

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133
Worship for Sunday, 4 October 2026
+ Blessing of the Animals, Year A

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Creation

Please Stand

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth.

In the beginning, you created the earth and all its creatures,
from the hummingbird to the blue whale.

You declared all creation to be good, very good.

In thanksgiving of your good creation, we name all the animals who have been
entrusted into our care:

Our beloved pets are named within the congregation.

In thanksgiving of the love shared between us and your creation, we name all
the animals we have known and loved who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge
and are now entrusted back into your care:

*Our beloved pets who are no longer with us are named within the
congregation.*

In thanksgiving for the joy, awe, wonder, and sometimes even horror that
comes from witnessing all of creation that you called very good, we honor the
animals who have so much to teach us about what it means to live as a part of
this interconnected planet:

*The animals that have fascinated us, brought us awe and wonder to witness,
or caused us to ask God, "What were you thinking?" are named within the
congregation.*

We repent for all the ways we have seen animals as only something that should
be useful to us, misinterpreting what it means to be stewards and ignoring the
ways that all of your creation knows the truth of who you are and is able to
declare your praise. We lament how we have been taught that we have to see
creation as valuable or desirable in order to protect it or see it worthy of
existing. Open our hearts to experience all that your creation has to teach us
about what it means to live as a part of this wide and wonderful world.

Amen.

You may be seated.

Unison Refrain

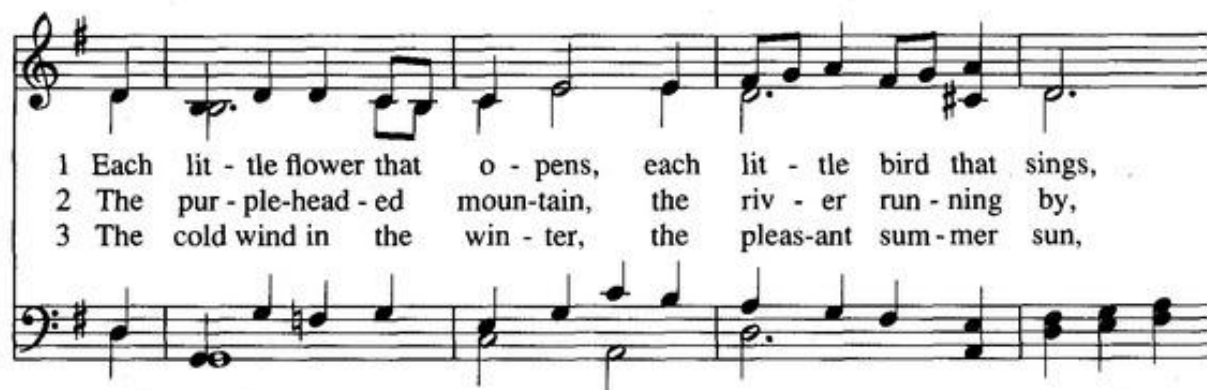


All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Last time, end

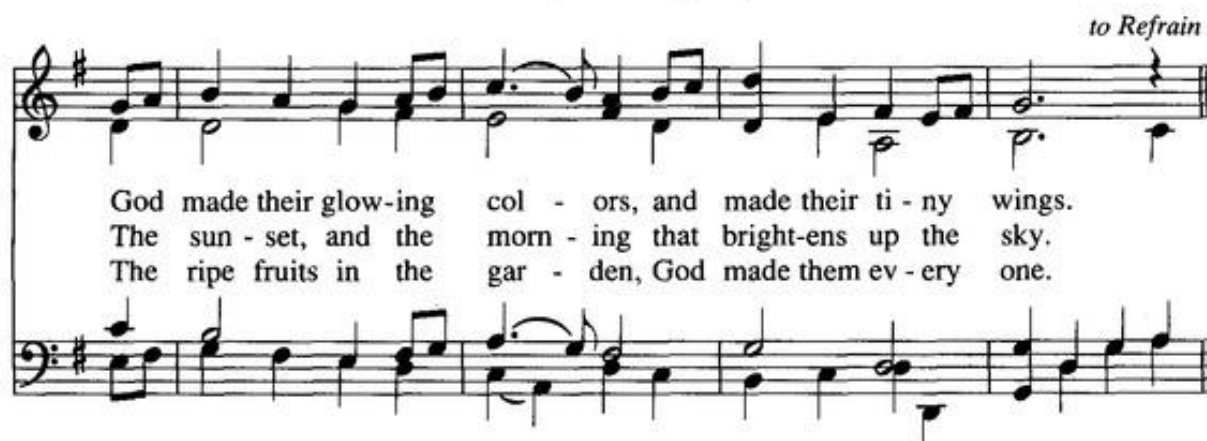


All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.



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,

to Refrain



God made their glow-ing col - ors, and 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, God made them ev - ery one.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain
 English melody
 Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Adapted from a prayer written by Saint Francis of Assisi

P: Let us pray:

Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray for victims of animal cruelty. Bless all who care for injured, neglected, and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. Bless the animals who accompany us through this life, whether it be for a few moments or for many years. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

First Reading 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 God’s hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

There go the ships
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

**These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;**
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

**May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works.**

Second Reading Revelation 4: 1-11

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God, and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and back: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,
“Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.”

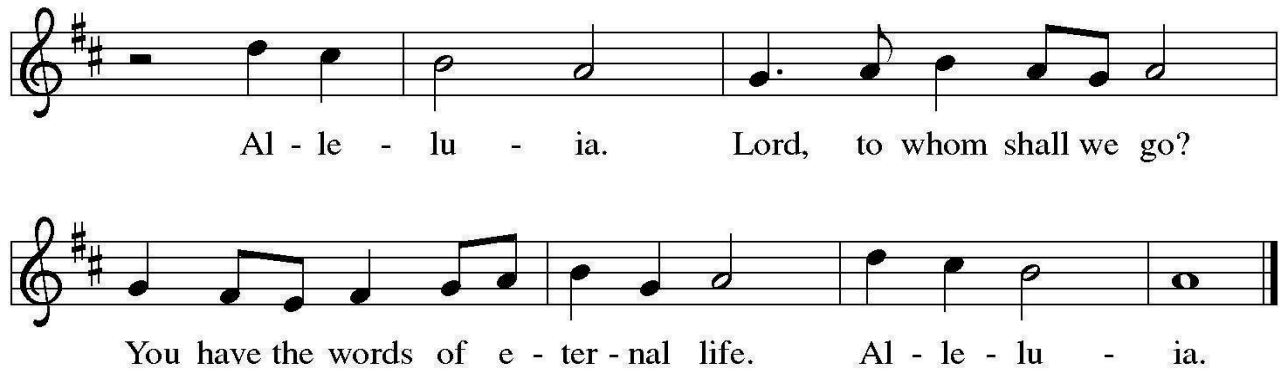
And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please Stand



Gospel Matthew 21: 1-8

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Blessing of the Animals

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals, gathered and afar. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for each other be an example of your bountiful mercy and grace. Grant these animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and your servant Francis. Amen.

At this time, Pastor Sara will circulate through the congregation, ask the name of your animal, and place her hand on the animal's head (if appropriate) and then bless your animal with the following blessing:

[Name], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. Amen.

Prayers and Peace

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

From your place in the congregation, feel free to share a sign of peace with other members of the assembly.

Offering

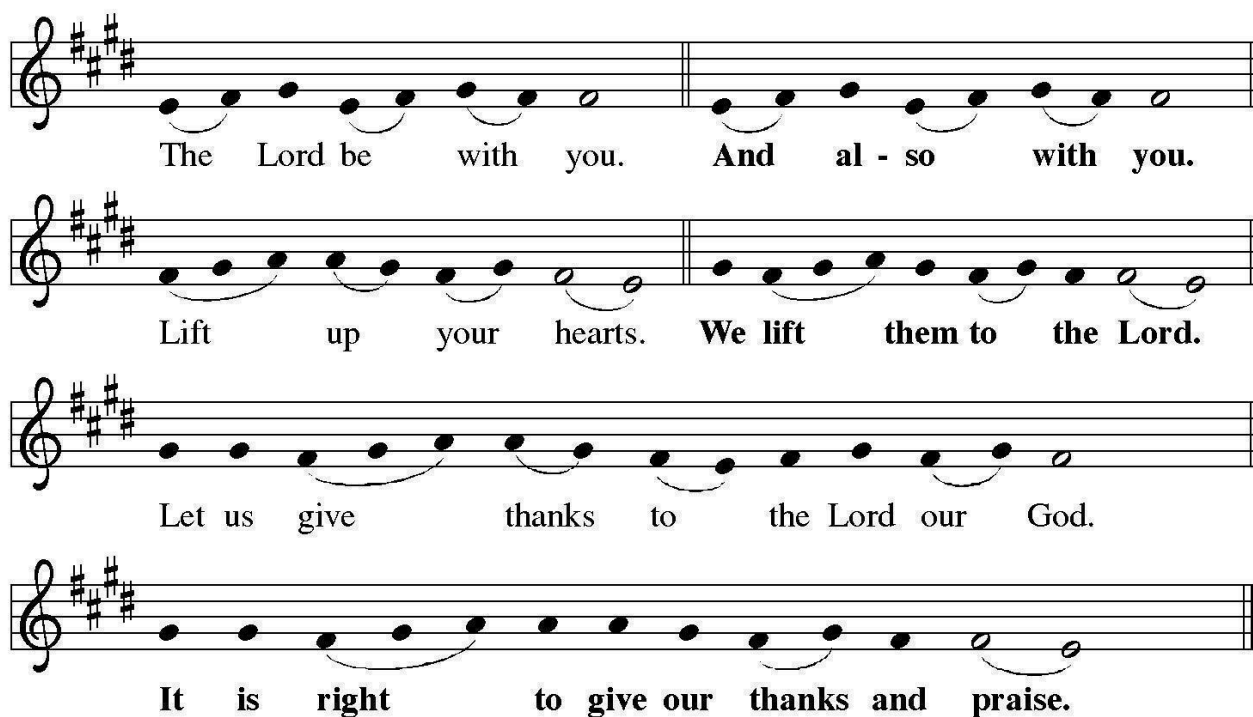
Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Please stand
A Prayer Attributed to Saint 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 discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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.

Great Thanksgiving



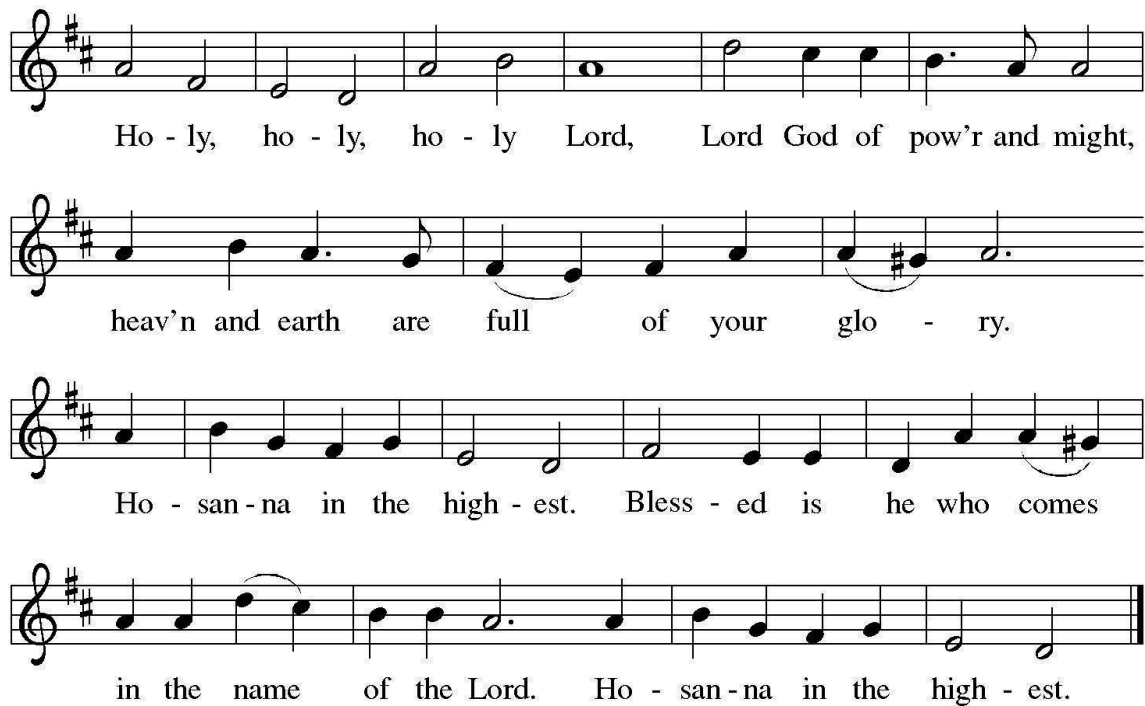
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Liturgy

Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to steward your creation.
Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 forever. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

You may be seated

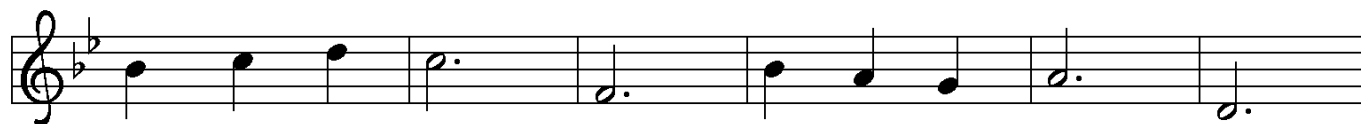
Please proceed up the center aisle to pick up a piece of bread from the Presiding minister and a glass of either wine or grape juice from the assisting minister.

There will be a basket off to the side where you can dispose of your used cup. The communion bread is all gluten free, but does contain honey. All are welcome to receive from Christ's table.

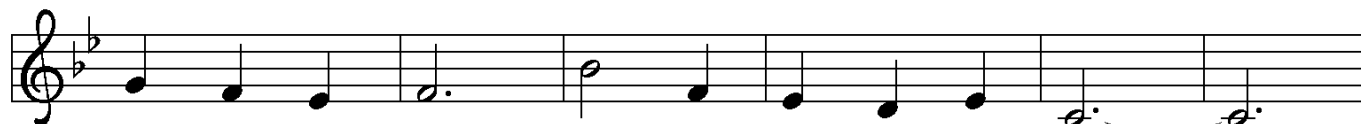
You may also come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.

Communion Hymn #739

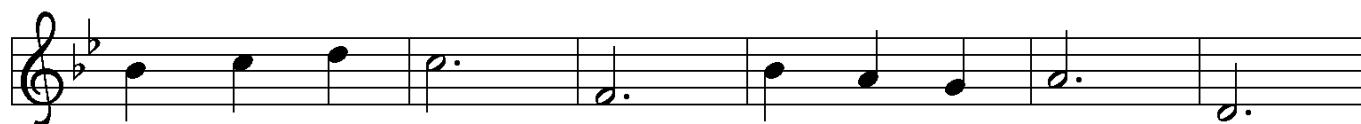
Touch the Earth Lightly



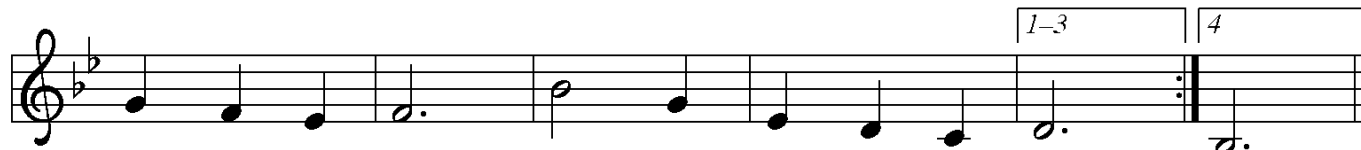
1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,
 we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: TENDERNESS, Colin Gibson, b. 1933

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Communion Hymn NCH #28

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain
 God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Post-communion Prayer

A Prayer Attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty.

Amen.

Blessing

God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth
✠ bless you all, now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn #835

All Creatures, Worship God Most High



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



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

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 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.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Postlude

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor Sara Funkhouser

Chrissie Goldstein

Keiko Long

Mark Chapman & Christine Lawson

Gordon Trombley (1st & psalm)

Allene Steinberg (2nd)

Christine Lawson

Preacher/Presider

Musician

Communion Assistant

Ushers

Lectors

Altar Care

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Psalm: *Psalms 80:7-15*

Second Reading: *Philippians 3:4b-14*

Gospel: *Matthew 21:33-46*

Announcements

Seekers: Are you interested in joining a wonderful group of people on Wednesday mornings for a time of fellowship and Bible Study? The Seekers group meets in the Sunday School room on Wednesday mornings from 9:30a-11:00a, beginning this Wednesday, October 7th! This fall, they will be studying the book of Psalms. All are welcome to join!

Journeying Together: In an effort to give us more time to engage with one another, our Lutheran tradition, and Scripture, we are going to start a new activity twice-monthly beginning October 11th after worship. Whether you are interested in becoming a member, you're a long-time member, or you're just interested in learning more about the Lutheran tradition, all are welcome to join!

We will determine the pattern of the meetings together, but it will include the following components: a brief lesson on a theological topic, Bible Study, small group discussion, and time to gather around a meal together.

Read-a-Rama Dinner Volunteers Needed: We are seeking volunteers to provide dinner for approximately 25-30 students and staff of Club Read-a-Rama on Wednesdays after school. Their program runs from 3:30-5:30 P.M. This year, all of the activities will be at Compass Broadview, but a staff member will come over around 4:45 P.M. to transport the food.

Like in the Spring, if you can't be here to make the food, you are welcome to drop it off and we can heat it up. Also, if you would like to contribute, but are unable to prepare food, you are welcome to make a financial donation, and we can order food like pizza or sandwiches for the kids. They recommend keeping meals simple, i.e macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, pizza, dino nuggets, etc. There are currently 17 students registered. In terms of dietary restrictions, many of the kids cannot eat pork, and one cannot have dairy. Please reach out to Pastor Sara if you have any questions.

October 4th: October 4th is known as the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, and, while he is a Catholic Saint, his love and care for animals has sparked many celebrations in his honor throughout Protestant churches as well. So, we are bringing back the previous tradition of doing a Pet Blessing during service! Yes, you heard that right; as long as you, and your pet, would be comfortable being in the service, you are welcome to bring them! However, if you would still like a blessing for your pet, but worship would not be a good setting for them, I will be outside (weather dependent, otherwise in the Narthex) doing Pet Blessings To-Go in the afternoon. Our pets bring so many blessings to our life; this is just one way that we can acknowledge their companionship and the gift from God that they are! Below is the full schedule for the day; you are invited to join for any or all activities!

- 9:30 A.M. Education Hour (Formerly called Adult Forum, but this name change is meant to reflect that all are welcome to attend, not just adults): Who is Saint Francis and Why Do We Celebrate with a Pet Blessing?
- 10:30 A.M. Worship with Pet Blessing
- 12:00-2:00 P.M. Pet Blessings To-Go (In Front of the Church on Greenwood Side, otherwise in the Narthex if it is raining)

Bell Choir Resumes October 11th: In preparation for Christmas, our Bell Choir will be resuming rehearsals on Sunday, October 11th! The rehearsals will be after worship. Whether you have been in the bell choir before or you would like to give it a shot, all are welcome to join in joyful bell ringing! If you're interested, please see Chrissie this Sunday, September 27th, after worship.

LiVE Project: The LiVE Project is a ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod that stands for "Living into Vocational Engagement," and it is designed to help give all congregation members and leaders a chance to more fully engage with their callings to be God's people. This happens across various different platforms and means, including weekly Zoom courses and one-day retreats. One of the offerings of this project is a "Congregational Bundle," which allows us to pay a one-time cost and then anyone in the congregation who wishes to attend any of the events is able to do that at no cost to them. So, we decided to give that a try this year, especially since many people have been asking for more opportunities for education and engagement!

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: As many of you know, we feed countless neighbors every week through our Little Free Pantry. None of that would be possible without all of your donations or those of you who volunteer your time to help stock the pantry every single day. We have a dedicated team who have faithfully been serving in this capacity for years, and they are looking for a few other folks to join their team! They are specifically looking for someone who is able to take over the Tuesday morning re-stocking shift, as well as any others who would be interested in being added to the list of back-up volunteers who can fill in when our regular weekday folks are out of town or otherwise unable to make it to church and need someone else to step in for them. If you are interested in learning more or have any other questions, please talk to either Mary or Diane. Thank you again for all that you do to help our neighbors access the food they need!

Seeking Worship Volunteers: As our worship community continues to grow, we would love to have more folks join our monthly rotation of worship assistants! We are currently seeking more people to add to our lector (reading) schedule, as well as our ushering team. Pastor Sara would also love to talk about bringing back assisting ministers to help with the prayers and general service leadership. If you are interested in any of these roles or have more questions about what they would entail, please email Pastor Sara!

Food Pantry Donations: We do not currently have a specific food pantry donation theme, but any donation you make is still greatly appreciated, as the need for food in our community remains high. Below are some specific items that are always requested:

- Canned chicken
- Canned fish
- Shelf stable milk
- Ramen noodles
- Canned fruit or fruit cups
- Bread
- Tortillas
- English muffins
- Bagels
- Tortillas
- Hygiene products: toothbrush, toothpaste, period products, soap, etc.

As the weather begins to cool off, we will hopefully be able to start putting out fresh produce again! In the meantime, if you have an abundance from your garden that you would like to share, please feel free to place it in the pantry, as many people greatly appreciate it.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Upcoming Events

4	OCT, SUN	● 10:30 – 11:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship Sanctuary
		● 4 – 6pm	Skandia Society Rehearsal Celebration Hall
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	NA Pink Progress Club Celebration Hall
5	OCT, MON	● 6:45 – 7:45pm	NA - Afterparty Group Celebration Hall
6	OCT, TUE	● 1 – 3pm	Quilting Group - Elaine Celebration Hall
7	OCT, WED	● 9:30 – 11am	Seekers Bible Study Library
8	OCT, THU	● 6 – 9:30pm	Sound Harmony Sanctuary
		● 6:30 – 9pm	Broadview Garden Club - Katy Celebration Hall
9	OCT, FRI	● 12 – 1pm	Pause for Prayer Zoom
		● 6 – 8pm	NAMI Library

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