

Season of Creation

September 28, 2025



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 worshiping 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 are taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other 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. Weather permitting, some windows may be opened to provide greater ventilation. 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 worshiping in person, on Zoom, by phone, or through Facebook Live, we gather as one community. Our worship services are publicly available as a live video stream 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

“Before thy throne, O God, we kneel”

H-574

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 Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is Yours,
and all glory, all honor and all blessings.
People 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.

Praise 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 The Creator be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the collect.

O Creator God, you are known by your loving embrace of the undeserving and those who suffer:
Grant us sight of your justice and conviction to love all creatures; through Jesus Christ the
Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Please be seated.

A reading from the Prophet Amos

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Response after the reading:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146

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



1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, * for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, * and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, * and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; * the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; * he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, * your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Please remain seated.

A reading from First letter to Timothy

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able as the Gospel Book is processed into the center of the worship space.



Music: Norah Duncan IV, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Gospel

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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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
and
People* **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.**

The Prayers of the People

- Cantor* Let us pray for the revealing of the Creator in the world, 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 peoples.
- 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 dead, 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. We thank you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have bestowed on 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 lovingkindness. 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

See insert. 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.**

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 Chesapeake Bay, where city and farm, wilderness and government 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:

Sanctus

S-130

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 farmers 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's 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 "You have longed for sweet peace" **L-135**
See insert for selections. 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 "For the beauty of the Earth" **H-416**
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.



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*