

Season of Creation

September 13, 2026



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1101 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
www.stlukeseastport.org

Welcome to St. Luke's Eastport

We are glad to have you worshipping with us today. If you need any assistance, please see one of the greeters. If you are a guest, please fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to the Rector or a greeter after the service.

Large print booklets are available upon request.

Congregational Health. We take precautions to minimize transmission of illnesses as we gather for indoor worship. Masks are not required, but those attending in person are very welcome to wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so. We do not require social distancing. However, please refrain from making physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace, unless you are sure that it is welcome.

Hybrid Worship. Whether worshipping in person, on Zoom, by phone, or through Facebook Live, we gather as one community. Our worship services are livestreamed on Zoom and at www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport.

Holy Communion. The Episcopal Church, like all churches rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Holy Baptism is the traditional entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist. We at St. Luke's also believe that anyone who desires to receive the body and blood of Christ is always welcome at God's table. If you have not been baptized, we invite you to explore with us what baptism could mean for your life. To learn more, please speak with the Rector after the service.

We use an option for Holy Communion known as "shallow intinction." The celebrant alone dips each wafer into the wine before placing it in the hands of the recipient. Intinction by individual worshipers is not permitted due to associated health risks. Communion under one kind, i.e., the bread or the wine alone, is the full reception of Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive only the wafer, please extend a single hand when you come forward. Our wafers are gluten free. If you would prefer to have communion brought to you in your pew, please notify a greeter.

Children. All ages worship together at St. Luke's. The Children's Corner is reserved for our youngest worshipers and their caregivers. Childcare is available downstairs during the service upon request.

Restrooms. Two non-gendered restrooms are located downstairs. Please see a greeter if assistance is needed.

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Opening Hymn

“O worship the King, all glorious above”

H-388

See insert for selections. Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant This is the day the Creator has made.
People Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Celebrant and People Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is Yours,
all glory, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through
whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and
radiant with great splendor, of You Most High, he
bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the
stars, in the heavens you have made them bright,
precious and fair.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and
Air, and fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by
which You cherish all that You have made.
Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, so
useful, humble, precious and pure.
Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through
whom You light the night and he is beautiful and
playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother
Earth, who sustains and governs us, producing varied
fruits with colored flowers and herbs.
Praised be You my Lord through those who grant
pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace, by You Most
High, they will be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from
whom no one living can escape. Blessed are they
She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do
them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give
Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility.

Celebrant Our Creator be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the collect.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Please be seated.

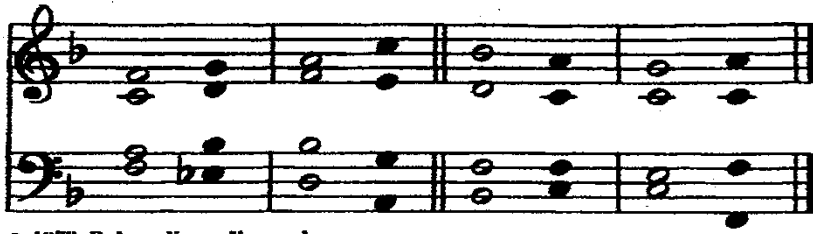
Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Response after the reading:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:1-13

Please remain seated. The Psalm may be read or sung to this setting:



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Please remain seated.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Response after the reading:

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able as the Gospel is processed.

1. Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal-le - lu, Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal-le - lu - ja,

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1. Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal - le - lu, Hal - le - lu - ja, Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal-le - lu - ja,

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Hal-le - lu - ja, Hal-le - lu - ja, Hal-le - lu - ja, Hal-le-lu - ja, Hal-le - lu - ja!

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“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.”

Response after the reading:

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Gospel Acclamation is sung again as the procession returns.

Sermon

After the sermon, silence may be kept.

The Nicene Creed

BCP, pg. 358

Please stand as you are able.

Cantor We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of
 heaven and earth.

Celebrant **We believe in one God,**
and **the Father, the Almighty,**
People **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.

The Prayers of the People

Cantor Let us pray for the revealing of God in Creation, now and always.

Leader Let us offer our prayers to God who gives life and breath to all creatures, saying, "God of glory, hear us." I ask your prayers for the mission of the church throughout the world, for sharing the promise of abundant life and working toward it for all.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for the leaders of the nations, and for all who make or influence decisions for the health of our planet and the well-being of its people.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for peace with justice around the world, especially for an end to violent competition for limited resources.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for those who suffer illness, want, or exile because of environmental degradation.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for the environmental concerns that you may lift up now, either silently or aloud. *Silence, during which the people may offer their concerns.* We offer our fears.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for those who in their daily work are stewards and protectors of God's creation in ways large and small; for gardeners, farmers, and ranchers; for rangers and park managers; for fishers and

foresters; for climate scientists, ecologists, and activists, and for all who work to restore and heal our wounded Earth.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader I ask your prayers for the departed, especially for those holy women and men who taught us to marvel in all God's works.

People **God of glory, hear us.**

Leader We pray also for the special needs and concerns of this church community. Dear God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, we give thanks for the gift of our St. Luke's community and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. For the lives we have touched and for the opportunity to serve you in ways both large and small. We pray to you for guidance and strength as we look to the future. Help us to trust in you to lead us to new places we cannot yet see. Instill us with vision to discern the path you have laid for us, and grant us strength and courage to walk it with you. Have mercy on us, O God of loving kindness. Forgive our weakness and fears, and let us remember that all things are possible through your Holy Spirit. Help our members and our leaders to shine with your light. Help us to think boldly and to never underestimate all we can do with your grace. Help us to be an inspiration to others: a city on a hill, singing and dancing with all our might like David before your ark. In your holy name we pray, O Lord of light and truth, of overflowing abundance and boundless wisdom.

For the Anglican Communion, especially _____.

For the Diocese of Maryland, especially _____.

For those on our parish prayer list, especially _____, and for those we name at this time, aloud or in our hearts.

The people may add their own petitions. The Celebrant offers additional prayers and a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin

Cantor Let us confess our sins against God and God's Creation.
Silence is kept, during which some may wish to kneel.

People **Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sins. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Parish Notices

Please be seated.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant 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*

Offertory Anthem

Please remain seated.

As part of our worship, offerings are received to support the work of the Church locally, nationally, and globally. Offerings may be placed in the plate at the back of the church or given online. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right or visit www.stlukeseastport.org and click on "Giving". Blue online giving cards are also available in your pew and may be placed in the plate as a tangible sign of your online gift.



Doxology

H-380, v. 3

Please stand as you are able.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Please remain standing as you are able.

Celebrant Our Creator be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our Creator.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you here, where the Severn River meets the Bay, where city, farm, and wilderness rest side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke to trees and listened to birds. Together with angels and ancestors, osprey and deer, terrapin and crab, we join our voices with all Creation in this ancient honor song:

People **+ Holy, + holy, + holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth. He gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.+

Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends, saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.+

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of Creation. Bring us with St. Luke, the Blessed Mother and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray,

People **Holy One, our only Home, hallowed be your name. May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven. Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other. Do not forsake us at the time of test, but deliver us from evil. For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.+
People **All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.**

Everyone is welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. To receive the bread, extend your hands palms up. Any individual who prefers not to receive the bread may instead request a blessing by crossing their arms across their chest. Children of any age are invited to receive at the discretion of their parents.

Communion Hymn "Forgive our sins as we forgive" **H-674**
Please remain seated.

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of Mother Earth. In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace and you call us to friendship with one another. You have given us the gift of reconciliation. May we who have tasted that gift from you offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another, and may you always walk among us as a friend. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" **H-376**
Please stand as you are able. See insert for selections.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless our God and all Creation.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. Please return this worship booklet to the basket in the foyer unless you wish to take it with you for personal use.
You are encouraged to take any inserts with you.*

The texts in this service are from *The Book of Common Prayer 1979* (BCP) and *Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes* (Perennial Ed. 2025). Hymns and service music are from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Wonder Love and Praise*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* and other sources identified in *Season of Creation*. Used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-722440. Fall 2026



A wrong attitude towards nature implies somewhere a wrong attitude towards God, and the consequence is an inevitable doom. For a long enough time, we have believed in nothing but the values arising in a mechanised, commercialised, urbanised way of life: it would be as well for us to face the permanent conditions upon which God allows us to live upon this earth.

T.S. Eliot, *The Idea of a Christian Society*