

Season of Creation

September 27, 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

“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

H-343

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Please be seated.

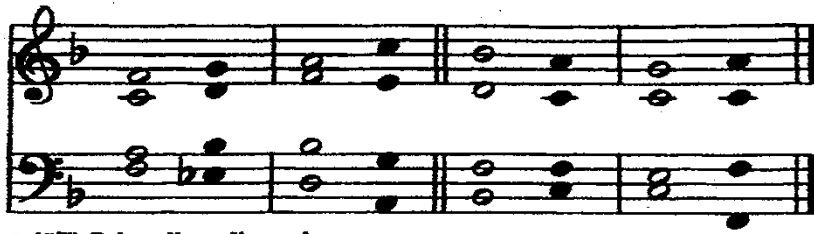
The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Response after the reading:

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

Psalm 25:1-8

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



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

Please remain seated.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 is processed.

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

5

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

9

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

The Gospel

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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 "Come, Thou font of every blessing" **L-111**
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 "Rock of ages, cleft for me" **H-685**
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*