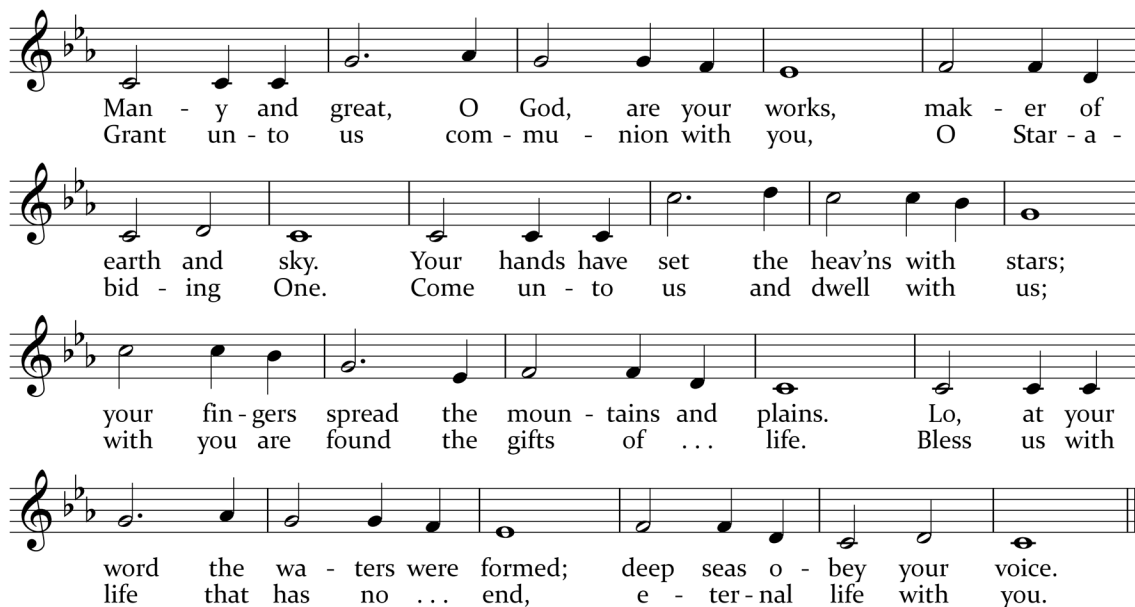
After the reading:

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
- ☒ Thanks be to God.

Reading — excerpts from *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis

Hymn — “Many and Great, O God”

LAC QUI PARLE



Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -
earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;
your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
with you are found the gifts of ... life. Bless us with
word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life that has no ... end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville, para. Philip Frazier, alt; Music: Dakota tune; arr. *Songs of the People* © 1986 Augsburg Publishing House

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- ☐ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☒ hear our prayer.

Prayer — “Peace Prayer”

inspired by the words of St. Francis of Assisi


**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as
to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Hymn — “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Stanzas 4-6



All who for love of God for - give, all
And you, most gen - tle sis - ter death, wait -
O sis - ters, broth - ers, take your part, and
who in pain or sor - row grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ing to hush our fi - nal breath:
wor - ship God with hum - ble heart:
Christ bears your bur - dens and your fears; still
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair
All crea - tures, bless the Fa - ther, Son, and
make your song a - mid the tears:
is the night that leads us home. Al - le - lu - ia,
Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One:
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*Peace

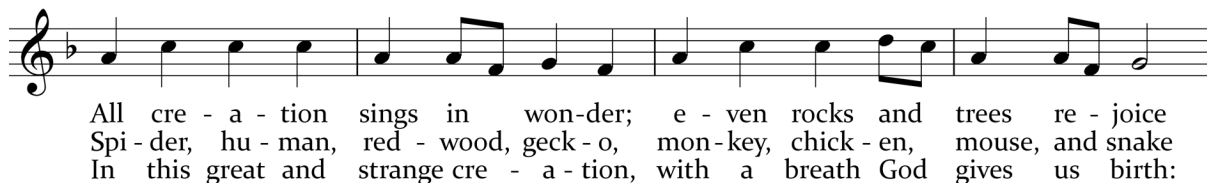
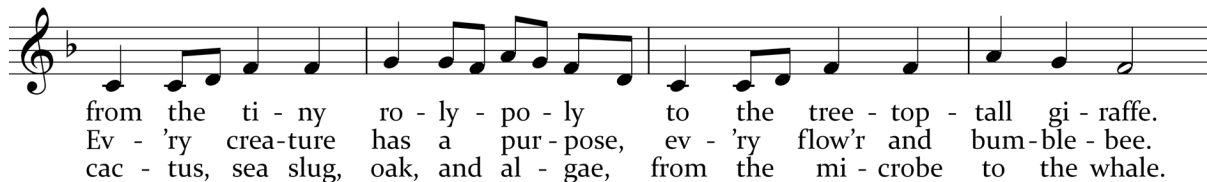
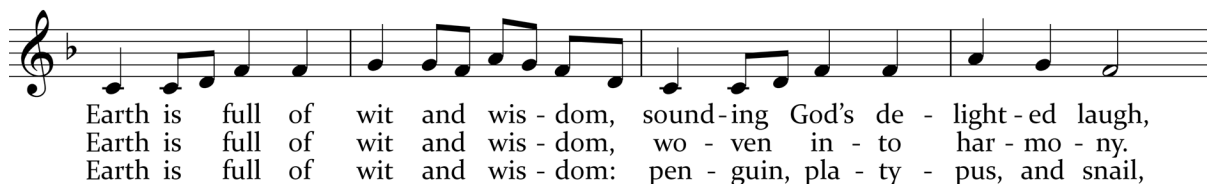
P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

*Hymn — “Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom”

HOLY MANNA



Text: Adam M. L. Tice © 2009 GIA Publications; Music: W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825





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Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.