



SEASON OF CREATION
SEPTEMBER 29, 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, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; 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* Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

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 19:7-14 *read responsively by whole verse*

Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; *
your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; *
your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; *
your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can tell how often one offends? *
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, *
O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

The Gospel *standing as you are able* Mark 9:38-50

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Adelyn Tyler-Williams

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 Nacotchank, 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 Nacotchank 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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