



*Central Lutheran Church
Caring for Creation & Blessing of the Animals
October 3, 2021*

In commemoration of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, we give thanks to our God, the Creator of all good things in heaven and on earth, and under the earth. Using a variety of resources from Roman Catholic, Anglican/Episcopal, and Lutheran liturgies, today we give glory to God for the bounty and beauty of creation and all God's creatures, great and small.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

Allegro in D

Anna Bon

The Italian composer and performer Anna Bon (1738-c.1769) came from an arts-loving family and composed a diverse range of chamber music and an opera during the time that she stayed at the court of Prince Esterhazy in Eisenstadt, Austria.

GREETING

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.**

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF CREATION

Bless the Lord, all you creatures!

And forget not all of God's benefits.

For all your creatures that breathe and move and have life,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That we may love and honor the works of your hand,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That all living things may be treasured with care,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

That all life may flourish,

We give you thanks and praise, Creator God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Creator God, we thank you for the gift of life in all its diversity and beauty. Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we praise you that you came to redeem all of creation. Holy Spirit, we rejoice that you breathe the breath of life into the world. For the blessing of your people, the sustaining of the earth, and the glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,



All things wise and won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all. *Fine*



1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens Each lit - tle bird that sings,
2. The pur - ple head - ed mountain, The riv - er run - ning by,
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell



Repeat Refrain

He made their glow - ing col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
How great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil Alexander, 1818-1895, alt.

Music: English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

FIRST READING Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

ANTHEM

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Dale Wood

Cantors

SECOND READING **Romans 8:18-23**

[The Apostle Paul writes] I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: The earth, the creatures, and all living things are given for you, says the Lord. Love them, protect them and use them wisely. *Repeat antiphon*

GOSPEL **John 3:16-17**

The Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

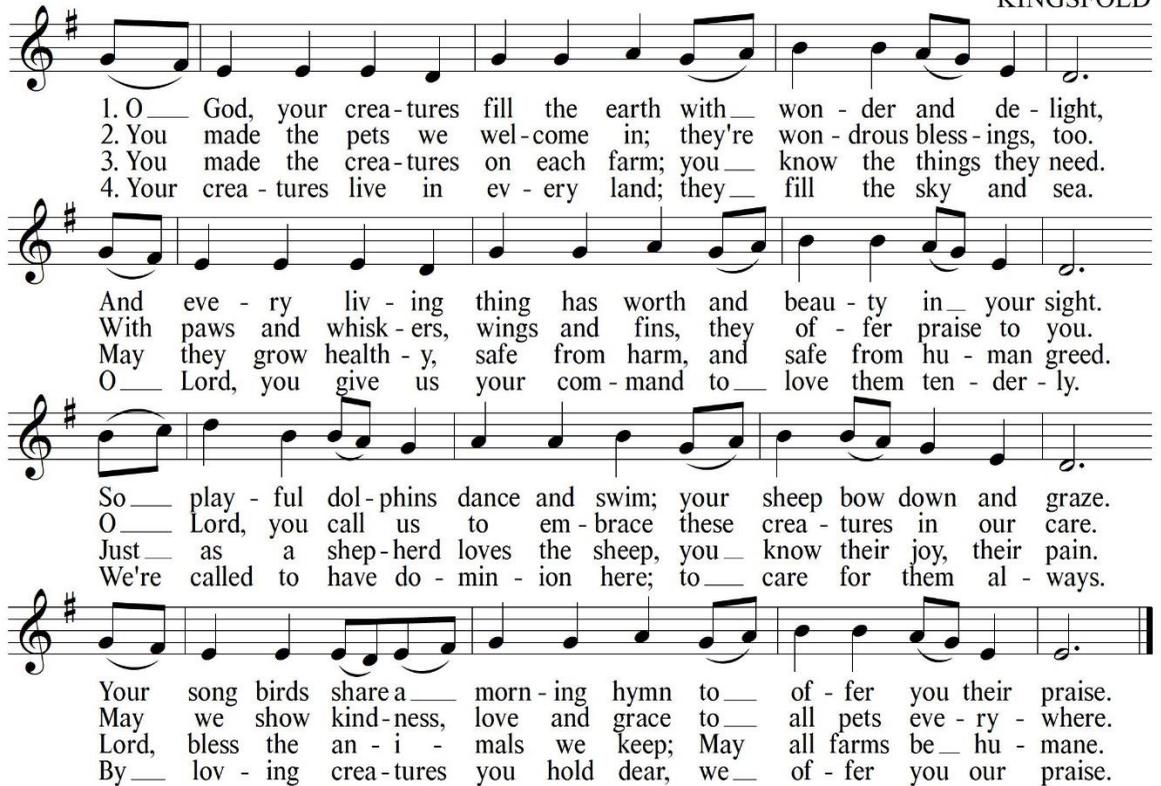
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *“The Whole Cosmos”*

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN OF THE DAY O God Your Creatures Fill the Earth

KINGSFOLD



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

And eve - ry liv - ing thing has worth and beau - ty in your sight.
With paws and whisk - ers, wings and fins, they of - fer praise to you.
May they grow health - y, safe from harm, and safe from hu - man greed.
O Lord, you give us your com - mand to love them ten - der - ly.

So play - ful dol - phins dance and swim; your sheep bow down and graze.
O Lord, you call us to em - brace these crea - tures in our care.
Just as a shep - herd loves the sheep, you know their joy, their pain.
We're called to have do - min - ion here; to care for them al - ways.

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

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. Blessed God, your love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and you put in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures, and so for all to whom you have given life and breath, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet and for the faithful

care of all creatures. We give you thanks, O God, for Saint Francis of Assisi whose life and witness continues to inspire us. **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

Gracious God, Creator of all, grant that we, your people, may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. Guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with one another by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

ANTHEM *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. Hopson Cantors

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And al - so with you.
We lift them to the Lord.

The musical score consists of two columns of music. The left column contains four staves of music, and the right column contains two staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, Holy God, through Christ our Lord; who on a cross overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened

to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:
heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!
Bless - ed be the ris - en Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. † Christ is risen. † Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf - fered death our_ lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us_ free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter - nal_ peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

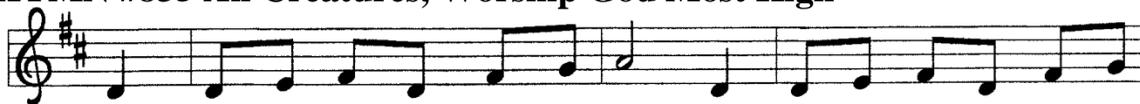
BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Creator, you feed your people with the bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage that we may come to that place where your people hunger and thirst no more and your creation is restored to its full glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN #835 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for the earth and all its creatures.
Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Introduction and Fugue.* Adela Douglas-Pennant
Adela Douglas-Pennant was born into a titled English family and had seven sisters. Little else is known of her life, and even this piece was published with the composer listed without her first name, as "Pennant, The Hon. A. D."

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The readings for next week are:

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Today's Worship Leaders

Presider: Pastor Laurie A. Jones

Assisting Minister: Vicar Ben Nickodemus

Reader: Honora Mathisen-Lund

Organist/Choirmaster: Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist: Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers

Cantors: Leah Burién, Naomi Castro, Alyse Jamieson,

Blake Balmeseda, Dylan Bunten, David Gustafson, John Shields

Door Monitor: Janice Stine

Tech Support: Thomas Stine

The Blessing of the Animals will take place today at 12:30pm in the church parking lot. All are welcome!