

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of 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 these people on me? Did I conceive all these 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 these people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all these 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!"

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 19:7-14 *Caeli enarrant*

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *

the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? * cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- 13 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.**
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

The Second Lesson: A Reading from the Mystic Treatises, St. Isaac the Syrian

Isaac the Syrian (613-700), also remembered as Saint Isaac the Syrian, Isaac of Nineveh, Abba Isaac, Isaac Syrus and Isaac of Qatar, was a 7th-century Syriac Christian bishop and theologian best remembered for his written works on Christian asceticism.

What is a charitable heart? It is a heart burning with love for the whole of creation, for humans, for the birds, for the beasts, for the demons—for all creatures. One who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without having eyes being filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes the heart; a heart which is softened and can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted on any creature. That is why such a person never ceases to pray also for the animals, that they may be preserved and purified. This person will even pray for the reptiles, moved by the infinite pity which reigns in the hearts of those who are becoming united with God.

Silence

Sequence Hymn *Turn to the Living God* [We will sing twice.] **Insert**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ According to Mark [9:38-50]

Response: 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. **Response: Praise to you Lord Christ**

The Sermon

Sermon Hymn *‘Tis the gift to be simple*

The Rev. Judith Lee
Blue Hymnal #554

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, that we may turn our hearts to follow the Way of Love in all that we do.

Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who places in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying,

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For all who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need [especially those we now name, silently or aloud] *Pause* and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that we all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills, that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray:

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet, especially those we now name silently or aloud, *Pause* we pray in thanksgiving,

Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

Concluding Collect

Loving God, who hears every voice, knows each cry of injustice, and is attentive to the suffering of the earth: Bring healing to our lives that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may listen to the world you have created and not close ourselves off from it. Amen

Prayer for Indigenous Lands Acknowledgement

Holy God, we acknowledge the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Nipmuc people upon which we are worshipping, praying and visiting today. We give thanks for those who have come before us, honoring all North America's Native people who have been living and working on these lands from time immemorial. We recognize that colonialism and the oppression of Native people is a current and ongoing process, and we commit to building awareness of our participation in these injustices. In our words and actions, may we demonstrate our gratitude for the care and sharing of this land. Amen

Prayer for the Parish

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Partnership between Holy Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran:

O God, we ask for your blessing to guide us in building and rejoicing in our partnership. Strengthen the bonds of faith and fellowship between our people and give us the grace to fulfill your purpose. Amen.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage

to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen

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

The Peace

“God Moments”

Announcements

Offertory Anthem

Turn to the Living God

Presentation Hymn

Blue Hymnal #380 v. 3

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

The Holy Communion

God is with us.

God is present here.

Rejoice! Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to the Most High.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One. **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

We do praise you, O God our creator, who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this, mystical, beautiful, earth. From microbes to whales you have created all of us. We a strand in all your creation, including this strange and wonderful home, our earth, the open sky above, the dazzling array of stars and planets, and the unfathomable galaxies beyond us. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty, a land of mountains and meadows, canyons and valleys, deserts and jungles. Over and through this land you have provided oceans teeming with life, streams and rivers, crystal clear lakes, and cascading waterfalls. We share this land with all your creatures, from mosquito to mountain lion, from seal to scorpion. You have formed all of this, this land of such intense wildness and beauty.

Therefore, we praise you, O God, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all peoples and angels throughout the universe as we say with joy:

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.

We bless you and thank you Gracious God for all these gifts, and for weaving us into this world. But instead of caring deeply for this most perfect of creations, the universe beyond our comprehension and this earth in which we live, we have rebelled against it, against ourselves, against You. We have disregarded the interconnected web of life in which we live. Instead of loving it we put ourselves above it, as if it was something we could own. It became something to control rather than a part of us and a part of you. Each time you have called us back, called us to understand that we are not masters of the earth, but instead a part of the earth. You continually remind us that caring for you means caring for your earth and for each other.

Then, Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us. Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world. He showed us the way to grace and freedom, and how to show compassion to each other and the world. Jesus gathered a people as your own and filled us with longing for justice and peace for all of creation. Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example so that we may bring about

Your reign, which He opened for us through his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is a reign where all your creation will be one.

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You and passed the cup among his friends and said: "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me." Therefore, let us pray:

Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.

Now gathered at your table, God of Creation, and remembering what Jesus Christ taught us, we offer to you this bread and this wine, a gift of your creation and work of human hands. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body. Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.

Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.

Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Invitation The Body of Christ for the Body of Christ

Communion Music[Instrumental]:

Post-Communion Hymn *And Peace Begins, Vv.1 & 5*

Insert

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray: *in unison*

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. Give us the grace to transform our lives so that we reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn *Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing*

Blue Hymnal #344

Dismissal

Postlude *Love divine, all loves excelling*

setting by D. Hustad

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Announcements

Today we welcome Christine Gaze, the Senior Director of community impact and diversity, equity, and inclusion at New Hope, Inc. She oversees the prevention education and outreach team; New Hope's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, as well as their fundraising and development initiatives. Christine has been with New Hope for 3 years. Christine considers herself to be a lifelong advocate. Her advocacy work increased greatly when she became a foster parent in her 20s, and that journey led her to the work she is doing today. Aside from her work at New Hope, Christine is the chair of the Southeastern Regional School Committee, representing a school district that has a vocational-technical high school and post-secondary program. She also is the co-chair of her community's special education parent advisory council, which provides support to families who have children living with disabilities.

Next Sunday October 6th: 9:30- 1 pm Intergenerational Mini-Retreat: The Episcopal Church & The Way of Love

The Spiritual practice for October will be **Learn**. We will introduce this practice, and we will learn about what makes the Episcopal Church distinctive: Its liturgy, its sacramental theology, and its governance.

9:30am-10:45am – Gathering in the Parish Hall

11:00am-12:15pm – Instructed Eucharist in the sanctuary

12:15pm-1:00pm – Coffee Hour & discussion in the Parish Hall: Practicing **Learn**

Youth Group Meeting - Next Sunday: 1-3 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran

The Mission Plate for September goes to Navajoland.

Food Pantry for September: Donations will go to The Wales Community Food Pantry

St Luke's Guesthouse needs volunteers to answer phones. Please call Tricia Gay at 774-230-3589 if you are available to give a few hours of time.

Food Share, Inc. welcomes volunteers during their operating hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10-11:15 am

Mark your calendars: The Bishop's Visitation to Holy Trinity will be May 18, 2025

Mark your calendars: Community Thanksgiving Service – Tuesday November 26th @ 7 pm

The Federated Church will host the service this year.