



SEASON OF CREATION
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, AT 8 AM
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

*Please keep a prayerful quiet as we prepare for worship.
Our liturgy is drawn from a variety of resources. Please see endnotes for references.
The People's responses are printed in bold.*

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

This is the day the Creator has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Sentences

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all. Amen. —*Hildegard of Bingen, 13th-century mystic*

Song of Praise *said by all*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
it shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.

—*Isaiah 35:1-3, Cantic of the Wilderness*

Collect of the Day

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *seated* Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-8 *read responsively by whole verse*

I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication, *
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.

**The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; ***
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon your holy Name: *
“O God, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious are you and righteous; *
you are full of compassion.

You watch over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and you helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for God has treated you well.

For you, O God, have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of God, *
in the land of the living.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* Mark 8:27-38

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher. A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

Tírechán's Creed *standing as you are able*

Our God is the God of all, the God of heaven and Earth, the God of the sea and rivers, the God of the sun and moon, the God of all the heavenly bodies, the God of the lofty mountains, the God of the lowly valleys. God is above the heavens and beneath the heavens.

Heaven and Earth and sea, and everything that is in them, such is the abode of the Holy One.

God inspires all things, gives life to all things, stands above all things, and stands beneath all things. God enlightens the light of the sun, strengthens the light of the night and the stars, makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea, and places the stars in the service of the greater lights.

God has a Son who is co-eternal; and one in all respects; and neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son; and the Holy Spirit breathes in them, and the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.

—From the Patrician texts in the Book of Armagh, 670 A.D.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor O God, you gave Brother Sun and Sister Moon to light the day and night. Enlighten our hearts to your goodness and mercy. Guide us in sharing your love throughout the world.

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Mother Earth, and we desecrated her beauty. May we work for repair and flourishing of creation. Guide leaders in justice and guide us in mutual care.

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Brother Wind and Air, giving breath to the world. Offer your breath of life and healing to all who are in need, especially . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Siblings in all creation: verdant pastures, roaring waters, and towering mountains. We give you thanks for . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

With Sister Death, you bring us from this life into life everlasting with you. Welcome your servants who come to you, especially . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

God of all creation, nourish us through your abundant love and grace, that we may be assured of your presence surrounding us; in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *standing or kneeling as you are able*

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace *The Presider says to the People*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC> to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text SCEC and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions. Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward and blessed.

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them unto God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Gracious God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of our ancestors; God of Sarah, Hagar, Hannah, and Ruth; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence observed.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. ■ If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. We do not allow dipping the bread into the wine. ■ Respond to communion by saying "Amen." ■ If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. ■ Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station. ■ Baptism is offered several times a year; speak to a priest to learn more.

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presider As we are gathered, fed, and sent by God, let us ask ourselves: With whom can I share the Good News? Whom will I invite to join us at this table?

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Ministers *when scheduled*

In the name of St. Columba's we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N. may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, as we all share one bread, one cup.

Blessing

The People respond **Amen.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Liturgical Note

The Season of Creation (seasonofcreation.org) is an ecumenical celebration that invites us to listen to and care for “this fragile earth, our island home,” as we hear in Eucharistic Prayer C. In this season, stretching from the Feast of Creation on September 1 through the Feast of St. Francis on October 4, Christians around the world join in prayer and action, renewing a commitment to care for the gift of God’s creation. Our creed is from Tírechán, a 7th-century Irish bishop best known for his biography of St. Patrick. The Prayers of the People are inspired by the language St. Francis often used in describing creation.

Land Acknowledgement

We meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging.

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St. Columba's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

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