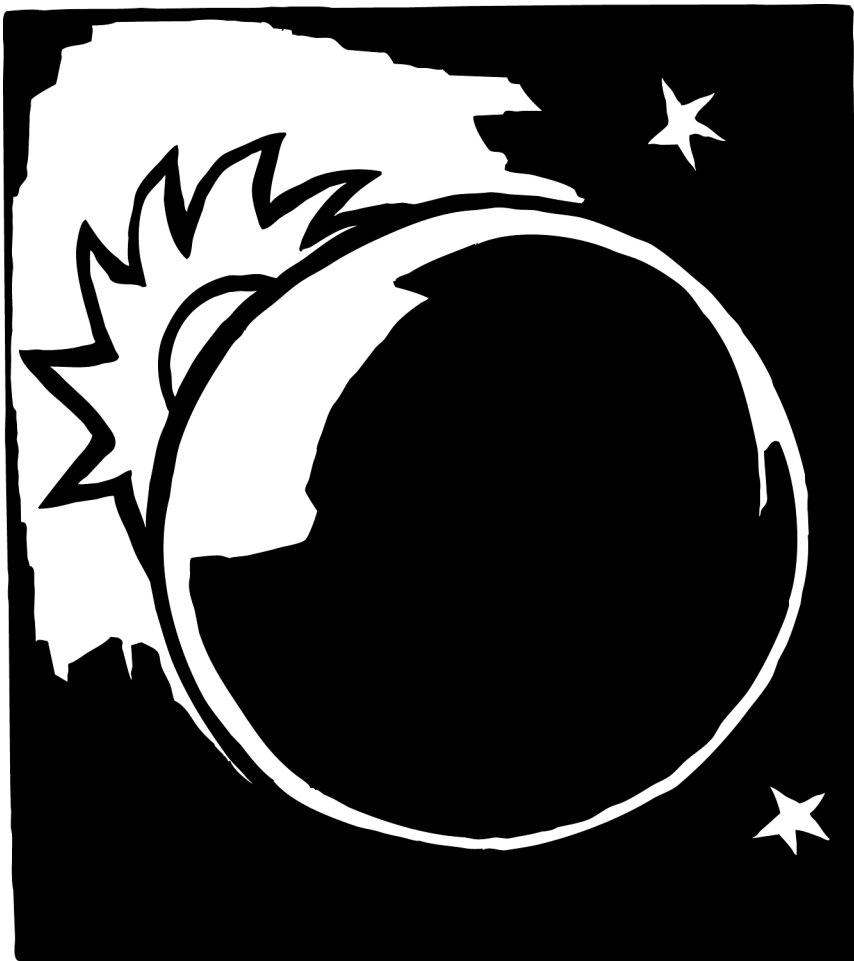




Creation in Christ Sunday

September 6, 2026

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • stpaulreading.org

Creation in Christ Sunday: September 6, 2026

Prelude

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: **Amen.**

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

Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: **we confess that we have failed to uphold your vision for creation, and your intentions for us as its caretakers. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.**

P: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of + Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

Litany and Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C: **We praise you, O God.**

P: For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God:

C: **We bless you, O God.**

P: For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God:

C: **We exalt you, O God.**

P: For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God:

C: **We magnify you, O God.**

P: For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God:

C: We extol you, O God.

P: For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:

C: We glorify you, O God.

P: For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God:

C: We adore you, O God.

P: For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God:

C: We worship you, O God.

P: Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

P: We praise you, O God, for this font, for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ, bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit. We praise you, O God, for baptism.

C: We praise you, O God, for baptism.

P: O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth. O God, you are the River, saving us from death. O God, you are the Fountain, granting

us health and well-being. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn #561 (green hymnal)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

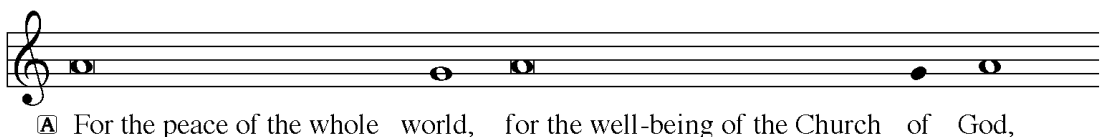
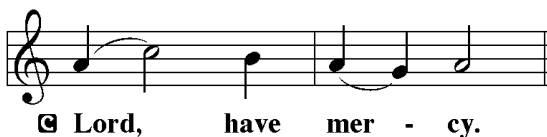
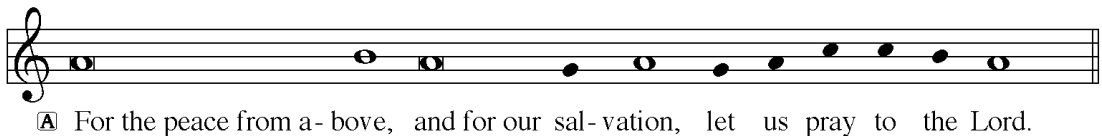
Greeting

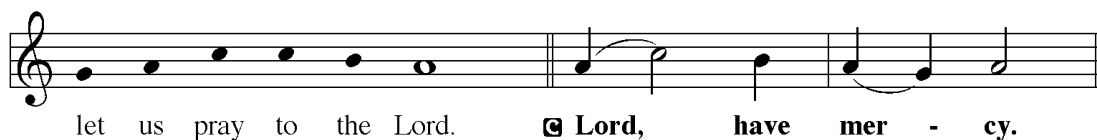
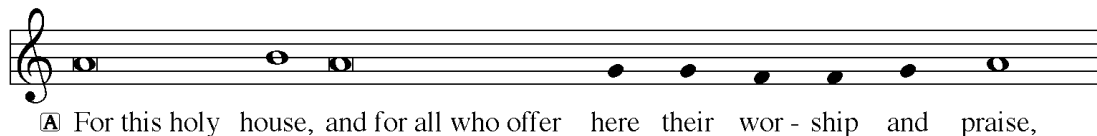
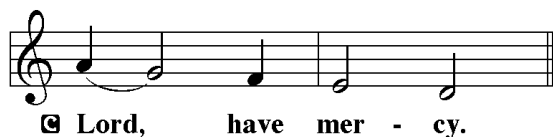
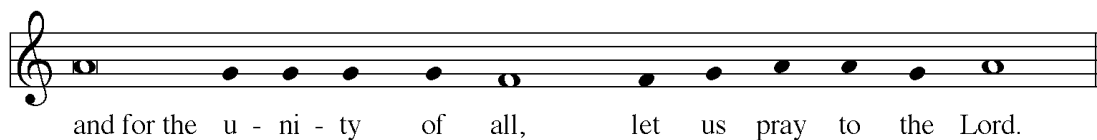
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

LBW Setting 2





Hymn of Praise

LBW Setting 2





Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir- it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

Prayer of the Day



☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe.

We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray.

God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon Pat as she reads to us the scriptures. May the words of her mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

¹When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and sepa-

rated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the

earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ 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.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.” ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed

the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Hymn #527 (green hymnal) vv. 1-4, 7

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Second Reading: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

LBW Setting 2

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 1:1-5

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Hymn #767 (blue hymnal) vv. 1-2

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Children's Sermon

Children's Hymn #767 (blue hymnal) vv. 3-4

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #551 (green hymnal)

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Please stand as you are able.

The Nicene Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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 Intercession

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: Let us praise the Lord with sun, moon, stars, and all creation by giving our offering. (Ps. 148)

Offertory: Hymn #760 (blue hymnal) vv. 1-2

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Meal

Dialogue and Preface

LBW Setting 2

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: 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, through your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by

whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, with the heavenly beings and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

LBW Setting 2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Great Thanksgiving

P: O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light.

Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth. On the night in which he was betrayed, 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 around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the

earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

P: Amen, and Amen.

C: Amen, and Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

LBW Setting 2



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymn #518 (green hymnal)

“Beautiful Savior”

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

LBW Setting 2



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

P: Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #557 (green hymnal)

"Let All Things Now Living"

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director ***away*

Kate Wollenburg, Organist ***away*

Carolyn Koehl, Guest Organist

David Hill, Hymn Leader

Edward Bardes, Assisting Minister

Pat Coldiron, Reader

Chet Laine, Livestreamer

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 6:

Creation in Christ

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Evangelism Committee

Sunday, September 13: 16 Pentecost

11 am ELCA Joint Worship & Picnic at

Sharon Woods (Pavilion Grove Shelter House)

Tuesday, September 8

11 am Bible Study

Tuesday, September 15

11 am Bible Study

Copyright Notices

All Creatures of Our God and King: Text © G. Schirmer, Inc.

For the Fruit of All Creation: Text by Fred Pratt Green © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Let All Things Now Living: Text © 1939 ECS Music Co. Used by permission. Arr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music and liturgy used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726103, CCLI Licenses #21045423 and #21045416, and Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS010308. All rights reserved.