

St Francis Worship - Eighteenth
Sunday after Pentecost, 18A
October 1, 2023
Pastor Kim Swenson



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:

Linda Grunewald

Reader:

Doris Brack

Altar Guild:

June Andrews

Communion Assist:

Peggy Hansen

Ushers:

Jerry Boettcher & Kay Smith

Video Tech:

Pegi BeDell

Fellowship Hour:

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

GATHERING

Welcome!

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church on this 18th Sunday after Pentecost.
We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join
the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with the
all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of
their presence.

*There is water and treats for the four legged among us at various spots around us.
Feel free to walk or move around if you or your pet needs it. The congregation is
invited to say the **Bold** words.*

Call to Worship (based on Genesis 1:20-31)

In the name of God, who creates all life,
In the name of Jesus Christ ✠, who redeems all life,
and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,
Amen.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
And let the birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.'
And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: Cattle and
creeping things and wild animals of the earth.'

And so, among the creatures God created were:

**Goats and hamsters, fish and whales,
Rabbits, snakes and gerbils,
Guinea pigs and birds and cats,
Giraffes, dogs and beetles!**

And God saw that it was so good that God also created:

**Tortoises and geese and ox,
Bears and donkeys,
Stick insects and frogs and foxes,
Parrots, ducks and ponies!**

And God saw that it was very good.

And God saw that it was very, very good.

God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as our kin,
all animals as our partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all small beings as expressions of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *O God Your Creatures Fill the Earth*

**O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.**

**You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.**

**Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.**

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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray for victims of animal cruelty. Bless all who care for injured and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

WORD

A Version of Psalm 148

All dogs and cats, large and small:

Praise the Lord!

All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs:

Praise the Lord!

All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures:

Praise the Lord!

All robins, wrens, and singing birds:

Praise the Lord!

All bats, squirrels, and raccoons:

Praise the Lord!

All horses, cows, and sheep:

Praise the Lord!

All lizards, snakes and creeping things:

Praise the Lord!

Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest that has breath:
Praise the Lord!

Word for All Ages

Scripture Reading: Revelations 5: 11-14

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!’

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might
for ever and ever!’

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* **ELW 835**
verse 1

All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much

more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Acclamation *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!* **ELW 835**

Verse 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite
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Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom* ACS #1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound-ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Prayers of the People

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For your people gather here in worship
For our pets of all shapes, sizes and colors:
For your wonders great and small

We pray, and thank you, gracious Lord.

For your church in this place
For the love and companionship that we share
For our homes, our schools and places of work
For growing, and learning, and sharing:

For your wonders great and small
We pray, and thank you, gracious Lord.

For the pets in our care
For lessons they teach us of patience and trust:
For animals that are hurting or unwell
For vets and veterinary staff:
For your wonders great and small
We pray, and thank you, gracious Lord.

For people we know who are hurting or unwell
For doctors, nurses, therapists, and counselors
For those we have loved but see no longer
For your assurance that all will be well:
For your wonders great and small
We pray, and thank you, gracious Lord.

For what else do we pray this day?
Spoken and silent prayers are invited.

Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, that we commend to you this day, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Animals

Peace

Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another,
and to our animals. The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Great Thanksgiving *(based on the Canticle of the Sun by St Francis of Assisi)*
For those worshiping at home, I invite you to take out some bread or crackers, wine or grape juice as we share in this one meal together. Please rise in body or in spirit.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them unto God.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

All praise to you, most high, all-powerful, good God,
through all that you have made.

All praise to you for Brother Sun, who brings the day;
all praise to you for Sister Moon and Stars,
you placed them in the heavens,
bright and precious and fair.

All praise to you for Brothers Wind and Air,
both fair and stormy, all the weather's moods.
All praise to you for Sister Water,
so useful, lowly, precious and pure.

All praise to you for Brother Fire,
through whom you brighten up the night.
How beautiful he is, how happy, full of power and might.

All praise to you for Sister Earth, our mother,
who feeds us in her sovereignty
and produces so many kinds of fruits,
colored flowers and herbs.

All praise to you for our Brother, Jesus Christ,
who promised that you would provide all that we truly need.

We remember the night in which he met
with his brothers and sisters, and fed them his own life.
He took up bread and blessing it, saying,
"Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup; and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to his friends, saying,
"Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Bless now this meal, O generous and giving God,
that we might receive by faith
Through the Body and Blood of your Son, our Brother, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught his friends and disciples, we are bold 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 Hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* **WOV#767**

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,



all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



- 1 Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
- 2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tains, the riv - er run - ning by,
- 3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
- 4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Refrain



God made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: ROYAL OAK, English tune, 17th cent., adapt. Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

Prayer after Communion (Adapted from the Prayer of St Francis)

Creator God, through this meal make us one with him,
instruments of your peace, sowing love where there is hatred,
pardon where there is injury, faith where doubt prevails,
hope where despair threatens to overwhelm your people.

Embolden us + by your Holy Spirit to bring light into darkness,
and joy wherever sadness may be found.
For we ask this through our Brother, Jesus Christ,
and with all those who stand before you in earth and heaven. **Amen.**

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

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

May God, who creates all living things, bless us
May Jesus ✠, who teaches us how to live, bless us
May the Holy Spirit, who fills us with peace, bless us
And keep us today and always. **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 pro - end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean 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!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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Dismissal

Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all creatures!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 9/24/23 \$ 32,854.80

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 21,490.00

YTD Receipts through 8/31/23..... \$ 142,198.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 257,876.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Thank you Shirley Rasmussen and Howard & Dawn Schroeder for providing the Fellowship hour. Please if you are able to help on a future date, October, November sign up in the hallway.

Blessings and Celebration: for 101st Birthday on October 1 for Lottie Jaworski- mother of Ken Jaworski.

Be an Angel for Hungry Children : Envelopes numbered from \$1.00 to \$100.00 are available on the Angel Board in the hallway. Money collected will benefit the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. A single envelope or any combination of envelopes can be selected. Just place your donation inside the envelope and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office. Children may want to select an envelope and dip into their piggy bank to care for other children. Thank you for spreading your wings!

The FMSC Mobile Pack: will again be held at Green Bay Community Church from Monday, October 2nd to Thursday, October 5th. Online sign-up is available now for packing and assisting with registration, greeting etc. Sign up information is available in the Bethel Herald. If you experience any difficulties signing up for a session, please reach out to Kay Zastrow at 920-660-3936. Please plan to help with one of the packing sessions.

FMSC Mobile Pack: "Grover's" are needed for the Mobile Pack. These are greeters as folk arrive, that then Rove the packing room to assist the packers as needed, during the pack. There are several openings that folks can sign up on the website in empty slots.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Will be November 2. **We need at least 20** people signed up by October in order for the blood drive to be held here. Please sign up in the hallway as soon as you can!

Gift Cards: Pastor Kim will never send a text asking for gift cards.

New Directory: Pastor Kim will take pictures after worship for our New Directory

Please Contact the Office: For announcements to be included in the newsletter.

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