

**St. Luke Lutheran Church and  
Lutheran Campus Ministry**  
*Holy Communion*



The Season of Creation: Land Sunday  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 10, 2023  
10:00 AM

YOU are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community...because we believe we are one in God's eyes, we welcome the mix of ages, races, gender identities, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. Everyone is invited to share in God's grace. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus--not our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor whom we love, nor anything else in all creation.

Everything you need for worship today is contained in this bulletin.

\*All are invited to stand as able. Items in **bold** are spoken or sung by the assembly.

*'Let the field exult and everything in it'. Psalm 96:12*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

*O Store Gud*

setting by J. Wayne Kerr

Introduction to the Hymn of the Day

## WORD OF WELCOME

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one Creator, ... whose promise of abundance is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

God of the sparrow, **have mercy upon us.**

**We have fallen short in our care for the world.**

**We have squandered every good gift –**

**depleting the land, poisoning the water, and fouling the air,**

**killing your children and harming your house, beyond our ability to fix  
or even understand,**

**turning from you and from one another.**

**We are sorry for our sins against the Earth,**

**for choosing convenience over compassion,**

**whim over wisdom,**

**and self over service.**

**We ask for forgiveness and hope,**

**that we may once again be stewards in your household,**

**true friends to life,**

**and heirs of your transforming love,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*ABSOLUTION** *The assembly responds:* **Amen.**

### \*PEACE

*The presiding minister will offer a word of peace and the assembly responds:*

**And also with you.**

*The assembly may greet one another with signs of peace.*

**\*GATHERING HYMN 783** Praise and Thanks and Adoration      FREU DICH SEHR



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion,    Son of God, to you we give,  
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing,    com - fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion,    died that sin - ers all might live.  
through my laugh - ter and my weep - ing,    lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way;    faith - ful let me day by day  
Draw my fer - vent love to you;    con - stant hope and faith re - new



fol - low where your steps are lead - ing,    find ad - ven - ture, joys ex - ceed - ing!  
in your birth, your life and pas - sion,    in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

**\*GREETING**

*The presiding minister will greet the assembly and the assembly responds:*

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

Setting Nine

*The response to the first four petitions sung by the assisting minister is:*



**Lord,                    have mer - cy.**

*The response to the final petition (“Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord”) is:*



**A                    -                    men.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

Canticle of the Sun

*The assembly sings the refrain, the choir will sing three verses between refrains.*

The heav-ens are tell-ing the glo-ry of God, \_\_\_ and  
6 all cre - a - tion is shout - ing for joy. \_\_\_ Come,  
11 dance in the for - est come play in the field \_\_\_ and sing,  
17 sing to the glo - ry of the Lord. \_\_\_

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assisting minister offers the prayer of the day and the assembly responds:*

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

## FIRST READING

Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16

*‘Earth bears the curse for us’*

The Lord God said to the serpent,  
“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you among all animals  
and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said,

“I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great;  
in pain you shall bring forth children,  
yet your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
about which I commanded you,  
‘You shall not eat of it,’  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen, your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

## PSALM 139:7-12

*‘God is present in all of Earth’*

*The psalm is sung responsively.*

<sup>7</sup>Where can I go then | from your Spirit?

Where can I flee | from your presence?

**If I climb up to heaven, | you are there;**

**if I make the grave my bed, you | are there also.**

If I take the wings | of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts | of the sea,

**even there your | hand will lead me**

**and your right hand | hold me fast.**

If I say, “Surely the darkness will | cover me,

and the light around me | turn to night,”

**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as**

**bright | as the day;**

**darkness and light to you are | both alike.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**

**and to the | Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in | the beginning,**

**is now, and will be for- | ever. Amen.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-17

*‘The second Adam comes to Earth’*

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Setting Nine

*The assembly sings the acclamation and repeats it after the choir proclaims the verse of the day.*

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

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

*For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

**\*GOSPEL**

Matthew 12:38-40

*'Jesus in the heart of Earth'*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

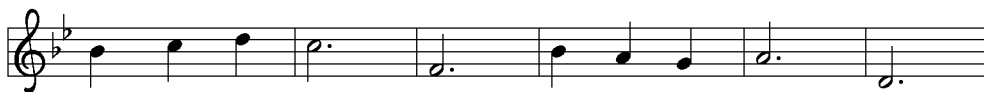
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**SERMON**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY 739 Touch the Earth Lightly

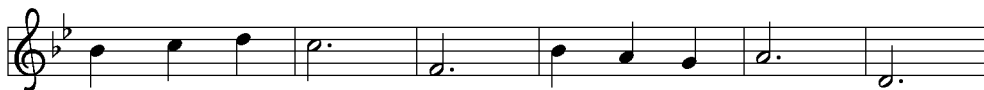
TENDERNESS



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:  
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,  
we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: TENDERNESS, Colin Gibson, b. 1933

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## **\*CREED**

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things and celebrates all things.**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation, reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**



## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The response to the petitions, which all end "Merciful God" is*

**Receive our prayer.**

*After the pastor's concluding prayer, the assembly responds:*

**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is taken to support the mission of the church and the care of those in need. An usher will bring a basket or plate to you, or you may drop your offering in the plates on the table near the back row upon entering or leaving. Offerings can also be made using the QR code or visiting [stlukeithaca.org](http://stlukeithaca.org) and clicking "donate" in the top right corner.*

## OFFERTORY and SETTING THE TABLE

*Come, Labor On*

setting by John Ferguson

1 Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain  
while all around us waves the golden grain?  
And to each servant does the Master say,  
"Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;  
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.  
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.  
The night draws nigh.

3 Come, labor on.

Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here.  
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill  
God's righteous will.

4 Come, labor on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,  
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,  
"Well done, well done!"

## \*ASSEMBLY OFFERTORY SONG 1018 Deep Peace

*The assembly stands as the offering and the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward.*

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the

flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to

you, deep peace of the qui - et earth. earth.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

*The assisting minister will lead an offering prayer and the assembly responds: **Amen.***

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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.**




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and




might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*Including the response:*

.....we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

## **\*THE 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.**

**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.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*At St. Luke, all are welcome to the table of Christ without exception. Please make your way forward to the kneelers around the altar by exiting the center aisle and coming up the steps. To the right of the steps is a lift if you need assistance. As you gather around the altar you may stand or kneel. Bread is received in your hands and is gluten free unless otherwise stated. You may remove your mask and eat the bread before receiving wine or juice. Cups are available as you approach the altar. To return to your seats, please exit after receiving the wine or juice via the side steps and aisles, leaving the cup in the basket provided. If you wish to receive communion at your seats, please tell the ushers.*

\*LAMB OF GOD

Setting Nine



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.

## COMMUNION ANTHEM Holy God, Holy and Glorious

*The choir will sing this new hymn which suits today's theme.*

*If you wish to participate or see the text, please turn to hymn 637 in the red hymnal.*

### \*TABLE BLESSING

### \*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The assisting minister will lead the Prayer after Communion and the assembly responds: **Amen.***

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BLESSING** *The assembly responds: **Amen.***

**\*SENDING HYMN 856** How Great Thou Art

○ STORE GUD

*For harmony, please use the red hymnal in the pews.*



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember all of God's creation.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Maestoso*

Alexandre Guilmant

## **PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

St. Luke Ministers:	All the people of this Community
Assisting Minister:	Carol LaBorie
Reader:	Patrice Pastore
Ushers:	Susan Hoskins and Emma Dodici
Webcast:	Andy Antal
Music Director	Erik Kibelsbeck
Presider and Preacher:	The Rev. Jason R. Churchill

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jeff and Suzanne Snedeker.*

**St. Luke Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of Cornell United Religious Works (CURW).**

Please visit [www.stlukeithaca.org](http://www.stlukeithaca.org) to sign up for email communication.

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## CALENDAR

*See Newsletter/Announcements/Website Calendar for more details!*

TODAY	11:30am	<b>Forum @ for kids:</b> Stories and Projects Also, painting the children's library
Monday, Sept. 11	6:30 pm	<b>Book Group</b>
Tuesday, Sept. 12	12:15pm	<b>Bible Study</b>
	1:00pm	<b>Safety Training Session</b>
Thursday, Sept 14	7:45pm	<b>Compline at First Baptist Church (&amp;youtube)</b>
Sunday, Sept. 17	11:30am	<b>Confirmation class,</b> presentation by Alex Sheets

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID PRECAUTIONS** Remember that we still have to be vigilant regarding the uptick in COVID cases in our area. There has not been a universal mask mandate - but Cayuga Medical Center has reinstated their requirement. For those of us coming to church, masks remain an option. Please be sure to use our online options if you feel a little under the weather. You can find symptoms and what to do on the CDC website if you are unsure.

Thank you,

Amit, Bev, and Pr. Jason

**ADOPT A STUDENT** at St. Luke Celebrates its 22nd Year: This is a wonder-filled ministry full of fun where under grad and grad students can connect with a family at St. Luke. More information and enrollment forms for both **families** and for **students** are on the Campus Ministry Table in the narthex AND on the website under Campus Ministry (scroll down the Adopt-a-Student page for the forms). Questions? Contact either of the Coordinators, Suz Snedeker (smsnedeker@gmail.com) or Anna Roberts (asroberts05@gmail.com).

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:** Robert, Diane, Neela and Sue. We remember those who have died: Joanne Bishop, former administrative assistant here at St. Luke.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please add prayer requests for the Prayers of Intercession to the book on the Welcome Table or via the website, "Prayer Requests" is under the "Stay Connected" tab.

**NEW HUMANITY NEWSLETTER:** You are invited and encouraged to read these Thursday emails each week; there is often more information than is included here. If you are not on the list to receive them, let us know at office@stlukeithaca.org or (607) 273-6811.

**SEPTEMBER LITTLE RED WAGON DONATIONS FOR ITHACA KITCHEN CUP-BOARD:** Social Ministry requests personal care items from the list below: Baby wipes, Soap (samples OK), Individually wrapped toilet paper rolls, Toothbrushes/toothpaste/floss, Shampoo/conditioners (samples OK), Laundry detergent

## UPCOMING READINGS

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

### *Monday*

Psalm 119:65-72  
Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16  
1 Peter 2:11-17

### *Tuesday*

Psalm 119:65-72  
Deuteronomy 17:2-13  
Romans 13:1-7

### *Wednesday*

Psalm 119:65-72  
Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28  
Matthew 21:18-22

### *Thursday*

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Genesis 37:12-36  
1 John 3:11-16

### *Friday*

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Genesis 41:53—42:17  
Acts 7:9-16

### *Saturday*

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Genesis 45:1-20  
Matthew 6:7-15

## THE READINGS IN THE BIBLE

*For the Season of Creation, we offer questions about the readings:*

### **Genesis**

We have all heard the story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They both ate from the tree of knowledge. What do you think eating from that tree meant?

Do you think these texts simply reflect the worldview of the ancient writer about snakes and the role of women or something more? Should we accept these expressions of reality as inevitable or be working to overcome them and return to the harmony of Eden or to anticipate a different future?

Earth bears the curse for human beings. Does this suggest that Earth is like a caring parent who bears this burden out of love for her children? Does that still happen today? Share your experiences.

Is this image still meaningful for us today? Does returning to Earth in death mean the same as returning to Christ who also fills Earth with his risen presence?

Do you think Earth continues to mediate cries for justice because of what humans have done on Earth and to Earth? What cries for justice might we hear?

### **Psalms**

Does the Psalmist's experience of God's spirit in all of creation, including Earth, suggest that we should also try to experience God's presence in the creation around us? Share your experiences of God's presence in creation.

### **Romans**

Clearly Earth bears the curse that our first parents provoked. With that curse came death before God. Does Christ ultimately bear the curse that Earth has carried for us for so long? Does that mean that Earth—including the land, the soil and the ground—are given new life through Christ?

# **ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH and LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY ELCA**

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Stewardship: Laura Gathagan and Lauren Kline  
Worship and Arts: Diane Conneman