



## Week 3: Climate and Economy September 21, 2025

### WELCOME

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

### COMMUNITY LIFE

As we join congregations across Canada in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign this month, we're reflecting on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad in central Africa, at the frontlines of climate change.

With matching grants, every \$50 raised can restore 1 acre of land around Lake Chad. Our Good Shepherd goal to restore 50 acres of land around Lake Chad, so our target is to raise \$2500 before the end of the year. Every dollar helps! Special gifts toward Friends of Creation can be designated through your offering envelopes and etransfers. Gifts can also be given directly to our special fundraising page with CLWR.

This coming **Saturday, September 27, at 3:00 pm** everyone is invited to come to the church to join the **livestreamed Installation Service of Rev Dr Larry Kochendorfer as our ELCIC National Bishop**. We will be gathering here in the sanctuary at 3 pm, with communion, followed by a light lunch and time for visiting. Tina will also be sending out the link for those who want to join the livestream from home.

**Painting with Bob** – Robert S is offering a painting class on **Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm**. Everyone is welcome.

## INTRODUCTION

This week, we reflect on Climate + Economy – how climate change is unraveling traditional livelihoods around Lake Chad. With our help Canadians, CLWR is supporting training, small businesses, and women's cooperatives to rebuild local economies.

We're going to begin today with a message from Bishop Susan that brings us a little closer to the people of Chad and the ways they are working together to create change.

Our gospel today reveals that Jesus came to bring life to all people. His ministry was not contained within the walls of any church or community; he showed mercy to all people in need. And as followers of Christ, we are invited in to God's expansive mercy and to God's acts of love for the world.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds on the God who created the earth and all that dwell within it.

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,  
the name of +Christ, the pulse of life,  
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

*Silence*

**"Let Us Enter In" ACSg85 v 1 solo, v 2-3 all**



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.  
 2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.  
 3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.  
 Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.  
 Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.  
 Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.  
 Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.  
 Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.  
 sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

**Psalm 113: 1-8a**

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
 praise the name of the LORD.

**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
 from this time forth forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down  
 let the name of the LORD be praised.

**The LORD is high above all nations;  
 God's glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the LORD our God,  
 who sits enthroned on high,  
**but stoops to behold  
 the heavens and the earth?**

The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,  
**enthroning them with the rulers,**  
**with the rulers of the people. Hallelujah!**

**"Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's Servants" ELW 844**



1 Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's  
2 There is none like our God in the heav'ns or on



ser-vants. Bless-ed be the name of our God  
earth, who lifts the poor from the dust, seat-ing them



now and ev - er. From the ris - ing of the sun,  
with the might-y, who stoops to raise the weak and low:

*Refrain*



may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!

**GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

It is our delight to pray. Gracious God, you entrust us with goods that are not our own, so that we may use them in your service and in love for our neighbour. Help us to see you in the faces of others. Help us to reach out to those we encounter that need hope, encouragement, love, peace and the gifts you have given us to share. All these things we pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

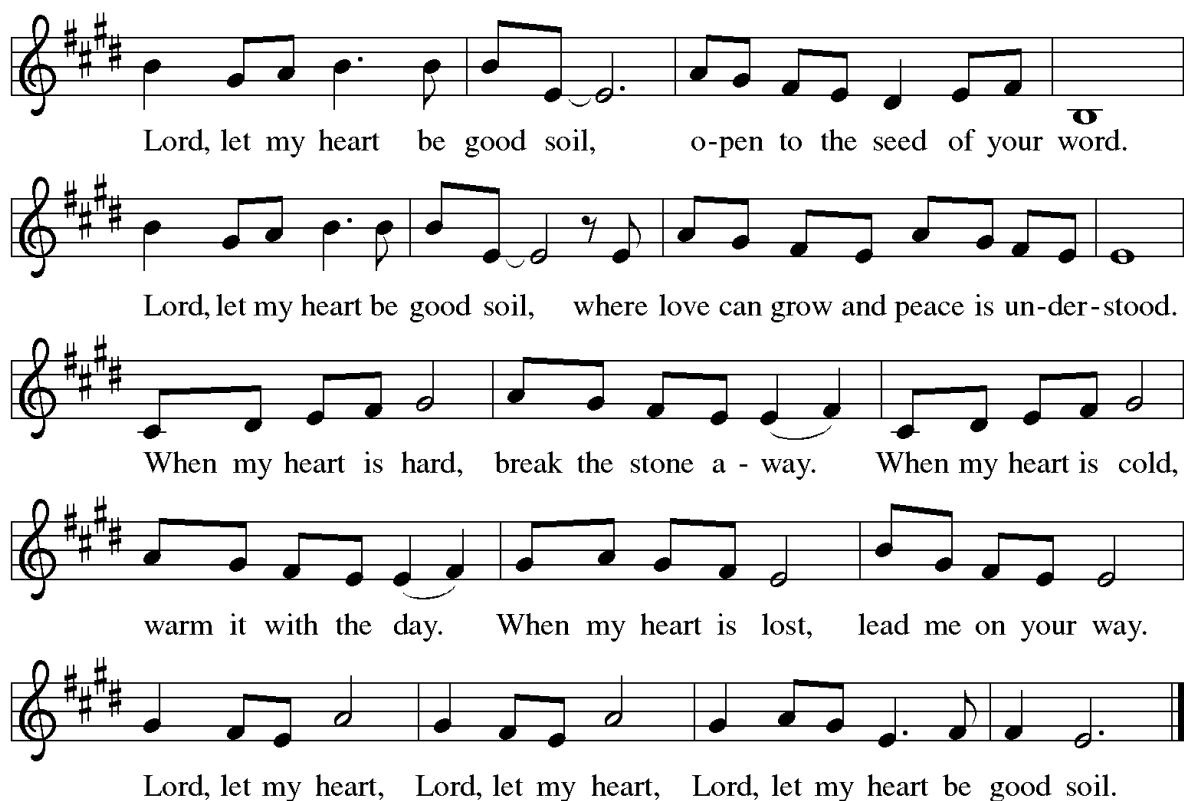
### READING: Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL VERSE "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW<sub>512</sub>



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-40**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY "When the Poor Ones" ELW 725 – v 1 solo, v 2-4 all



1 *Cuan-do* *el* *po-bre* *na-da* *tie-ne* *y aún* *re-par-te*,  
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



*cuan-do* *al-guien* *pa-sa* *sed* *y a-gua* *nos da*,  
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



*cuan-do* *el* *dé-bil* *a su her-ma-no* *for-ta-le-ce*:  
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;  
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:  
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:  
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

*Refrain / Estribillo*



*Va Dios* *mis-mo* *en nues-tro* *mis-mo* *ca-mi-nar*;  
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



*va Dios* *mis-mo* *en nues-tro* *mis-mo* *ca-mi-nar*.  
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (SOC 2020 Australia)**

<https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgy-river-sunday-1.pdf>

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that God creates all things,  
renews all things, and celebrates all things**

**We believe Earth is a sanctuary,  
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,  
a home for us to share with our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood,  
became one in and with creation,  
a human being called Jesus Christ,  
who lived and breathed and spoke among us,  
suffered and died on a cross for all human beings and for all creation.**

**We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation,  
reconciling all things to God,  
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit renews life in creation,  
groans in empathy with a suffering creation  
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.**

**We believe in the church and, as created beings,  
In the communion we share in kinship with all creation.**

**We believe that with Christ we will rise  
and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God, our Loving Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep gratitude and our concern for all in need, including all of our companions who share this Earth. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, all that we have is yours. Teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy. Strengthen those who preach and teach, that they may proclaim with clarity that truth and wealth is found in Christ. We lift up to you Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer as he will be ordained. Give he and Cathy a sure sense of your peace and blessing as they begin this new calling. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Holy One, we know that you created all things good. We pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts. Restore the land where it is tired and may our stewardship of creation be marked by justice and sustainability. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized, and grant integrity to those who handle budgets. Sustain those who work in public service and in the stewardship of resources. We pray too for those who work with CLWR and other ministries who seek to provide help and resources in your name. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Holy One, giver of compassion, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones especially Myrtle, Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather, Alan and those we name silently now. Comfort them by your Spirit, work healing according to your will, and surround them with people who offer care and companionship. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Holy One, turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregation that fed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced and work for your economic justice. Bless the Ecumenical Campus Ministry, and be near to Mildred Cox and Ruby Coyle. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans in your loving care. May every financial decision, every work relationship, and every project reflect your love and justice. Help us to plan wisely, to give joyfully, and to support ministries that proclaim your gospel. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Holy One, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. As pilgrims in this world, give us grateful hearts, generous hands, and eyes fixed on the eternal inheritance you have promised in Christ. Creating God, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our spoken and silent prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

## **BLESSING**

The blessing of Creator God,  
the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN "Christ be our Light" ELW 715 v 1, 3, 5

Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the  
 truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants  
 your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
 church gath - ered to - day.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve Christ, care for the Earth.  
 Thanks be to God! We will!

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#### **LITURGY AND SERMON NOTES**

Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Friends of Creation Resources  
<https://www.clwr.org/foc-resources>

#### **BACKGROUND PHOTO**

Oldman River, Lethbridge – photo by Darcy Calkins

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