



Messiah Lutheran Church

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026 8:30 am

Today we join two streams of worship: our fall stewardship theme **Together for Good** and the commemoration of Francis of Assisi (October 4) through a Creation Service of Lessons & Carols. This weekend's specific stewardship focus is **Fruitfulness – What God Grows Through Us**. Using the Creation Service of Lessons and Carols helps us see that God's fruitfulness is woven into creation itself. As God tends the earth, God tends us. As creation bears fruit, so do we — in generosity, justice, compassion, and service.

We worship today with gratitude for the God who creates, sustains, and grows life in us and in the world.

Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion. We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention—all are welcome!

The presiding minister will read the sections in plain, you are invited to read the bold sections.

Prelude

Ameriikan Poijat - instrumental- Ballade/Johanssen

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk - Fruitfulness - What God Grows Through Us, Together for Good

Gathering Hymn #1064 "Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom" vs. 1 and 2



- 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 - raffé.
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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Opening Dialogue

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

And also with you.

Let us bless God, who created heaven and earth.

Our Creator's name be praised.

God blessed them, and God said to them,

"Be fruitful and multiply

and fill the earth and subdue it

and have dominion over the fish of the sea

and over the birds of the air

and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Hymn

#740 "God of the Sparrow" vs 1, 3 and 6



1	God of the spar - row	God of the whale	God of the swirl - ing
2	God of the earth - quake	God of the storm	God of the trum - pet
3	God of the rain - bow	God of the cross	God of the emp - ty
4	God of the hun - gry	God of the sick	God of the prod - i -



stars	How does the crea - ture say	Awe
blast	How does the crea - ture cry	Woe
grave	How does the crea - ture say	Grace
gal	How does the crea - ture say	Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
How does the crea - ture cry Save
How does the crea - ture say Thanks
How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
Music: ROEDER, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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Prayer

Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory. **Amen.**

Dialogue

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you,
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.

Hymn

#689 "Praise and Thanksgiving" vs 1 and 2



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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Prayer

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labor in the fields. Grant an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Dialogue

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;

**with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,

and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Hymn

“God, You Made Your Good Creation (Carol Winfrey Gillette)

1. God, you made your good cre - a - tion and you hold it in your care— From each
2. Yet, O God, the earth is cry - ing, times are chang - ing, storms are strong. Now the
3. God, you love this world we live in, so you sent your on - ly Son. “Here on

star - ry con - stel - la - tion to each for - est un - der - layer. Ti - ny
co - ral reefs are dy - ing, floods are rag - ing, droughts are long. Though the
earth as in your heav - en,” God, we pray, “Your will be done.” By your

crea - tures, moun - tain splen - dor, riv - ers, lakes and o - cean floors— You are
cir - cum - stan - ces dif - fer, when the earth is in di - stress, See! The
Spi - rit, may we lis - ten to the earth and to the poor; May we

lov - ing, kind and ten - der in your care for what is yours.
poor are first to suf - fer from our greed and sel - fish - ness.
care for all you’ve gi - ven till cre - a - tion is re - stored.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com
Harmonization © 2017 by Christopher Gage.

Prayer

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

1 I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
6 I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80:7-15

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

**10 The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

**12 Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**14 Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

15 behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?

43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Dialogue

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life,
**bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and
of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.**

On either side of the river is the tree of life
with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month,
**and the leaves of the tree
are for the healing of the nations.**

Offering & Special Music Ameriikan Poojat - instrumental Memories of Longing/Atso Almila

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

Most high, most powerful, good Lord,
Praise, glory, honor and blessing are yours. . . .
 Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
Especially to my reverent Brother Sun . . .
 Beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great;
singing of your significance.
 Praised be my Lord, for Sister Moon and for the stars . . .
Praised be my Lord for Brother Wind . . .
 Praised be my Lord for Sister Water . . .
Praised be my Lord for Brother Fire . . .
 Praised be my Lord for our sister, Mother Earth,
Praised be my Lord for those who forgive others
for your sake . . .
 Praised be my Lord for our sister, Death . . .
Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 In the night in which he was betrayed...

#835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" vs 1 only



- 9



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

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.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Holy Communion

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

When an usher invites you, come forward.

At either station, receive **bread** and **dip it into the wine** (intinction); Or, if you prefer the **common cup**, receive bread at either station, eat it, and then step to the minister between the stations to drink from the shared cup;

Gluten-free wafers and separate wine or grape juice are available; If you prefer a **blessing**, come forward with your arms crossed. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

Communion Music

Ameriikan Poijat - instrumental Reppurin Laulu- Oskari Merikanto

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

You have fed us with the fruit of your earth and the grace of your table. Send us out to bear fruit in the world you love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

#835 "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" **verses 2-6**
(see pages 9 & 10)

Prayer

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, overthrow their schemes. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Preserve the health of your beloved creation. Strengthen those who serve and protect the garden of this earth. Grow in us the fruit of your Spirit, that our lives may join your healing work for the world you love. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus our redeemer. **Amen.**

Closing Dialogue

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May we go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Ameriikan Poijat - instrumental Preludium- Armas Järnefeldt

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the Narthex.



All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette Michigan
906.225.1119 — www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

Preacher:	Dave Horn
Assisting Minister:	Marina Shinkarenko
Reader:	Mary Lou Blomquist
Ushers:	Sam Elder, Bruce Robertson
Communion Assistant:	Dave Blomquist, Al Edgar, Beth Krznarich, Judy Quirk
Greeters:	Al & Gail Edgar
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Audio Technician:	Dan Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini
Nursery:	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Lois Raikko
Refreshments:	Diane Adams

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