



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

Creation and Fall

Shame thrives in secret. Exposed, our shame can begin to heal.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Announcements

Call to Worship

Creation shouts!

The world listens, waits, hopes.

Creation creates!

The garden grows and groans.

God walks, loves, waits...

We come, we seek, we grow, we love, we worship.

Gathering Music

At the Foot of the Cross

The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it.

Home Blessing

Siblings in Christ: With gratitude for the sacred spaces in our homes, we are gathered to dedicate these places for the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. Let these be places for the gathering of the people of God, the hearing of the Word, and the receiving of the sacraments. Let these be places of life and hope for our communities.

Peace be to these homes, and to all who enter here. **Amen.**

Psalm 122

**I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

**Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.**

Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones.
We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time,
yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.
We are the temple of your presence, and these homes/sacred spaces are the houses
of your church.
Gather us in this place to share with others the promise of baptism, to hear your word,
to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son, and to praise your name with all
the company of heaven.
Send us from these places to be the body of Christ in the world, to proclaim your love
in word and deed, to invite others into the promise of baptism, and to glorify your
name in our daily living.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on these rooms,
which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of all ages,

You have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so. We give in to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

Dear people, hear the joyful words that God has forgiven us! Our misdeeds and folly are forgotten; grace and mercy abound. Let us give thanks that we have a compassionate creator! **Amen.**

Opening Song

Morning Has Broken

Red ELW 556

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, You long for us to trust that you hold our lives safely in your hands. Reveal the surprises you have for us in your good time, and show us that your mercy never fails us, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*From the beginning of creation, God's primary focus was the nurture of humanity.
Once fallen, God continued to love and care for people, healing their shame and forgiving their sin.*

Invitation to the Word

Jesus Name Above All Names

**Jesus, name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

⁴These 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, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb 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; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then 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.

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but 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.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Special Music

“Morning Prayer”

- Tchaikovsky

Apostles' 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

Red ELW 752

Sung before prayers

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Silence is kept for reflection

The things which are forbidden are often the most tempting, and we seem to love pursuing them. Stand between us and our shame, that we might choose instead a path of joy and freedom, and live in the grace which you have offered.

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all grandparents—those who care for and love their children's children, those who serve as surrogate elder mentors, and those who long for grandchildren but do not have any. Strengthen ties between generations that each might be blessed and enriched by the other.

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving creator, you have given us this great garden of earth to till and keep. May we resist the temptation to exploit and misuse it out of greed or possessiveness, choosing instead to cultivate its beauty and share its fruits equitably and justly.

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

So many people are burdened with shame over events long past. Help us all to release what no longer serves us and be open to your renewing love. Send your healing to all who need it, especially...

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, all courageous preachers of your gospel. Make us bold proclaimers of grace and mercy.

God of compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions are offered.

Receive these prayers and all those which we offer in silence, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

Heavenly Father, in response to your faithful promises, we offer our gifts for the sake of your kingdom. These gifts were first given to us by you and now, we gratefully return them for your Church. May you bless them and multiply their impact for the sake of the poor, the hungry and suffering in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

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.**

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Red ELW 835

**All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Come Though Fount of Every Blessing

- Martin



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Gathering Music: Diane Klinkerfues
- Postlude: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Denise Ikenberry
- Liturgy leaders: Diane Klinkerfues, Gaylene Szaltzer,
Gloria Lloyd, Amy Evancheck,
Matt Mohrbacher & Youth, Melinda Powelson
- Special Music: Mike Madsen
- Prayer Music: Meredith Lusby
- Musicians: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Photographs: Amy Evancheck, Winston Herbert