**May 7th, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY MAY 7, 2023-THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on May 7th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship May 7th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929098103?pwd=QlJFNUV1Slg3MHhOeGVEalJMdXMvZz09)

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+17789072071,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada,**

**+17806660144,,85929098103#,,,,\*171662# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada**

**+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada**

**+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 859 2909 8103 Passcode: 171662**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kerkltBAqg)

**Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. *(until Sep 10, 2023* *inclusive)*Weekly:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEkdeCopzMrGte4NJLPgspzO44KK1AuQBoH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpzkjGt2dsRmERpwMHYjoXfTxmFxcjbdYyDHPLxBUcRPsGbYWGZkuMc3h**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEkdeCopzMrGte4NJLPgspzO44KK1AuQBoH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpzkjGt2dsRmERpwMHYjoXfTxmFxcjbdYyDHPLxBUcRPsGbYWGZkuMc3h)

**……………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 7, 2023:**

**Here is the YouTube link for the service from last Sunday, April 30th, 2023:**

[**https://youtu.be/yBEytFp5n6c**](https://youtu.be/yBEytFp5n6c)

**……………………….**

**PASTORAL VISITS**: Pastor Laura Sauder is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

**…………………………….**

**Bible Study will be in the Art Room on Mondays at 3:00PM.**

**Please join us – all are welcome!**

1. **…………………………..**

You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter’s, Preston. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.

**1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**

**Send an email to or** **alexblack@sympatico.ca** **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**

**………………………………**

**Greenhorizons BigYellowBag - Give & Grow Program**

This fundraiser is open to all and enables each one of us to raise funds for St. Peters. If you don’t have a lawn or garden, you can still help by spreading the word to your neighbours, friends and relatives.

Each time that an order is placed at Greenhorizons Sod at 519.653.7494 for a **BigYellowBag** of soil using the **code SPLCC23** you will save $5.00, and the church will receive $10.00.

Spread the word, and the soil!​

**……………………………..**

**Bridges VBS 2023 Knights of North Castle** - Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God’s power! Application Forms are located in the narthex or by calling the church office at 519-653-4721. Dates: July 10-14, 2023, 9:00am – 4:00 pm Children who are between the ages of 5 and 11 (as of December 31, 2023). Registration fee of $125/participant (including lunch & snacks) is due upon registration. Please make cheques payable to Bridges VBS (please note child’s name on cheque, post-dated cheques will not be accepted). As this camp is running at cost, tax receipts will not be issued and registration fees are non-refundable. Registration closes June 1st, or when spaces are filled. Location: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church (317 Franklin St. N, Kitchener). We are extremely grateful to St. Luke's for hosting us and can't wait to be in this great space. This week long VBS is run solely by volunteers, both youth and adult. There are many volunteer opportunities that cover a wide range of skill, as well as a variety of time commitments. [bridgesvbs.weebly.com](http://bridgesvbs.weebly.com/)

**…………………………..**

**Yard Sale - Tentative dates are July 7 and 8, 2023.** We’re looking for good, gently used, clean items of all kinds, and clothing. Please – no very large mirrors, no complete dining room suites, no large old television sets. If you’re unsure of whether what you have is suitable or not, leave a message at the church office. So – start your spring clear out and think of St. Peter’s. We’d love to re-purpose your goods and make a new owner happy. Items may be dropped off at church; just let us know when we can meet with you.

**…………………………….**

Community of Faith Gathering

**All ages are welcome to this mid-week**

**plug-in and power-up your faith event.**

**What happens at a “Power-Up” evening?**

**\*Fellowship, \*Fun, \*Faith, \*Food (and Free)**

We will begin the evening with a Bible story told through storytelling, a play, or puppetry, and sing some songs.

We will eat together with food provided by the hosting Church.

We will conclude the evening with crafts and activities.

**When: June 7, 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Where: St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 810 King St. E., Cambridge**

Contact: **Rev. Laura Sauder** (pastor at St. Peter’s) pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org

Or Heather Margerison (children and youth pastor at Trillium) heathermargerisontrillium@gmail.com

1. **…………………………..**

**The Ministry of Vision and Mission is hosting an hour of "meaningful conversation" on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**

We are excited to invite you to join the conversation and gather your thoughts and ideas to further St. Peter's connection and contribution to God's community.

1. **…………………………………**
2. **A special thanks to our guest organist Corrine Dutton who is filling in for Brad today – welcome!**
3. **………………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Guest Organist: Corrine Dutton**

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: Bonnie Berg**

**Prelude:** Fantasiá in G Major *(J.S. Bach)*

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Here at St. Peter's in Cambridge, we acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron, or Neutrals, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee Peoples. Before the arrival of European settlers, these First Peoples had agreements between them represented by wampum belts from which they understood how to use the resources sustainably. One of these wampum belts is called the ‘Dish With One Spoon’ Belt. This wampum agreement represents the abundant land and water in what is now known as the Great Lakes Region with a dish, or bowl. Each tribe was to use the one spoon to remove only those resources they needed to live sustainably and then pass the dish onto others so that the abundance was shared. We are grateful for this example of using our abundance sustainably so that our resources are never depleted but shared equally for the benefit of all and continuing to the next seven generations.

**Gathering Hymn: ELW # 678 ‘God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending’**

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,

 from your rich and endless store:

 nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,

 costly cross, grave's shattered door,

 gifted by you, we turn to you,

 off'ring up ourselves in praise;

 thankful song shall rise forever,

 gracious donor of our days.

2 Skills and time are ours for pressing

 toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

 all at peace in health and freedom,

 races joined, the church made one.

 Now direct our daily labor,

 lest we strive for self alone;

 born with talents, make us servants

 fit to answer at your throne.

3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,

 gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;

 ours to use for home and kindred,

 and to spread the gospel word.

 Open wide our hands in sharing,

 as we heed Christ's ageless call,

 healing, teaching, and reclaiming,

 serving you by loving all.

*(Title: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending; Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006; Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.# 00783; Music: African American spiritual, arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of the Day*:***

Creator God, abundance and goodness have been part of your creation from the beginning. As we worship today, open our hearts and our hands to receive and to share this goodness and abundance that is always all around us. Amen.

**Lesson Introduction *(Pastor Laura)***

**Genesis 1:24-31**

From the first chapter of Genesis we hear part of the first creation story – a story that both Jews and Christians look to, to help us understand who we are and what we are doing here. A story we look to, to understand who God is and how God is in relationship with the world.

One of the things we see about God in this story is that order is important. It’s a story about creating order out of chaos, but also about creating the world in a particular order. God wanted to make sure that everything has the provision it needs before it is created. Even the sun and moon and stars are not created until there is light with which they may shine!

The same is true for the animals and humans, which is the part of the story we will read today. We were created last, not because we are the most important, but because we depend on everything that has come before for our health and wellbeing. Let us listen to the word…

**The Reading: Genesis 1:24-31**

God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.” And that’s what happened. God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

God created humanity in God’s own image,
        in the divine image God created them,
            male and female God created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.” Then God said, “I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food.” And that’s what happened.God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day. *(CEB)*

Word of God, Word of Life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.****\**

**Introduction to the Psalm *(Pastor Laura)***

**Psalm:** **Psalm 104:24-30 (read responsively)**

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

**In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,

**living things both small and great.**

There go the ships to and fro,

**and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.**

All of them look to you

**to give them their food in due season.**

You give it to them; they gather it;

**you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.**

When you hide your face, they are terrified;

**when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;

**and so you renew the face of the earth.\***

**Message for All Ages (Pastor Laura)**

**Gospel Acclamation:** **ELW Setting 4** (page 151)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.\*

**The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:25-34**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

“Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, won’t God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? Therefore, don’t worry and say, ‘What are we going to eat?’ or ‘What are we going to drink?’ or ‘What are we going to wear?’ Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. *(CEB)*

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

**Sermon**

**Abundance in Creation (Matthew 6:25-34)**

I wonder, how many things have you already worried about today? This week? This month? If you haven’t, then either you’re the most chill person around or just really lucky. I would love to know your secret!

The truth is, we worry about a lot of things. And a lot of things we worry about really don’t matter in the long run. Things like, being late or missing an appointment. Letting someone down by saying no. Worrying about whether you’ll ever be able to get through all the items on your to-do list. A lot of the things that cause us to worry are not the end of the world kind of things, even when they may feel like it in the moment.

But then there are things that do really matter. Things like, is my paycheque or pension cheque or benefit cheque going to cover all my expenses this month, as the cost of everything continues to go up. Or things like imminent natural disasters or extreme weather events, like those wildfires that are raging in Alberta right now – where tens of thousands of people have had to evacuate their homes and communities. These are things that are hard not to worry about. And in fact, worrying is sometimes the appropriate response when it’s a life or death kind of situation.

But then we hear Jesus say this: “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you’ll eat or what you’ll drink, or about your body, what you’ll wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothes?” For those of us in a place of worry, especially legitimate worries about providing for our basic needs, Jesus’ words might feel harsh. Or at the very least unhelpful. Whether or not it’s true, telling someone to stop worrying, has never actually helped someone stop worrying. Thankfully, Jesus doesn’t just say “don’t worry” and leave it at that. Jesus goes on to offer an invitation that when we follow it, just may lead to less worry.

Now it’s important at this point to note that this teaching about worrying is part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. So we need to imagine everyone sitting on a hillside as Jesus teaches. And when Jesus says look at the birds and notice the lilies, we can imagine that Jesus is pointing at actual birds flying overhead, and lilies in the fields below. And as he does this, he is drawing everyone’s attention from here (point to self) to out there. There is this movement in Jesus’ teaching, drawing our gaze away from ourselves.

Jesus is saying, ‘don’t keep focusing on yourself, look at the world around you.’ For when you do that, you can see that God has already taken care of everything you need. And if God cares so much about the birds and the flowers, imagine how much more God cares for you.

The other reason it’s important to remember that this teaching about worry comes from the Sermon on the Mount is that this means these words are spoken to a community – not to individuals.

When we all follow that movement, of turning our focus, our gaze, away from ourselves and out into the world; when everyone does this, automatically there is less need for worry, because we’re all thinking of each other, and not just about ourselves. When we’re all looking up and out at each other, everyone’s needs are seen and we can take care of each other.

How do we practice that outward gaze Jesus invites us into? It’s not easy to do in a world where resources are not shared fairly. It’s not easy to do in a world where so many others are already not doing the same; where there is hoarding of wealth and resources; where so many others are only thinking of themselves. And, even so, we are called to trust that God will protect us and provide for us. And in this community of faith, we get chances to practice this. Like with our community garden – our Jesus garden.

Food insecurity is a huge problem in our world these days – including here in Waterloo region. It was a problem before COVID, and it’s only got that much worse in the last three years with the high rate of inflation. Now one community garden is not going to solve an entire community’s food insecurity problem. But it’s a contribution; and it’s one small way for us to practice that movement of lifting our gaze up and out to our neighbours. It’s one small way to practice sharing from God’s abundance in creation.

And not just the abundance that will come from our Jesus Garden, here at St Peter’s, but from the seeds we will plant at our own homes. Some of you brought your own seeds – and we have seeds here that are for you to take. We want you to plant these seeds, and when they grow into plants and start producing veggies; if they produce more than you need, take that abundance and share it with your neighbours. Or bring your extra here to church on Sunday morning. These are the small, but significant ways, we live out our faith. Our trust that God has provided enough, in fact – more than enough, to meet our needs and the needs of one another.

It’s true, as Jesus says, that each day has enough trouble of its own. And so, as a community, we will plant seeds – both literal seeds, and seeds of love and compassion and care. Because in planting these seeds and watching them grow, we will find our gaze continually drawn up and out to the goodness of God in all of creation. AMEN

**Hymn of the Day: ACS # 1000 ‘God’s Work, Our Hands’**

1 God's work, our hands: working together,

 building a future, repairing the world,

 raising up homes, planting new gardens,

 feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.

 Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,

 sharing the good news of your gospel.

2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,

 following Jesus to places unknown,

 walking as friends, marching for freedom,

 running the race with God's future the goal.

 Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,

 sharing the good news of your gospel.

3 God's work, our voice: singing together,

 praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,

 praying for peace, shouting for justice,

 claiming God's love for the lost and the least.

 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,

 sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:

 seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!

 Washed and set free, humbled and honored,

 gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.

 Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,

 sharing the good news of your gospel.

*(Title: God's Work, Our Hands; Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954; Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved, Used by permission. Music:* David N. Johnson, 1922-1987; *© 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress; All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: It is God who provides the seeds, and sends the rain and the sun to help them grow, and so we turn to God, the Creator, in prayer for the whole of creation.

We pray for the Church. May we continue to plant the seeds of faith and justice in the world today. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. May the seed of peace take root in every nation, and may true peace grow on the face of the earth. In honour of Red Dress Day on May 5, we pray for all missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Grant healing and bring justice and right relationship to all who inhabit this land. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. May the seeds of our money, time, and love help those who are hungry, those in need of shelter and clothing, and all in need of special care. We pray today especially for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Lena, Brian, John, Anne, Pastor Neil, Robin, Lee, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts….. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for farmers, gardeners, and agricultural workers. May the seeds they plant this spring grow and produce much food. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, creator God, we place these prayers, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made. Amen.

**Blessing of the Seeds**

I invite us now to join our prayers in blessing for these seeds. If you have seeds with you, I invite you to hold them in your hands or even close to your heart. If you do not have seeds, I invite you to raise a hand as a gesture of blessings for all the seeds in our midst. Let us pray,

God our Creator, you have given us many gifts in creation and you have asked us to care for them all. We ask your blessing on these seeds as we go forth to plant this spring.

I invite you, in this space, to offer a silent prayer asking God to bless the seeds.

As we care for them, help us remember to also care for those in need so that your love and goodness may grow in our hearts and in the hearts of all we meet.

I invite you, in this space, to offer a silent prayer asking God to bless our neighbors who will eat the food we grow here.

Generous God, bless our labour with rain and sunshine, that new life might spring up, to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens of calm in our chaotic world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, through whom all things were made. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession & Blessing of the seeds adapted from: “Garden Blessing – New Life”* [*www.wildchurchnetwork.com*](http://www.wildchurchnetwork.com)

**Share the peace of Christ:**

Angels said it to startled shepherds,

Jesus said it to frightened followers,

And now these words which come from heaven

are shared to make us whole and make us one.

Peace be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

*(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

Out of God’s abundance, we are called to share, as we are able,

for the work of our common ministry.

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 465 ‘As the Grains of Wheat’**

***Refrain***

 ***As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill***

 ***were gathered into one to become our bread;***

 ***so may all your people from all the ends of earth***

 ***be gathered into one in you.***

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

 may we share the presence of your love. ***Refrain***

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

 when all creation shares this feast with you. ***Refrain***

*(Title: As the Grains of Wheat; Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
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**Offering Prayer:**

A: Sower of all life, in this joyous spring season of hope and beauty, we offer our heartfelt thanks for the seeds of promise you have sown in the soil of our lives. Bless our gifts to the service of your people, that all may know abundance and joy. Amen.

*Source: Theme:* ***Growing in God!*** *Blessing of Garden tools, seeds and gardeners.* [*https://worshipwords.co.uk/blessing-of-gardens-gardeners-earth-day-celebration-ana-tod-gobledale-uk/*](https://worshipwords.co.uk/blessing-of-gardens-gardeners-earth-day-celebration-ana-tod-gobledale-uk/) *Accessed May 3, 2023.*

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

1. **Great Thanksgiving: ELW Setting 4: ‘Dialogue…’ *(page 152)***

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

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Preface…’ *(Easter)***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 153)***

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow’r and might:

Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he died,

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 into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

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 forever.

**Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion:**

At Christ’s Table, there is enough for everyone. So let us be fed by God’s goodness and love.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW # 733 ‘Great Is Thy Faithfulness’**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

 there is no shadow of turning with thee;

 thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;

 as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

***Refrain***

 ***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

 ***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

 ***all I have needed thy hand hath provided;***

 ***great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

 join with all nature in manifold witness

 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain***

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Refrain***

*(Title: Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960; © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission*. *Music: WilliamM. Runyan, 1870-1957; © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission*. *Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

Nurturing God, you are the vine and we are the branches.
You have reached out to us and fed us with your word and meal,
and watered us with the love of community.
Use us to spread the seeds of your love and the pollen of peace

that they may produce an abundant crop throughout the world.

Amen.

*Source: Theme:* ***Growing in God!*** *Blessing of Garden tools, seeds and gardeners.* [*https://worshipwords.co.uk/blessing-of-gardens-gardeners-earth-day-celebration-ana-tod-gobledale-uk/*](https://worshipwords.co.uk/blessing-of-gardens-gardeners-earth-day-celebration-ana-tod-gobledale-uk/) *Accessed May 3, 2023.*

**Blessing:**

The God of all,

who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit

to live in the new creation. Amen.\*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 881 ‘Let All Things Now Living’**

1 Let all things now living

 a song of thanksgiving

 to God the creator triumphantly raise,

 who fashioned and made us,

 protected and stayed us,

 who still guides us on to the end of our days.

 God's banners are o'er us,

 God's light goes before us,

 a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,

 till shadows have vanished

 and darkness is banished,

 as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:

 the stars in their courses

 and sun in its orbit obediently shine;

 the hills and the mountains,

 the rivers and fountains,

 the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.

 We too should be voicing

 our love and rejoicing;

 with glad adoration a song let us raise

 till all things now living

 unite in thanksgiving:

 "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

*(Title: Let All Things Now Living; Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt., Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company, All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Welsh folk tune. Arr. © 1978 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Trust in the abundance of God.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

**Prayer at the Jesus Garden**

“Creator God,
in the beginning you planted a garden, and filled it with animals, birds, insects,
and seed-bearing plants. In the garden you first met us, your creatures.
In the garden Jesus agonized over the path of suffering love,
in the garden he rose to make all creation new.
And so we pray for this growing place - our St Peter’s Jesus Garden.

We give thanks and pray for bees, the butterflies, and all the pollinators whose labour joins with ours in producing an abundant harvest.

We give thanks and pray for the Speed River, the Grand River, and all the waters of the Lake Erie watershed that sustain and nourish our crops and gardens.

We give thanks and pray for all those who will labour in this garden this season.
May this Jesus Garden be a place not only of fertile soil, abundant food, and joyful labor,
but also a place of learning to tend and keep, bearing the fruit of healing and hope.
Creator God, we ask you to shower down your blessings on this garden.

Amen.”

Adapted from: <https://buildfaith.org/blessing-the-fields-liturgy/>

**Postlude:** ‘Prelude in G Minor’*(Pierné)*

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