



Season of Creation 5

October 4, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Lunch & Hymn Sing – Wednesday, Oct 14th at 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

INTRODUCTION

In today's parable, Christ reminds us that he is our rock, our cornerstone. Jesus is the foundation for our faith and the foundation for our lives. Even as we turn from Jesus, even as we reject Jesus, he returns to us with love and forgiveness. This is the grace of God, the love of God coming into our world and into our lives. To our joy we discover the open arms of Jesus on the cross, bringing restoration where there is brokenness; bringing hope where there is despair; and bringing resurrection to all creation.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me . . .
Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

"Sing out Earth and Skies" W&P 126 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

Leader All

Come, O God of all the earth: come to us, O
 Come, O God of wind and flame: fill the earth with

Come, O God of snow and rain: show - er down up -
 Come, O Jus - tice, come, O Peace: come and shape our

Leader

Righ - teous One; come, and bring our love to birth:
 righ - teous - ness; teach us all to sing your name:

on the earth; come, O God of joy and pain:
 hearts a - new; come and make op - pres - sion cease:

All

in the glo - ry of your Son.
 may our lives your love con - fess.

God of sor - row, God of mirth.
 bring us all to life in you.

Refrain

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who

loves you! Raise your joy - ful cries!

Dance to the life a - round you!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for your love in all creation,
and especially for your gift of water to sustain and cleanse all life.

Christ is the living water, cleansing, refreshing, and making all things new.
So now we offer our thanks for the waters that bring beauty to all that we enjoy,
the wild places, the bush, the mountains, coast and the sea.
We give thanks and praise for all good lands,
for the trees and pastures,
for our plentiful crops,
and for the living water that quenches them.
(Adapted from Anglican Aotearoa NZ Prayer Book)

We praise you for giving us life through water,
and for all waters everywhere.
We especially praise you for the waters of the Oldman River,
which sustain us in this part of our common home.

Water is poured into the font.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and placed us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave your people water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

You bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
You satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

(Adapted from All Creation Sings, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

"Crashing Waters at Creation" ELW 455 v 1 & 3
(Tune "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW 494)

**Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

A reading from Isaiah.

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Return to the Lord Your God" from ELW Setting 4

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,

slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

MARLA

Today's gospel and sermon have been prepared and shared by Rev. Sheldon Gattinger, Zion Lutheran Church, North Battleford, SK.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON VIDEO

HYMN OF THE DAY "Song for Love" v 1-3, 5

Now we sing to praise love's bless - ing all through our
laugh - ter, joy, sur - prise con - fess - ing, all through our

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two staves, treble and bass. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

lives,
lives. Love that dreamed a new cre - a - tion,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. It features a repeat sign at the beginning of the treble staff. The lyrics "lives, lives." are written below the first measure, and "Love that dreamed a new cre - a - tion," follows. The bass staff continues with a steady accompaniment.

love that dared an in - car - na - tion, love that of - fers

The third system continues the musical progression. The lyrics "love that dared an in - car - na - tion, love that of - fers" are written below the staves. The melody in the treble staff shows some chromatic movement, while the bass staff maintains a consistent harmonic support.

trans - for - ma - tion all through our lives.

The fourth and final system of the hymn concludes with the lyrics "trans - for - ma - tion all through our lives." The melody in the treble staff ends with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a concluding accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line.

How our wounds ache for love's healing
all through our days.
How our world needs love's revealing,
in all its ways.
Fearful hearts suspect the stranger,
hardened nations arm for danger,
love lives on, the powerful changer,
all through our days.

Love's the grace that makes us caring
all through our lives,
urges us to warmth and sharing
all through our lives,
speaks in us, oppression naming,
strives in us, injustice shaming,
lives in us, true peace proclaiming
all through our lives.

In God's faithful love we flourish
all through our lives,
known and loved, each other nourish
all through our lives.
Though the world's demands are pressing,
what life brings is left to guessing,
still we sing to praise love's blessing
all through our lives.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Season of Creation 2026, adapted from Lutheran Theological College, South India)

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to
death and all destructive forces.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you,

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Continue to work in your church bringing restoration where there is brokenness; bringing hope where there is despair; and bringing resurrection to all creation.

Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones especially in Ukraine, and Palestine and Israel, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering especially we pray for Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Jill, Shirley J., Mo, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, Elda, and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for those who serve on the Worship and Arts committee. Bless them and fill their hearts with your Spirit, that our worship may continue to be centered on your grace and truth. We pray for and ask that you hold Pat Davis and Paula Dietrich, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans in your loving care. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May God our Father, who brought water from the rock, sustain us in the desert.
May +Christ our Lord, who is Living Water, refresh us for the work of restoration.
And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Like a Healing Stream"

D G D A D G Asus4 A

Like a heal - ing
Like a gen - tle
Like a ri - ver
Like a migh - ty

5 D G D G

stream in a bar - ren des - ert, Spi - rit wat - er bring - ing life to dus - ty
rain on a thirs - ty gar - den, Spi - rit wat - er come to nour - ish ti - ny
strong with a rest - less cur - rent, Spi - rit wat - er rush - ing on to dis - tant
sea reach - ing far hor - i - zons, Spi - rit wat - er with a love both deep and

8 D G D D/C# Bm Bm/A

earth, God is trick - ling through our lives as in a dream un - fold - ing,
seed, God is bub - bling through the soil to coax a new cre - a - tion,
shore, God is carv - ing out a chan - nel in a new dir - ec - tion,
wide, God is work - ing in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row:

11 Em D/F# G A7

pro - mis - ing re - viv - all and re - birth... like a heal - ing
yeam - ing for an end to want and need... like a gen - tle
call - ing for an end to hate and war... like a riv - er
God will al - ways chal - lenge and pro - vide! Like a migh - ty

13 D G D G D G

1-3 4

stream.
rain. sea, like a ri - ver strong, like a gen - tle
strong.

16 D G D

rain, like a heal - ing stream.

SENDING

Go in peace, as people of God made Christ's own through the waters of baptism.

In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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