

AS WE GATHER

Not everyone delights in these summer months. While some adore this verdant season of productivity, others lament all of the work mowing, weeding, and picking that goes along with it. But like it or not, this time of growth and harvest is essential for all of life, from the smallest to the largest. So the Old Testament prophet Joel spoke a joy-filled restoration of Creation for a place decimated by a plague of locusts:

Do not be afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Do not be afraid, you animals of the field, for the pastures are green. The trees bear their fruit. Be glad, O children for the Lord has given you rain. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. Joel 2: 21-25

Gathering Song Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place I worship You I worship You
You are here turning lives around I worship You I worship You
You are here working miracles I worship You I worship You

Chorus : You are Way maker, miracle worker
 Promise Keeper, light in the darkness
 My God that is who You are
 Way maker, miracle worker
 Promise Keeper, light in the darkness
 My God that is who You are

You are here touching every heart I worship You I worship You
You are here healing every life I worship You I worship You
You are here turning lives around I worship You I worship You
You are here mending every heart I worship You I worship You **Chorus X2**

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Welcome & Invocation

Opening Song How Great Is Our God

The splendor of the King Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice

Chorus: How great is our God, sing with me
 How great is our God, and all will see
 How great, how great, is our God

Age to age He stands Time is in His hands
Beginning and the end Beginning and the end

The Godhead three in one Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb Lion and the Lamb **(Chorus)**

Name above all names Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing How great is our God

Name above all names Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing How great is our God **(Chorus)**

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Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Silence for self-examination.

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

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Jesus, remind us always that the covenant made so long ago included not only humankind, but also the animals of the field, the birds of the air, and the creatures which creep on the ground. We neglect your creation as if it had no importance when we compare it only to ourselves. Forgive the arrogance of our hearts and lead us in your better way. This we pray in thanks to your Father, by the grace of the Spirit, for they rule this world with you in love. Amen.

People: Amen.

Reader

Kathy Allen

First Reading

Genesis 3:8–15

(God addresses Adam and Eve with the First Promise)

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-25

(Hope in Creation's Renewal)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

(God loves and cares for all of Creation)

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. 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 which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious 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 arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message / Kid's Church

Song of the Day How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, How great thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; **(Chorus)**

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" **(Chorus)**

Sermon

Tough Topic Tackle Box: Caring for Creation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – APOSTLE'S CREED *Explanation of the First Article*

Pastor: Out of His love, our Creating God provides not only for our spiritual needs of faith and forgiveness, but also for all that we need for our physical, emotional, and social well-being. Believing in God the Father as creator of all is the focus of the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, which we confess together:

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Lord of Creation, you have made the universe by your eternal Word and have blessed humankind by giving us care of the Earth; we pray for renewed humility and service in living out our role as stewards of Creation that we may reverently share and conserve its bounty and live in harmony with our fellow creatures, O Giver and Redeemer of Life:

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Pastor: Lord of Creation, your Son, O Father, promised that the Spirit would lead us into all truth; we pray for the place and community in which you have set us, for one another and for ourselves. Bless our president, Congress, governor, legislature, and all who make, administer, and judge our laws, that they lead with wisdom and serve with integrity on behalf of all people, and particularly for the unborn that we may bring forth the harvest of the Spirit in love and joy and peace, O Giver and Redeemer of Life:

People: In your mercy, hear us.

Pastor: Lord of Creation, though you have given us a rich place of dwelling, a land of streams and springs, grain and fruit, oil and honey, we have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow; we pray for those who work the waters and pastures, forests and fields in hardship and joy, that all

may come to share in your harvest of wholeness and plenty. Bless the fruits of the earth and those who tend the fields on our behalf, bless all honest labor and industry, and give inspiration and grace to those who serve us with the arts and music. O Giver and Redeemer of Life:

People: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Pastor: Make us a generous people that we willingly share the resources You have given with those in need and for the support of Your Church and the good work of Your kingdom. O Giver and Redeemer of Life:

People: **In your mercy, hear us.**

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Streets of London

Have you seen the old man in the closed down market
Kicking up the papers with his worn out shoes
In his eyes you see no pride, hand held loosely by his side
Yesterdays paper, telling yesterdays news

Have you seen the old girl who walks the streets of London
Dirt in her hair and her clothes in rags
She's no time for talking, she just keeps right on walking
Carrying her home, in two carrier bags

Chorus: So how can you tell me you're lonely
And say for you that the sun don't shine
Let me take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of London
I'll show you something to make you change your mind

In the all night cafe at a quarter past eleven
Same old man sitting there all on his own
Looking at the world over the rim of his teacup
Each day lasts an hour then he wanders home alone

Have you seen the old man outside the seaman's mission
Memory's fading with those ribbons that he wears
In our winter city, the rain cries little pity
For one more forgotten hero, and a world that doesn't care **(Chorus X2)**

To make you change your mind

Streets of London lyrics © T.R.O. Inc.

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. *[Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]*

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[*1 Cor. 11:26*]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [*Revelation 22:20*]

Lord's Prayer [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

Holy Spirit, Come

Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, dwell
Fill Your church with joy overflowing
And peace overflowing And love overflowing
In all of Your glory come

Holy Spirit, come Holy Spirit, dwell
Fill Your church with joy overflowing
And peace overflowing And love overflowing
In all of Your glory come

Holy Spirit, dwell
Fill Your church with joy overflowing
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In all of Your glory come

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In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my Light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my all in all

Here in the love of Christ I stand
In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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The Stand

You stood before creation
Eternity in Your hand
You spoke the earth into motion
My soul now to stand

You stood before my failure
And carried the cross for my shame
My sin weighed upon Your shoulders
My soul now to stand

So what can I say
And what can I do
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You

I'll stand with arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the one who gave it all
I'll stand my soul Lord to you surrender
All I am is yours

I'll stand with arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the one who gave it all
I'll stand my soul Lord to you surrender
All I am is yours All I am is yours

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Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Announcements

Sending Song Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter; tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Chorus: Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever, I'll love You, forever I'll stand,
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter; tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You. **(Chorus)**

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