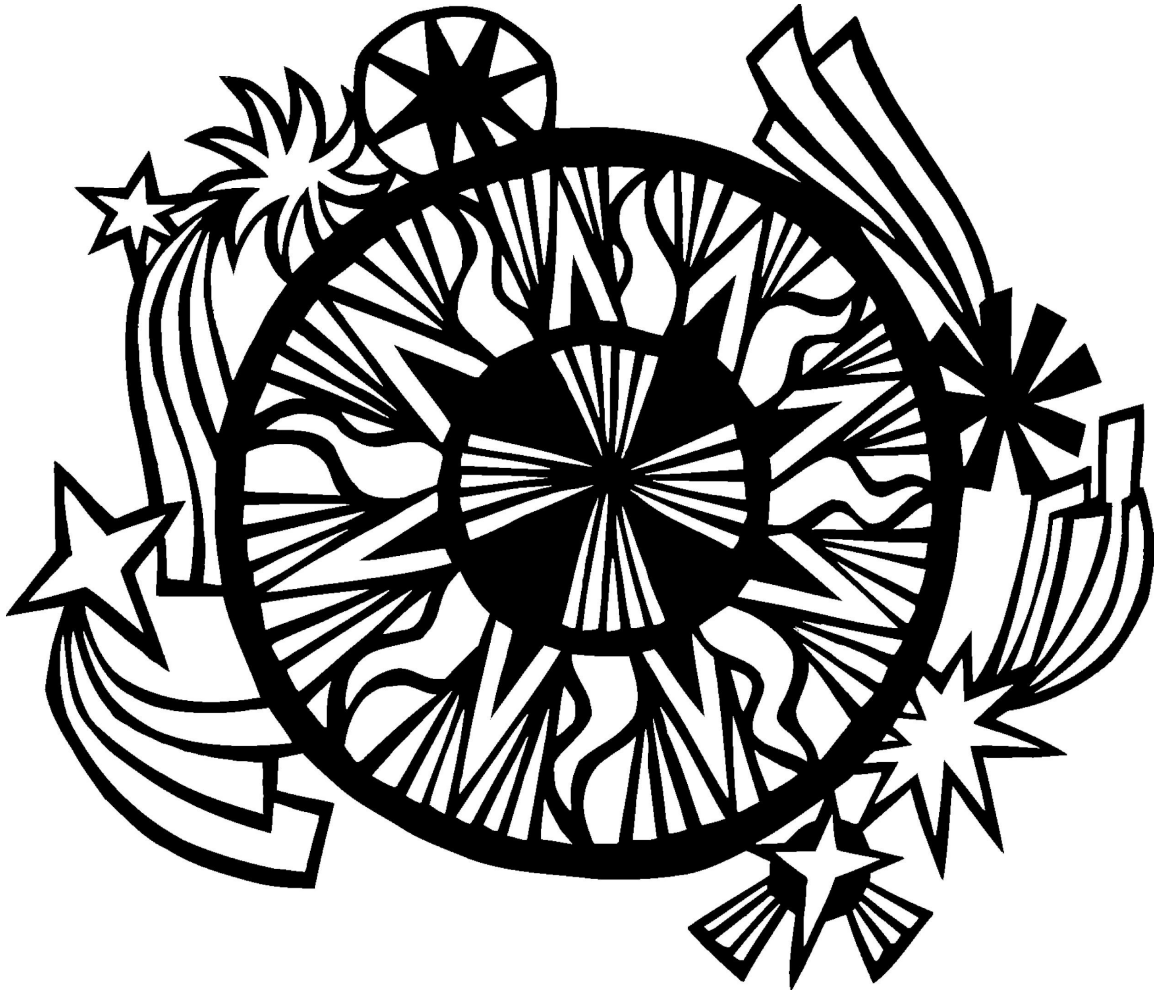


Creation in Christ Sunday



September 6, 2026



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



a Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home.
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.

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.

*Litany

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:

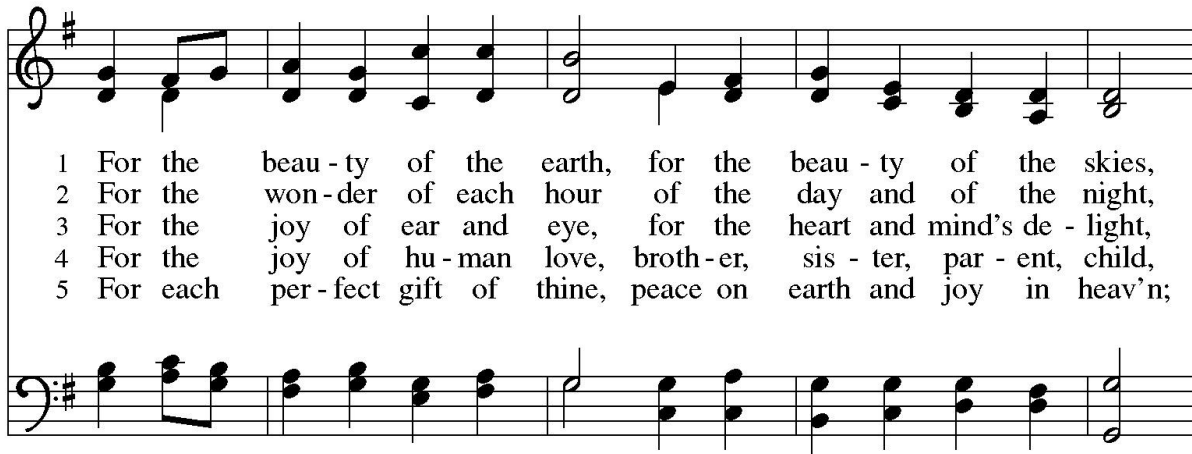
We praise you, O God.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

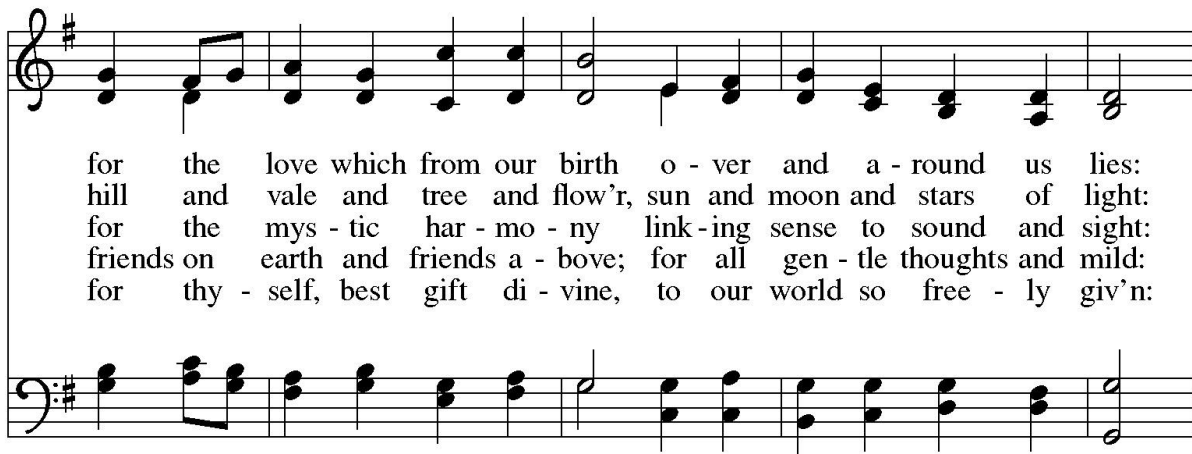
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*Greeting

P: The grace ... with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading: From Genesis 1-2

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Dialogue

Let us bless God, who created heaven and earth.

Our Creator's name be praised.

God blessed them, and God said to them,

"Be fruitful and multiply

and fill the earth and subdue it

and have dominion over the fish of the sea

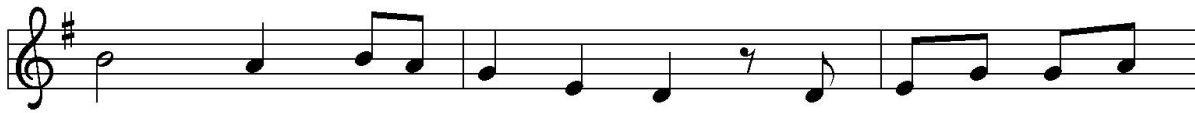
and over the birds of the air

and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

(Genesis 1:28)

Hymn

Light Dawns on a Weary World



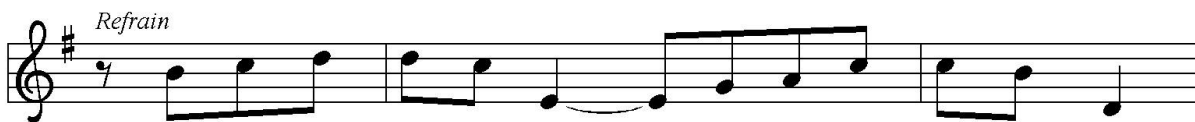
1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Prayer

Second Reading: From Acts 17

Dialogue

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?

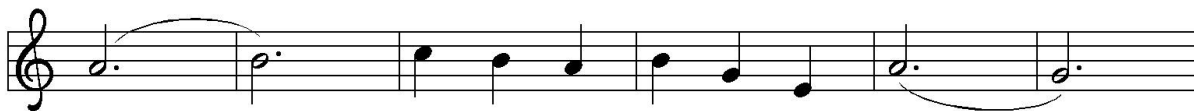
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.
(Job 12:7-10)

Hymn:

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

Third Reading: From John

Dialogue

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
**with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.**

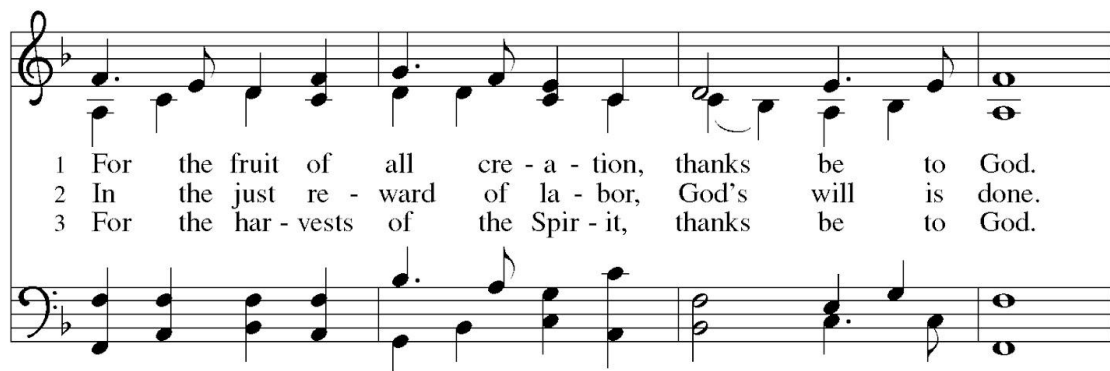
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

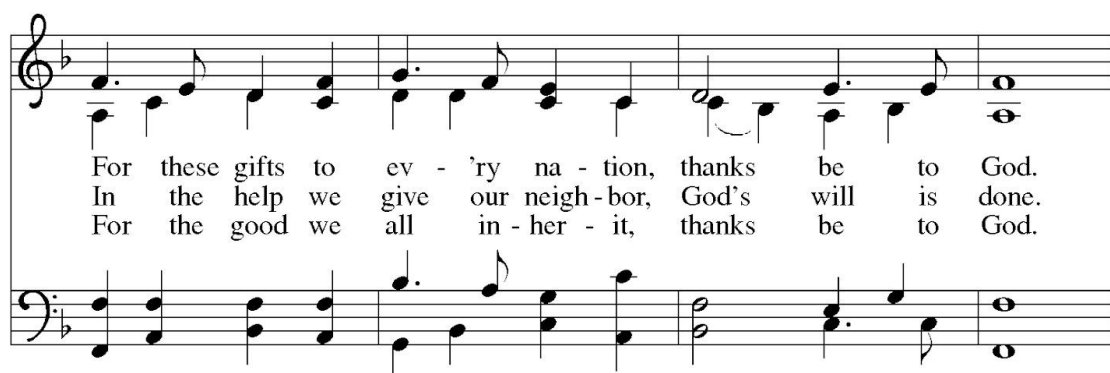
May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.
(*Psalm 65:9-13, ELW*)

Hymn

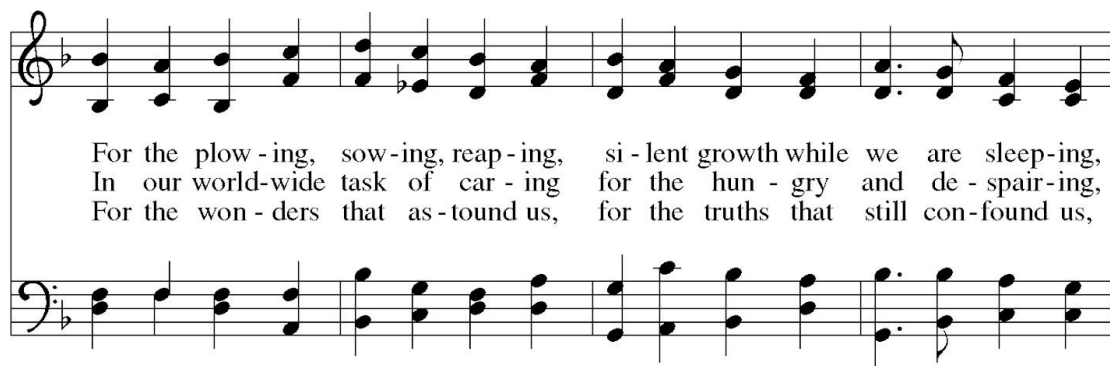
For the Fruit of All Creation



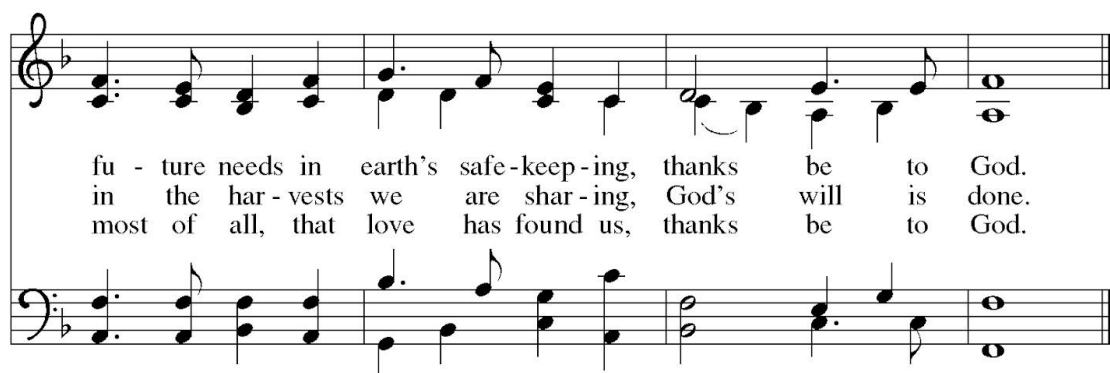
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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Prayer

Fourth Reading: From Revelation

Dialogue

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
**bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and
of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.**

On either side of the river is the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month,
**and the leaves of the tree
are for the healing of the nations.**

(Revelation 22:1-2)

Hymn

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Prayer

Dialogue

Most high, most powerful, good Lord,

Praise, glory, honor and blessing are yours.

Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures,

Especially to my reverent Brother Sun.

Beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great;

singing of your significance.

Praised be my Lord, for Sister Moon and for the stars . . .

Praised be my Lord for Brother Wind . . .

Praised be my Lord for Sister Water . . .

Praised be my Lord for Brother Fire . . .

Praised be my Lord for our sister, Mother Earth,

**Praised be my Lord for those who forgive others
for your sake . . .**

Praised be my Lord for our sister, Death . . .

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks.

Hymn

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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Prayer

*Creed

**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

... Hear us O God...,
C: your mercy is great.

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Meal

***Offering Prayer**

***Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.

Eat This Bread

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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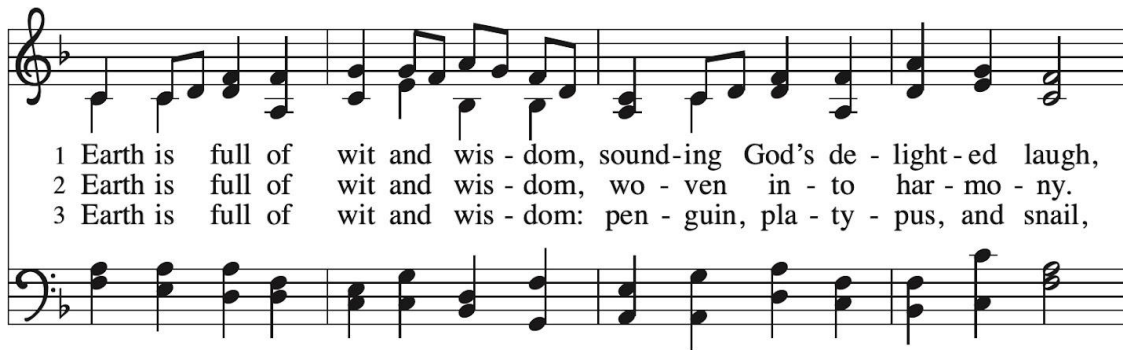
*Post-communion prayer

Sending

*Blessing

*Sending hymn:

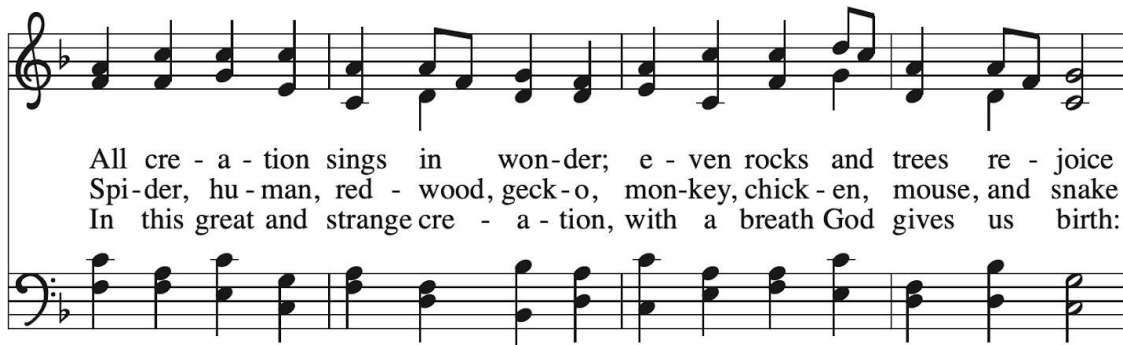
Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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*Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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