

Trinity Lutheran Church



September 6, 2026
Creation in Christ

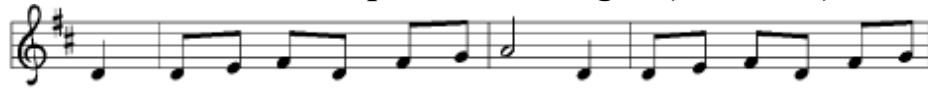
WELCOME

OPENING WORDS

Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.
We praise you, O God

OPENING HYMN:

All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (ELW 835)



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.

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

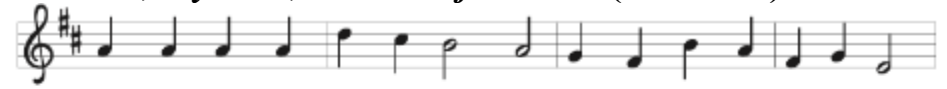
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
we confess that we sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. **Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you,
forgives you by the self-giving love of ✠ Jesus Christ,
which frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSIONAL HYMN:

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (ELW 864)



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav-en; joy-ful-ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa-vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour-ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An-gels sing in ad-o-ra-tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re-stored, for-giv-en, ev-er-more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for-ev-er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor-tals rise and per-ish, God en-dures un-chang-ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre-a-tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Prais-es ev-er-last-ing ring!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Glo-rious is God's faith-ful-ness!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise the great E-ter-nal One!
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
in Christ you created the worlds,
and your Spirit breathes life into the universe.

We praise you for your wondrous creation.
Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light,
and direct our lives to the care of this good earth,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–2:4a

*Text omitted to allow feature of our Sunflower Day School's
recent celebration of creation while releasing their butterfly!*



PSALM: Psalm 148

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
- ¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Acts 17:22a, 24–28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘for we, too, are his offspring.’

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung responsively, based on John Michael Talbot's Psalm 104.

How many and wonderful,
are all your works, O LORD!
**How many and wonderful,
are all your works, O LORD!**
You form the clouds in the heavens,
you walk on the wings of the wind.

You send forth the rivers
into the valleys.
You water creation from your throne.

How many and wonderful,
are all your works, O LORD!
**How many and wonderful,
are all your works, O LORD!**
Created in wisdom,
the heavens and earth are full of your glory.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-5

The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY:

For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the beau-ty of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5 For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a-bove; for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
for thy-self, best gift di-vine, to our world so free-ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac-ri-fice of praise.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

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.

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray:
that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth,
and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation.
Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being:

Your mercy is great.

For the earth we pray:

that this bounteous creation receive continued divine blessing,
that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean,
that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected.

Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed.

Hear us, O God, our creator and fruitful garden:

Your mercy is great.

For the nations we pray:

that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers
provide the food humans need,
that legislators strive in all things for the common good,
and that science and technology lead us
toward more responsible ways to live.

Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice:

Your mercy is great.

For our country we pray:

that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded,
and that all natural resources benefit the whole population.

Hear us, O God, our guardian and rainbow of promise:

Your mercy is great.

For those in need we pray:

that humankind be sheltered from pandemic
and from extreme weather,
and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention
and communal support.

Give heed to those whose names we call out to you.

Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe:

Your mercy is great.

We praise you for Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and
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:

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper,
we commend ourselves and your whole creation,
trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Please place offering in one of the Bulletin Stand offering plates at the end of worship as you leave the church.

OFFERTORY: *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

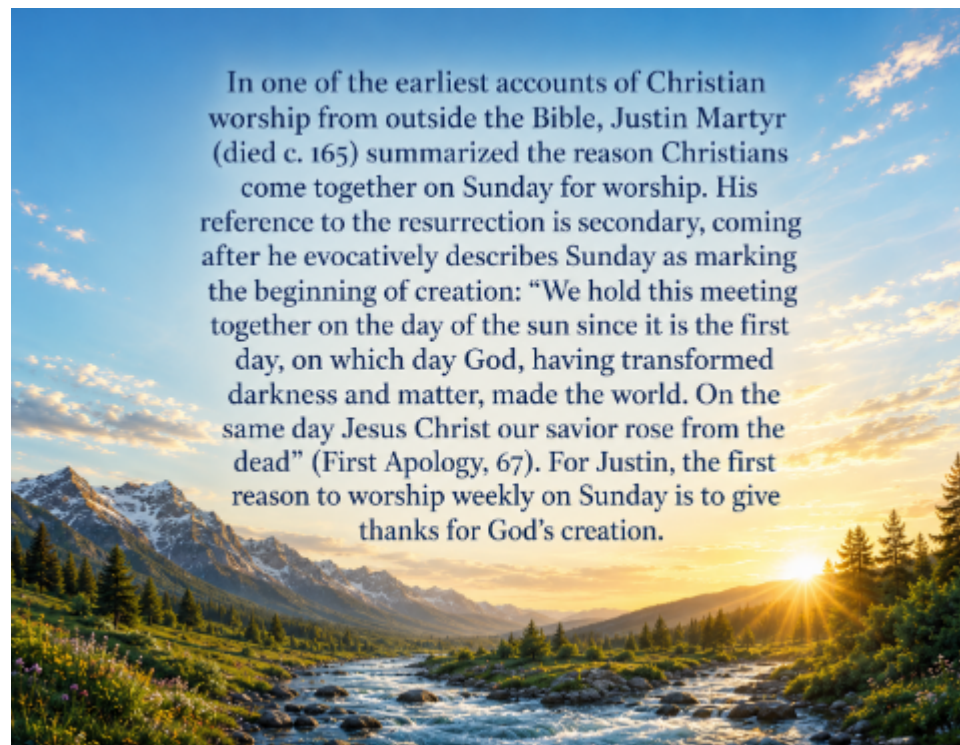
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**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.**



In one of the earliest accounts of Christian worship from outside the Bible, Justin Martyr (died c. 165) summarized the reason Christians come together on Sunday for worship. His reference to the resurrection is secondary, coming after he evocatively describes Sunday as marking the beginning of creation: "We hold this meeting together on the day of the sun since it is the first day, on which day God, having transformed darkness and matter, made the world. On the same day Jesus Christ our savior rose from the dead" (First Apology, 67). For Justin, the first reason to worship weekly on Sunday is to give thanks for God's creation.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
you laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb.
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.

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 presence.
The earth is full of your presence.

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 presence.
The earth is full of your presence.

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

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

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.
Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

Serving in Worship

THIS SUNDAY — Sep 6, 2026

Altar: **Cara Keith**
Livestream: **Larry Oolman**
Reader: **Thom Edgar**
Assistant: **Thom Edgar**
Fellowship: **Barb Rouse & Kris Oolman**

NEXT SUNDAY — Sep 13, 2026

Altar: **Cara Keith**
Livestream: **OPEN**
Reader: **OPEN**
Assistant: **OPEN**
Fellowship: **OPEN**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to join in the gift of Holy Communion.
White grape juice is available and all altar bread is gluten-free.
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)
When Peace like a River (ELW 785)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.
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.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN:

Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.
Thanks be to God!

BOOK STUDY

*Things Hidden:
Scripture as Spirituality*
by Richard Rohr

What if Scripture is meant to do more than simply inform us? What if it is meant to transform us?

Join us as we explore Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*, a book that invites us to encounter the Bible as a living witness to God's love, grace, and ongoing work in the world. Rohr encourages us to move beyond reading Scripture merely for answers and instead discover how it shapes our hearts, challenges our assumptions, and draws us more deeply into the life of Christ.

Sunday Mornings 10:30-11:30AM

<i>September 13th:</i>	INTRODUCTION
<i>October 18th:</i>	GETTING THE "WHO" RIGHT
<i>November 1st:</i>	PEOPLE WHO HAVE FACES
<i>November 22nd:</i>	THE BOXING RING
<i>December 13th:</i>	GOOD POWER AND BAD POWER
<i>January 10th:</i>	KNOWING AND NOT KNOWING
<i>February 7th:</i>	EVIL'S LIE
<i>March 7th:</i>	THE RESENTED BANQUET
<i>April 18th:</i>	THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS
<i>May 16th:</i>	MUTUAL INDWELLING

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Cards available in your pew!



Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Sep 6:

**9:00am
10:15am**

**Creation in Christ Worship
Fellowship in Gruver Rm**



Mon, Sep 7:

9:00am

NO Becoming

Tue, Sep 8:

**11:00am
6:15pm**

**Cabinet/Closet Hours til 1:00pm
Church Council in Gruver Rm**

Wed, Sep 9:

11:30am

Women's Study in Gruver Rm

Thu, Sep 10:

11:30am

MUGG Campus Lunch

Sun, Sep 13:

**9:00am
9:00am
10:15am
10:30am**

**Worship Service
Sunday School in Downstairs Youth Rm
Fellowship in Gruver Rm
"Things Hidden" Book Study**