



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEASON OF CREATION—ANIMALS

AUGUST 23RD, 2026

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE (8:30) *"Sing Praise to God"* arr. Rebecca Bo am
(10:30) *"The Church is One Foundation"* arr. Gail Smith

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ INVOCATION

Grace and peace to you from the God of Shalom,
who creates, ✠ claims, and calls you for here and now. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING SONG "Here and Now" verses 1, 2 & 3

Verse 1 will be sung as a solo. All are invited to join on the following verses.



1. Per - haps you have come_ down a well trav - eled road_
2. So ma - ny the sto - ries we car - ry and tend,
3. Con - sid - er the lil - ies, they have - n't a care;_



bring - ing your hopes_ and your ques - tions un - told or
beau - ty and bro - ken - ness, wait - ing to mend. So
think of the spar - rows whose song is a prayer and



may - be you're hold - ing too heav - y a load. O
come to this place_ from what - ev - er has been; re -
know you're cre - a - ted, if on - ly you dare, to



come, just as you are.____ to verse 2
mem - ber whose you are.____ all other verses to Refrain
be just who you are.____

Refrain



Here we are, on this sac - red ground._



Heav - en dwells a - mong us here_____ and now.

+ GATHERING PRAYER

God of every time and every place,
by your Spirit we have been gathered
from the rhythms and rituals of daily life
to remember who and whose we are.

Guide our attention to the here and now,
so that we perceive your provision for all your creatures
and are restored by your peace. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *JOB 12:7-10*

A reading from Job.

- ⁷ “But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
⁸ ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
⁹ Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *PSALM 104:24-34*

- ²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**
²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.
²⁷**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**
²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**
³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

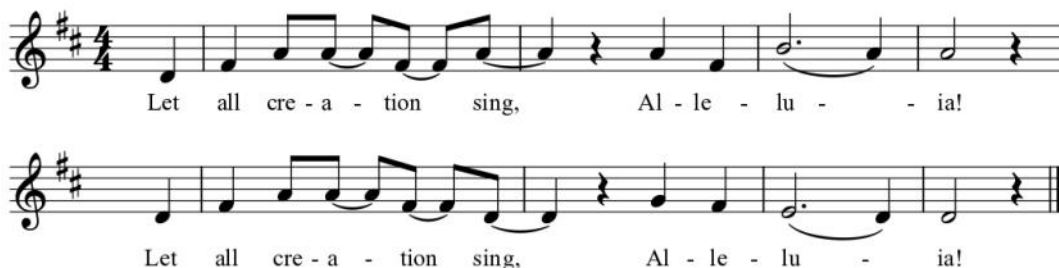
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.

³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**
I will praise my God while I have my being.

³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Let All Creation Sing”*



HOLY GOSPEL *MATTHEW 6:25-27*

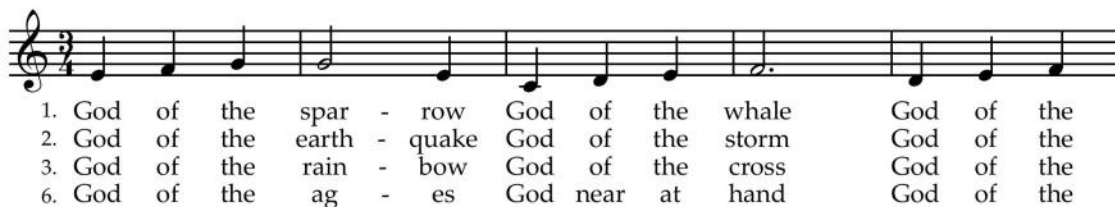
The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

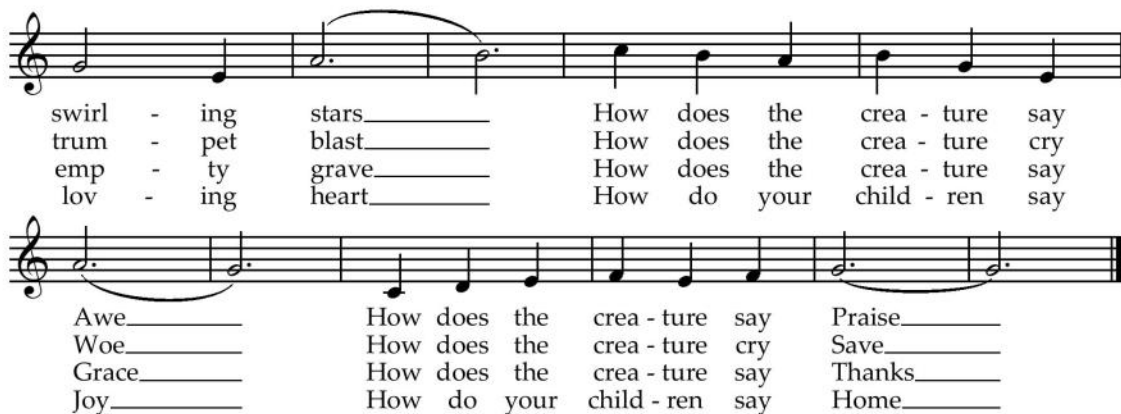
²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY *“God of the Sparrow”* ELW #740 stanzas 1-3, 6





swirl - ing stars_____ How does the crea - ture say
 trum - pet blast_____ How does the crea - ture cry
 emp - ty grave_____ How does the crea - ture say
 lov - ing heart_____ How do your child - ren say

Awe_____ How does the crea - ture say Praise_____

Woe_____ How does the crea - ture cry Save_____

Grace_____ How does the crea - ture say Thanks_____

Joy_____ How do your child - ren say Home_____

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of mercy, hear our prayer; **great is your steadfast love.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

ANTHEM "Serenade, *F Schubert*" arr. Maxwell Eckstein

+ OFFERTORY "Enough for Today" verses 1, 4, & 5



1. E - nough for to - day, a flow - er's splen - dor; e -
 4. E - nough for to - day, the Spir - it's heal - ing; e -
 5. E - nough for to - day, rich bless - ings giv - en; e -

nough for to - day, a spar - row's nest. Con -
 nough for to - day, the strength God gives. Suf -
 nough for to - day, e - ter - nal springs. Un -

sid - er the care, our Mak - er ten - der:____
 fi - cient the grace, such pow'r re - veal - ing:____
 end - ing the love, the hope we live in:____

— e - nough for us to trust.____
 — e - nough for us to live.____
 — e - nough for us to sing!____

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of the winged ones and the wildflowers,
 by your living word you call us valuable
 and promise what we need to live abundantly.
 Renewed by your presence and provision,
 we offer our whole selves to this time and place,
 trusting it is enough because you say it is so. Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

+ 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 God thanks and praise.**

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore. You laid the foundations of the earth; you encircled the globe with air; you prescribed bounds for the waters; you made every creature. You molded us in your image, and with mercy taller than the trees of the forests, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own. That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. Send your Spirit on us and on this meal, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world, and praising and glorifying you through your Son Jesus Christ, through whom all glory and honor are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav - en, hal-low-ed be thy
name; thy king - dom come, thy will be done on
earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es,

as we for-give those who tres-pass a - gainst us;
and lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv - er
us from e - vil. For the
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN "O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth"



1. O God, your crea-tures fill the earth with won - der and de -
 2. You made the pets we wel - come in; They're won - drous bless - ings,
 3. You made the crea-tures on each farm; You know the things they
 4. Your crea-tures live in ev - ery land; They fill the sky and

light, And ev - ery liv - ing thing has worth and
 too. With paws and whis - kers, wings and fins, They
 need. May they grow heal - thy, safe from harm, And
 sea. O Lord, you give us your com - mand To

beau - ty in your sight. So play - ful dol - phins
 of - fer praise to you. O Lord, you call us
 safe from hu - man greed. Just as a shep - herd
 love them ten - der - ly. We're called to have do -

dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze. Your
 to em - brace These crea - tures in our care. May
 loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain. Lord,
 min - ion here, To care for them al - ways. By

song-birds share a morn - ing hymn To of - fer you their praise.
 we show kind - ness, love and grace To all pets ev - 'ry - where.
 bless the an - i - mals we keep; May all farms be hu - mane.
 lov - ing crea-tures you hold dear, We of - fer you our praise.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Once again, O God, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self.
Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice,
and thirst for your way of peace, that we may live more fully in you;
through Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

The holy Three, the holy One
increase your hope,
strengthen your faith,
deepen your love,
and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN “*Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom*” ACS #1064



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.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* arr. Gail Smith

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Phil Ruud & Pastor Ben Schori

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Rebecca Nystuen (10:30) Joanna McLees

Ushers: (8:30) Bruce Dueffert, Harley Foster, Craig Grunzke
(10:30) Scott Broughton, Patrick Stahly

Readers: (8:30) Maryann Kaul (10:30) Darlene Broughton

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Wendell Arneson, Warren Broughton, Beth Christensen, Carol Cole
(10:30) Darlene Broughton

Altar Care: (set) (clean) (clear) Phyllis Larson (cups) Kari Kust

Guest Keyboards: Leanne Barck Flute: Jill Mahr Guitar: Gary Lewis

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Broughton, Nathan Hoekstra

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Let All Creation Sing” from *Living Voice of Creation*. Hans Peterson & Carol Meier.

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We are using *Peace of the Prairie: A Liturgy for Here and Now*.

The Invocation, Gathering Prayer, and Offertory Prayer were written by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson.

The second half of the Gathering Prayer was modified for Animals Sunday by Rev. Inger Hanson.

“Here and Now” & *“Enough for Today”* were written and composed by Carol Meier.

© 2023 Carol Meier Music (ASCAP).

Pastor Inger modified the Eucharistic Prayer from ELW Form VII and XI for the Season of Creation 2026.

“The Lord’s Prayer” Music: *Mass from Age to Age*, Chris de Silva, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

“O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth” Text: © 2011 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. carolynshymns.com.

Tune: FOREST GREEN, English Folk tune, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, © Oxford University Press.

The Benediction is from *All Creation Sings* Setting 12.

“Earth is Full of Whim and Wisdom” Text: Adam M. L. Tice, © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825.

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THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

12:00 pm



Bible Study @ the Vault

TUESDAY

9:00 am



Quilting Group

9:45 am

Staff Meeting

6:30 pm

ISAIAH—Discipleship Training

WEDNESDAY

5:30 pm



RIC Committee

7:00 pm

Bridge Chamber Music Festival

THURSDAY

9:00 am



FAB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

9:00 am

Men of Bethel (Classroom 54)

10:00 am

Projects with Purpose

FRIDAY

9:15 am

WoW (Women of the Word) (Zoom)

11:00 am

Celebration of Life Service for Loren Baumbach (10:00 am visitation, luncheon to follow service)

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

August 16	in person attendance
8:30 am	152
10:30 am	100
Total	252

CREATION CARE ACTION NOTE

Today the Bethel Creation Team is bringing a focus to God's gift of animals. You are invited to stop at the ministry table after the service and reflect on ways we can help all animals, not only our pets but the animals who share our home on this planet. Pictures of many pets are on display and some families loaned us some animal stuffies to celebrate the wonderful animal kingdom.

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Luke 22:24-27**
with **Ephesians 2:8-10**.



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