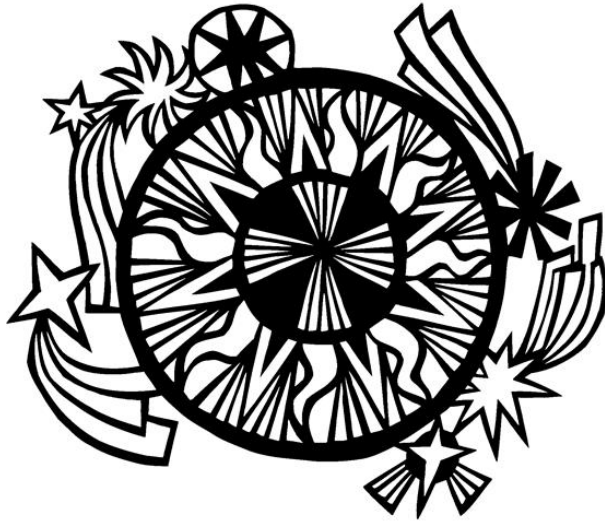




Season of Creation

In Christ, God renews and transforms creation

September 20, 2026

Sunday, 9:30am

Also on Sunday: Radio Broadcast on
WRMN 1410 AM & Live Stream at:

[Holy Trinity Lutheran Church \(holytrinityelgin.com\)](http://holytrinityelgin.com)

GATHERING

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

Prelude:

Air: Andante Molto

Gluseppe Tartini

There is None Like You

Lenny LeBlanc



Purpose Statement

Our Savior calls us into mission. Let us say together the purpose we share:

A Christ-Centered Church

Sharing Faith, Hope, and Love

with each other, our neighbors, and the world.

אלהים



Welcome and Announcements



Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—
the Fox River,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font,
for through this water
you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
bathed us in forgiveness,
and enlivened us in the Spirit.
We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.***



Gathering Hymn: Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

ELW 401



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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.



Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Ever present God, whose Son our Savior was lifted high upon the cross that he might renew all Creation through himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our restoration, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him on his way to bring new life to all things; through Jesus the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer Response: Elw 794

Calm to the Waves



Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be still."



Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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The assembly is seated.



Mostly Children's Time

WORD

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

Verse of the Month: *Isaiah 40:31*

Let us remember the witness of Scripture as we say our verse of the month together:

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.



First Reading: *Isaiah 45:21-25*

²¹Announce! Approach! Confer together!

Who proclaimed this from the beginning, announced it from long ago?

Wasn't it I, the Lord?

There's no other God except me,

a righteous God and a savior;

there's none besides me!

²²Turn to me and be saved,

all you ends of the earth,

for I am God, and there's no other.

²³I have sworn a solemn pledge;

a word has left my mouth;

it is reliable and won't fail.

Surely every knee will bow

and every tongue will confess;

²⁴they will say, "Righteousness and strength come only from the Lord.

All who are angry with him will come to shame.

²⁵All the Israelites

will be victorious and rejoice."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.



Second Reading: *Galatians 6:14-18*

- ¹⁴ But as for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except for the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has been crucified to me through him, and I have been crucified to the world.
- ¹⁵ Being circumcised or not being circumcised doesn't mean anything. What matters is a new creation.
- ¹⁶ May peace and mercy be on whoever follows this rule and on God's Israel.
- ¹⁷ From now on, no one should bother me because I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.
- ¹⁸ Brothers and sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen



Gospel: *John 12:31-36a*

- ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out.
- ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me."
- (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)
- ³⁴ The crowd responded, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Human One must be lifted up? Who is this Human One?"
- ³⁵ Jesus replied, "The light is with you for only a little while. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn't overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness don't know where they are going.
- ³⁶ As long as you have the light, believe in the light so that you might become people whose lives are determined by the light." After Jesus said these things, he went away and hid from them.

The holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.



Sermon



Hymn of the Day: Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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Apostle's Creed

With Christians around the world, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's 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 of the People

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words, "Hear our prayer."

As we do each weekend, we light a candle for peace and pray together the Peace Prayer.

A brief silence as the peace candle is lit.

Let us pray together ... **God of love, your word teaches that peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice. Peace is what happens when those who have much do not have too much and those who have little do not have too little. The very old and the very young feel safe and supported. Parents can feed themselves and their children and all have the opportunity for**

meaningful work in their community. Let us pray and work for this kind of peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.

God of all peoples, we pray for the world. Please be at work in places that are full of violence and suffering. We pray, in particular, for the people of Israel and Palestine, Ukraine, and Iran. Please show us a pathway to peace. Put the right people in the right places to make decisions not just for themselves but also for others.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those affected by natural disasters, including the flash flood and landslide in Nepal and Tibet. In rooms full of raw anger and grief, we ask that those who are hurting might feel your presence. Bless those who are working to rebuild. And help us as a human race to make the appropriate changes to stop such climate-based disasters from happening in the future. Forgive us for the destruction we have caused.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own country, God. Help us to balance your desire for justice and equality with your call to love our neighbor. May our churches be spaces of welcome where we can have faithful conversations that push all of our understanding. Please be with all our civic leaders.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty, you tell us time and again in your Word that you care for the poor, for the abused, for the cast out. We pray for those people now. We pray for those who are houseless. We pray for those who are struggling to make ends meet. We pray for new immigrants to this country seeking asylum. We pray for the lonely. We pray for the sick. We pray for grieving. Especially today, we remember...and all those on our prayer chain. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

Hear our prayer.



Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

I invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



As we prepare to receive the gift of Holy Communion, we pray a table grace patterned after the great Old Testament and early church prayers that recount God's goodness and ask that such goodness would extend to us and through us now and until our Lord's promised return.



Offertory: *We Plow the Fields and Scatter (v. 3 only)*

ELW 680

Please stand in body or spirit as the gifts are brought forward.



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma - no que la ha - ce ger - mi - nar,
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;
Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948
Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937
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3 Mil gracias, Dios, te damos
por cuanto bien nos das:
las flores y los frutos,
salud, la vida y pan.
No hay con qué paguemos
lo que nos da tu amor,
más que Nuestro sincero
y humilde corazón.



Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be 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 our thanks and praise.

Pastor continues with the preface to the eucharistic prayer, which leads us to Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus), an ancient hymn comprised of the angelic chorus of Isaiah 6, the praise of Psalm 118:26, and the crowd's Palm Sunday shouts of Matthew 21:9.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor continues with the eucharistic prayer, which concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his
resurrection.

Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

On 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ.

Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.

Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and Amen. **Amen, and Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures.
Come and share.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

All are welcome to the communion feast, for our Lord is host and gives himself to all who desire to receive.

Please come up to the communion rails, either kneel or stand as you are able.

Those not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing or remain in their seats in prayer. While we share this festive meal, we sing of our Savior's invitation, grace, and promise. Come, let us eat and drink at the table of the Lord.



Music During Communion: *Lamb of God (setting 6)*

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 Music *I Call You Friends*

Jacques Halevy



Sharing the meal



Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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



Blessing

Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**



Sending Hymn: Rejoice, for Christ Is King

ELW 430



1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

Refrain



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936



Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *The God of Abraham Praise*

David Cherwien

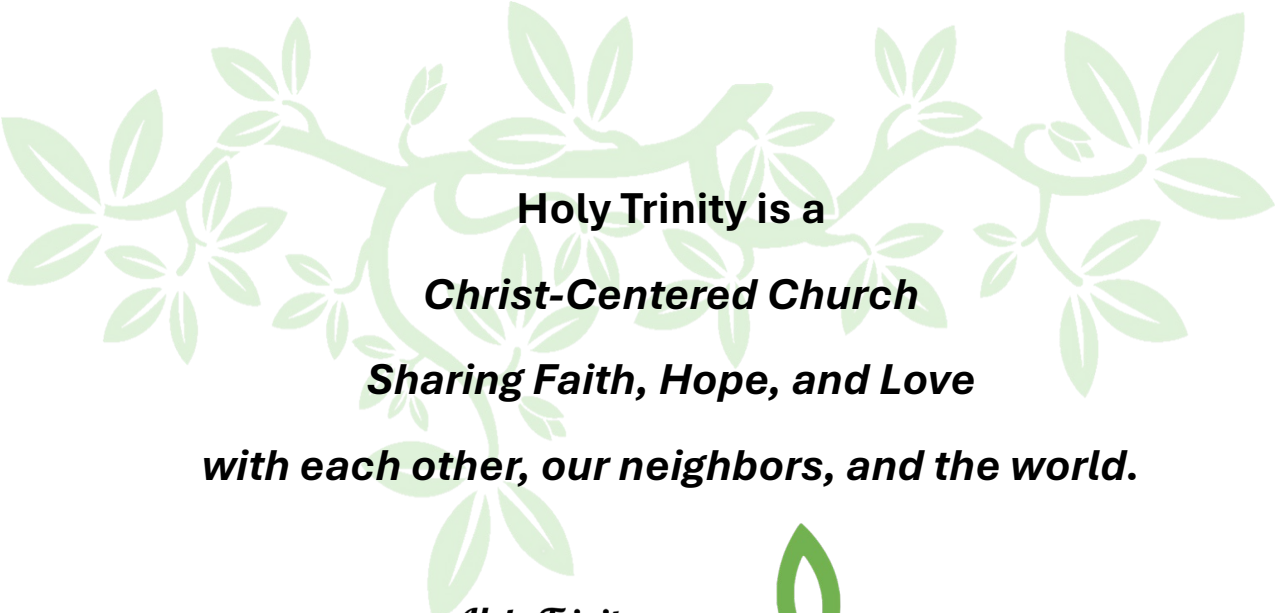
September 12/13 Season of Creation – Nov 21/22 Christ the King Liturgy Music

Setting Six of the music for the Holy Communion service in Evangelical Lutheran Worship was compiled from musical settings by four composers. James Capers (b. 1948) composed the settings of "Lamb of God" for Liturgy of Joy (1993), which was also included in This Far by Faith. The settings of the Gospel Acclamation and "Holy, holy, holy" are from Detroit Folk Mass (1986), composed by Tillis Butler and James Harris.

Supported by the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches

ELCA worshiping communities are encouraged to celebrate the Season of Creation. Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

**Adapted from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.*



**Holy Trinity is a
Christ-Centered Church
Sharing Faith, Hope, and Love
with each other, our neighbors, and the world.**

