



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others

Sunday, September 27, 2026

The Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

10:30 am Holy Eucharist

~ Everyone is WELCOME here, for everyone is beloved by GOD ~

The Season of Creation is an international and ecumenical celebration of the goodness of God's work in nature, as we commit to being better stewards of it. The theme for 2026 is "Living Waters." The Bible was written in the Middle East, where fresh water was a precious resource. Its texts frequently connect rainfall to blessing, and drought to punishment, from God. Our first reading is a song from the desert that lies between Babylon (captivity) and Jerusalem (home). When they are finally freed to return, Isaiah declares, the people will encounter lush oases and rivers giving life to all creatures. Everyone shall finally be joyful.

Are you new to our church? We'd love to get better acquainted. Please leave your name and email or phone number in one of our guestbooks, located at both entrances of the worship space; or by filling out one of the Welcome cards in the pew.

All persons who desire to receive Holy Communion are served here, no questions asked. We offer homemade Bread and gluten-free Rice Wafers, which may be dipped into the small bowl of wine; or, consume your bread and sip wine from the chalice that follows. Or neither: just cross your arms over your chest. You may also ask a blessing from the priest.

Hymn # These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

WLP # These hymns are located in the green hymnal books that will be handed out.

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude _____

Opening Hymn #493 _____ *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

Opening Acclamation _____ for the Season

Presider: Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit;

Response: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Presider: Loving God, you created the world as a beautiful garden, and asked us to tend and care for it. Our hearts are fully known to you, and we cannot hide our failings. As we lament and pray for the earth, its creatures, and ourselves, cleanse our thoughts and open our spirit to your Holy Spirit, so that we can bless and praise you without shame or fear; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Song of Praise _____ For Beauty of Meadows



1 For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees, for
2 As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand, as
3 Teach us once a - gain to be gar - d'ners in peace; all



flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas, for
crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand, we
na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease; your



all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share, we
turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life, con -
name we would hal - low in all that we do, ful -



praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.
fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.
fil - ling our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

Collect of the Day _____

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray, together.

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.

The Proclamation of the Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading _____ *Isaiah 35:3-7*

Reader A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm _____ *Psalms 107:33-43*

33 The Lord changed rivers into deserts, *

and water-springs into thirsty ground,

34 A fruitful land into salt flats, *

because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.

35 He changed deserts into pools of water *

and dry land into water-springs.

- 36 He settled the hungry there, *
and they founded a city to dwell in.
- 37 They sowed fields, and planted vineyards, *
and brought in a fruitful harvest.
- 38 He blessed them, so that they increased greatly; *
he did not let their herds decrease.
- 39 Yet when they were diminished and brought low, *
through stress of adversity and sorrow,
- 40 (He pours contempt on princes *
and makes them wander in trackless wastes)
- 41 He lifted up the poor out of misery *
and multiplied their families like flocks of sheep.
- 42 The upright will see this and rejoice, *
but all wickedness will shut its mouth.
- 43 Whoever is wise will ponder these things, *
and consider well the mercies of the Lord.

The Second Reading _____ *Philippians 2:1-13*

Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn, LEVAS2 #141 _____ *Shall we gather at the river*



1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; _____
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, _____
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; _____
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, _____



1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the__ throne of__ God?
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py__ gold - en__ day.
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a__ robe and__ crown.
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of__ peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful__ riv - er;



Gath - er with the saints__ at the riv - er That flows by the throne of__ God.

The Gospel Reading *Please stand as able* _____ **Matthew 21:23-32**

Priest **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.**

Response **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."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon *Please be seated* _____ *The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams*
Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *Please stand* _____

**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.

Prayers of the People: Season of Creation _____ *Please stand or kneel*

Priest Life on earth requires water and every creature, whether plant or animal,
knows what it is to thirst. Mindful of the many ways we are connected and
dependent on water, let us pray for ourselves and the life of the world. *Silence*

Leader

I ask your prayers for all people of faith, and for the transformations in their lives that
are marked by water: at the Red Sea, in the Jordan River, in ritual baths, in the
washing of feet and hands, and in Holy Baptism. Lead us to respect these many
traditions as life-giving and good. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the leaders of nations, of corporations, and of communities
around the world, that they may exercise wise stewardship over the waters of their
land. All people need clean water to drink, fish and sea creatures need clean water to
swim in, and animals need protection from drought and diseases. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the wisdom to peacefully solve conflicts over water in the dry places of our planet, and to share the use of rivers and underground waters. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers as waters around the world rise and fall because of climate change. For communities affected by flood or tsunami, storm or ice; for all who travel or work at sea or on inland waterways; and those whose livelihoods are threatened by drought. *Silence.*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for the people we love who are ill, in pain or special need; especially those we name ..., and for all creatures who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

I ask your prayers for all who have died, and for all who mourn, that their tears of grief may be turned to wellsprings of joy. *Silence*

O God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Loving God, Creator of all, we thank you for the beauty of our world. Show us, we pray, how to respect the fragile balance of life. Guide by your wisdom those who have power to conserve or destroy our environment, that by the decisions we make, life may be cherished, and a good and fruitful earth be preserved for future generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin, *please stand or kneel* _____

In order to find healing and peace for the Earth, let us confess the ways we have erred and strayed from God's good intentions.

Silent prayer

All **God of compassion, have mercy upon us.
Heal our relationship with all creation.
Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect
of the creatures who share the earth with us.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent
for what we have done to harm them,**

and for what we have not done to help them.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may care for one another and for all creatures,
according to your will and in the fullness of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Absolution is pronounced by the priest _____

Presider Almighty God, have mercy upon you and forgive you; heal your heart and guide your mind; and enable you to live in peace with all God's creatures, and the Earth our common home. **Amen.**

The Peace Please stand _____

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Milestones and Announcements _____

Stump the priest! _____ *Answering your questions*

The Offertory, following an invitation to generosity from the priest

If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form.



Offertory Anthem _____ *Rain Down*

All are invited to join in singing the refrain:



The Doxology Please stand & join in singing _____ “Old 100th”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Supplemental Eucharistic Prayer for Creation _____

The Lord be with you. And also 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 God thanks and praise.

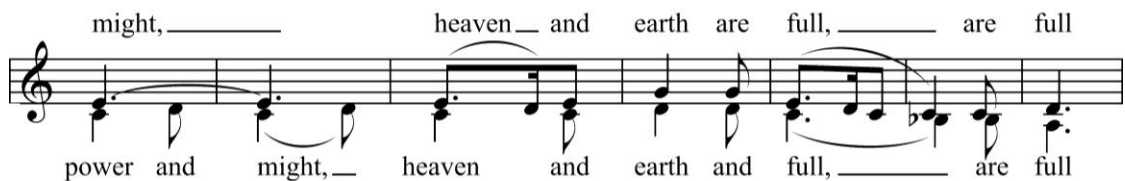
The Presider continues

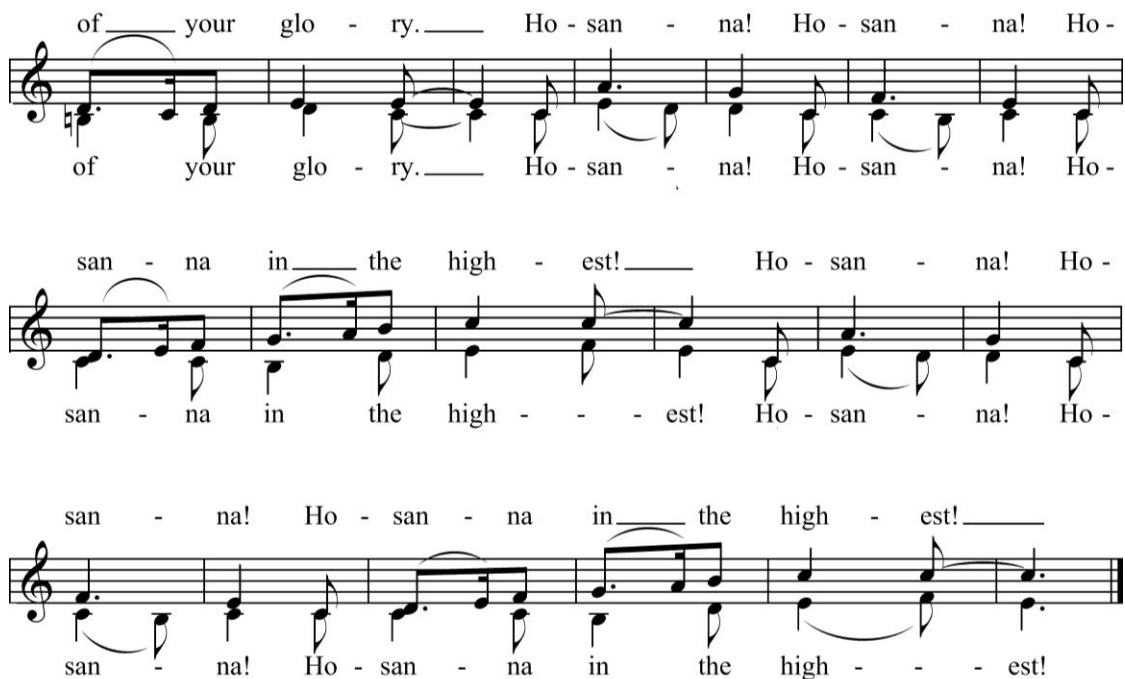
Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life. Through the Holy Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you, for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Sanctus _____ setting by John Bell

Please note that the melody is the top line of text and music.





We praise you that in the night he was betrayed, Jesus and his friends gathered for the Passover meal. He took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He also took the cup of wine, and gave thanks to God. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation. Through these mysteries, heal and empower us to restore your world and fulfill your will. Send your life-giving Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, the sacraments of a community made new in Jesus Christ.

Stir in us the creative and redeem the destructive. Heal your stricken world, that the soil, the skies, and the seas may be filled with life anew. Fill every heart with the sure and certain hope

that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is released from its bondage to sin and sanctified by your love, and you are all in all.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior taught us, we now pray: _____ *Source: Mother Thunder Mission*

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 test, but deliver us from evil.

For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread, *silence follows* _____

Fraction Anthem _____ *setting by John Bell*

This is the Bod-y of Christ, bro-ken that we may be

whole; this cup, as prom-ised by God, true to his word,

cra-dles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

The Communion

Please be seated until invited by the Ushers to come forward, or let them know if you would like Communion brought to you in the pew. **All are welcome** but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead. Today we are blessing gluten-free bread. The wine may be sipped from the chalice, or wait to intinct (dip your bread) into the small bowl of blessed wine. Please do not intinct into the chalice.

Communion Hymns

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de - signs of
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries known or
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de - spised for
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly with a



far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and light and
yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with air, en -
creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a dove, make
bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be touched by grace un -



what lies hid - den praise your might.
a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
known on earth your heal - ing love.
til we praise you face to face.

Peace Is Flowing Like a River



- 1, 5. Peace is flow - ing like a riv - er,
 2. Love is flow - ing like a riv - er,
 3. Heal - ing's flow - ing like a riv - er,
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



- 1, 5. flow - ing out of you and me. _____
 2. flow - ing out of you and me. _____
 3. flow - ing out of you and me. _____
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



- 1, 5. Flow - ing out in - to the des - ert,
 2. Flow - ing out in - to the des - ert,
 3. Flow - ing out in - to the des - ert,
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



- 1, 5. set - ting all the cap - tives free. _____
 2. set - ting all the cap - tives free. _____
 3. set - ting all the cap - tives free. _____
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion *Please stand as able* _____ EOW1

Priest Let us pray.

People God of abundance,
 you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Blessing _____ *Anglican Communion Resources*

May God, who brought water from the rock, refresh your spirit. **Amen.**

May Christ, who calls us from empty promises to faithful action, strengthen your resolve. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit flow through you like a life-giving river, bringing hope, healing, and renewal to every community and every corner of creation. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Sending Out

Sending Out Hymn #435, vs 1-4 _____ *At the Name of Jesus*

Sending Out _____

Go now into a thirsty world. Protect the springs, restore the rivers.

Treasure every drop.

Speak for communities whose voices are unheard.

Stand with those who thirst for justice as well as water.

May your lives proclaim that water is sacred, creation is God's gift, and faithful discipleship is measured not only by what we believe but by how we care for the sources of life. Go forth to love and serve, in peace.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude _____

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- *Peace is flowing like a river*, Words, based on Psalm 107, adapted by Carey Landry. Music, traditional, adapted by Carey Landry, arr. Louise Anderson, © 1975, 1979, OCP Publications.

<u>Serving at the Liturgy Today</u>		<u>Next Sunday</u>
Presiding	Rev. Susan Williams	Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz
Deacon	<i>off</i>	Rev. Judy Marincio
Organist	Ron Spaulding	Ron Spaulding
Choir Director	Katie Young	Katie Young
Eucharistic Minister	Paul Dolza	Amy Freeman
Intinction Cup	Mary Louise S.	Annette Boyd
Reader	Pedro Melchor	Ellen Tripp
Prayers	Dee Grossmann	Jessica Miller
Ushers	Nancy D., Lynne R.	Dave & Deb James
Live-streamer	Paul Dolza	Dave James
Vestry P. of the Day	Diane Putnam	Dave James
Altar Guild	Dee G., Lisa C.	Terri H., Francine J.
Coffee Hour	Annette Boyd	???

♥ **your neighbor** yard signs are still available in Vandenberg Hall for \$6 each.

Next Sunday is St Francis' Day, marking the end of the *Season of Creation*, and an opportunity to have your pet(s) blessed by Fr. Mike Marincio after church. Well-behaved pets are welcome to attend the 10:30 service also. All pets should be leashed or appropriately contained, please!

The CROP Walk is next Sunday, October 4. Money raised goes to Church World Service. A lot of the money we raise goes right back into outreach programs in the Fenton area including what we do here at St. Jude's. Give to a walker, or walk and raise funds yourself. This year we are starting at Bush Park at 1 pm. (Where we held our summer picnic last July.)