

Welcome to Worship for Creation in Christ Sunday



Sunday, September 6, 2026

All Saints Lutheran Church

722 Rockbridge Road | Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. James Hilden-Minton, Pastor
John Womack, Director of Music



Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you are here. Please feel free to utilize this QR code using your smart phone to access our website, Facebook & Instagram pages, and to give online. Your generosity for God's church and presence is making a difference, both here in this ministry and throughout the community. Thank you!

---GATHERING---

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

PRELUDE

John Womack

During this time of meditation the assembly is asked to remain silent.

The congregation stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,

**we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.**

**We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**

**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will.**

Amen.

LITANY

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:

God knows you,

forgives you by the self-giving of † Jesus Christ,

and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.

Creation's story will not end

until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.

When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

For the Spirit hovering to bring
forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark,
we bless you, O God:

We bless you, O God.

For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and
morning,
we exalt you, O God:

We exalt you, O God.

For the seas, the lakes, and the
rivers,
for the land with its mountains and
plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and
their fruits,

we magnify you, O God:

We magnify you, O God.

For the sun to rule the day,
for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
we extol you, O God:

We extol you, O God.

For the fish in the sea,

for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God:

We glorify you, O God.

For wild animals and creatures of
all kinds,
for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on
the earth,
we adore you, O God:

We adore you, O God.

For humankind made in your
image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
we worship you, O God:

We worship you, O God.

Bless us, your creatures.

Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your
marvelous creation.

We praise you, O God:

We praise you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and
thanksgiving

and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and
ever.

Amen.

Amen.



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
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GREETING

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

---WORD---

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:4-25

Madi Crutchfield

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man

there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

Madi Crutchfield

¹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴ what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

⁷ all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Acts 17:22-28

Madi Crutchfield

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God[b] and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:1-5

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

The congregation stands.

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 740

God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars
blast
grave
gal
How does the crea - ture say Awe
How does the crea - ture cry Woe
How does the crea - ture say Grace
How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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APOSTLES' CREED

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Madi Crutchfield

The congregation sits or kneels.

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being:

Your mercy is great.

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plentiful and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator and fruitful garden:

Your mercy is great.

For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice:

Your mercy is great.

For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and

that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian and of rainbow of promise:

Your mercy is great.

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you.

We offer you now the concerns of our hearts, either silently or aloud.

A brief silence

- We pray for Sharon; Gary; Pastor Randy; Dale and Chris.
- We pray for Kellen; Radha; Kathy and Ed; David.
- We pray for Willie; Jerry and Jackie; Roger; Jim.
- We pray for Jan; Mark; Phillip; Kathryn; Robin and Cathy.

Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:

Your mercy is great.

- We pray for peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Israel, Mali, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and Myanmar.
- We pray for all victims of the catastrophic flooding in Nepal and for safe recovery and relief efforts.
- We pray for safe and positive environments for students, teachers, and all school personnel.
- We pray for Rock of Ages Lutheran Church as they welcome their interim pastor, Rev. Kerry-Ann Fenton.
- We pray for justice around the world and here at home, that God may delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace.

Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

If you are joining us online, reach out by phone, text, email, or social media this week to share the Peace of Christ.

---MEAL---

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

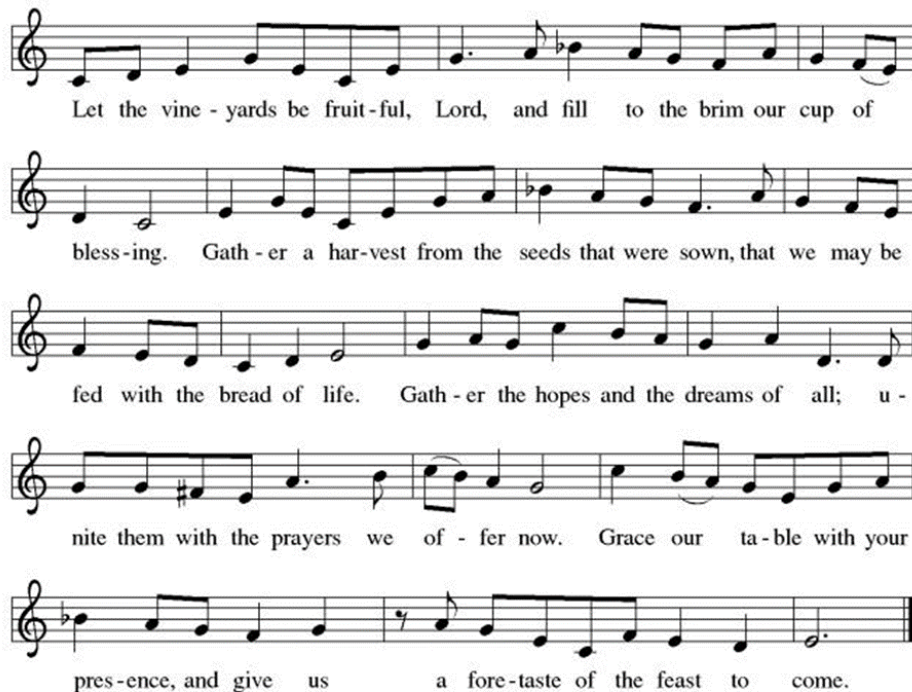
Madi Crutchfield

We have several ways to receive your offering. There is a basket on the table by the sanctuary doors, or you can utilize the QR code on the front of your bulletin to submit your offering online. If you're joining us online, a link is available in the comments. Mailing your offering to the church is also an option.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

ELW 182

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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OFFERING PRAYER

Madi Crutchfield

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

Rev. James Hilden-Minton



The Lord be with you! And al-so with you! Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord!



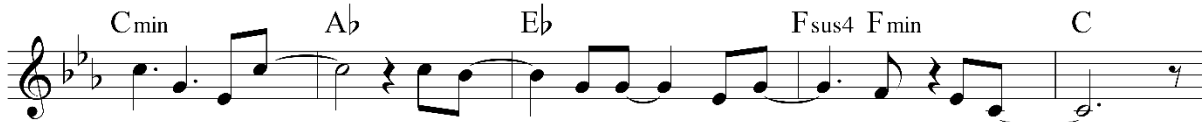
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! It is right to give our thanks and praise.



On the night He was be-trayed, He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:



"Take and eat. This is my bo-dy, gi-ven for you. Take and eat. This is my body,



gi-ven for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."



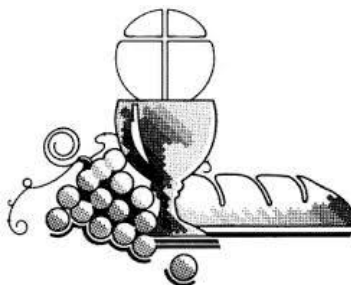
On the night He was be-trayed He took the cup gave thanks, and raised it up:



"Take and drink. This is my blood, poured out for you. Take and drink. This is my blood,



poured out for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."



LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-lo-wed be Thy name. Thy
king-dom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this
day our dai-ly bread, and for - give us as we for-give our debt-ors; and
lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de - li-ver us from e - vil; for
Thine is the king-dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry, for - e - ver. A - men.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin
of the world. Have mer - cy on us.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Tune: John Tirro

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures.
Come and share.

The congregation is seated.

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

The congregation stands.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto everlasting life.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Madi Crutchfield

Let us pray.

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

---SENDING---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

ELW 736

SEE HYMNAL

DISMISSAL

Rev. James Hilden-Minton

Go in peace. Flourish with creation

Thanks be to God.