Sunday, September 03, 2023

### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church exists on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron / Neutral People. We honour the original ancestors of this land and also offer respect to our Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Mississauga and Métis neighbours. We give thanks for the First Peoples and all who have cared for the land and made it possible for us to dwell and do ministry on this land.

## **INTROIT** (Psalm 19:1-4)

Low voices:	The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
High voices:	Day after day they pour forth speech;
All:	night after night they reveal knowledge. Listen to creation declare the glory of God, listen to God's Word in scripture.
Low voices:	They have no speech; they use no words; they are not heard.
High voices:	Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
All:	Listen to creation declare the glory of God, listen to God's Word in scripture.

# GATHERING HYMN In Sacred Manner May We Walk

- In sacred manner may we walk upon the fair and loving earth, in beauty move, in beauty love the living round that brought us birth. We stand on holy ground. We stand on holy ground.
- 2. In sacred manner may we see the luminous and loving stars, with wonder and with awe behold their ever-new creative powers. The heavens show us God. The heavens show us God.
- In sacred manner may we touch the suspirant and loving green, give honor and give gratitude for shade, for bloom, for gift unseen. The trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
- In sacred manner may we hear the pounding waves, the searing fire, the rushing wind, the singing night, the forest hymn, the loving choir. The morning stars shall sing. The morning stars shall sing.
- 5. In sacred manner may we live among the wise and loving ones, sit humbly, as at sages' feet, by four-legged, finned, and feathered ones. The animals will teach. The animals will teach.

 In sacred manner may we walk upon the fair and loving earth, in beauty move, in beauty love the living round that brought us birth. We stand on holy ground. We stand on holy ground.

## GREETING

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

#### Almighty God,

to you all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**



# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the mysteries of the forest. Help us empathize with the suffering of your forest creatures. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the forest and all the creatures of the forest. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. **Amen**.

# FIRST READING: Genesis 2:4a-22

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— <sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

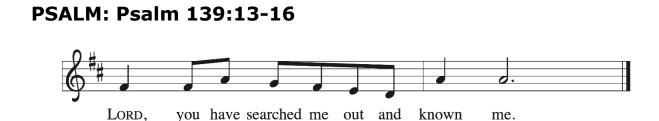
<sup>10</sup> A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; <sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' <sup>19</sup>So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God!



<sup>13</sup>For you yourself created my | inmost parts;

you knit me together in my I mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made; your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.

<sup>15</sup>My body was not hid- I den from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths I of the earth.

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written | in your book;

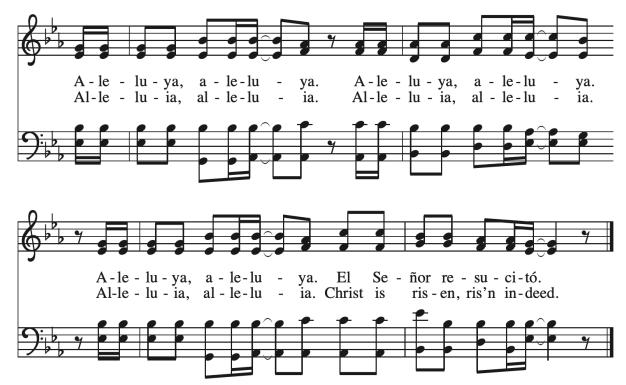
my days were fashioned before they | came to be. R

# **SECOND READING: Acts 17:22-28**

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>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, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>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."

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God!



# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

# GOSPEL: John 3:1-16

# The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>3</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

The gospel of Christ. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom



#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

This is Christ's commandment: to love one another as he loved us. With contrite spirits and respect for all humanity, let us pray to God that we may learn to care for not only our brothers and sisters, but for all God's creation shown forth in the wonder of nature that maintains our common life.

Have compassion on all who suffer from trials and pain, especially the victims of natural disasters caused by our own greed and negligence. Grant them their needed relief and the help of us and all your children in their current struggles. Gracious God,

#### inspire us to love your whole creation.

Kindle the hearts of the leaders in your Church. Reveal in them the example of your Christ, who revered and cared for the fullness of your creation. We pray today for the theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land. Gracious God,

## inspire us to love your whole creation.

Inspire all civil authorities to dedicate their resources and efforts to the building of a better world for all your people. May they govern with respect and balance toward nature through policies that seek to slow and reverse the environmental emergency that surrounds us and threatens many throughout the world. Gracious God,

# inspire us to love your whole creation.

Have mercy on your children suffering from sickness of body, mind, or spirit. Grant to all who suffer healing and comfort from their afflictions. Equip us to serve all who are sick as we would serve Christ. We pray today especially for: Barbara, Anna-Liisa, Bud, Ruth, Susan, Bill, Isa, Benito, Dale, Barrie and Stella, Irene and Kelly, John and Julianna, Deborah and Ron, and those we remember before you in our hearts... Gracious God,

# inspire us to love your whole creation.

Bring to your glorious presence all those faithful who have departed this world with faith in Jesus Christ. Grant them eternal rest in the company of all your saints. Gracious God, **inspire us to love your whole creation**.

Receive the prayers we now offer you as a sign of our immense gratitude for the many blessings you have given us, and above all for the life in nature that continues to flourish despite our thoughtlessness. Grant that we may return your love in acts of charity and compassion toward the world that you created together with all of its creatures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting us to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

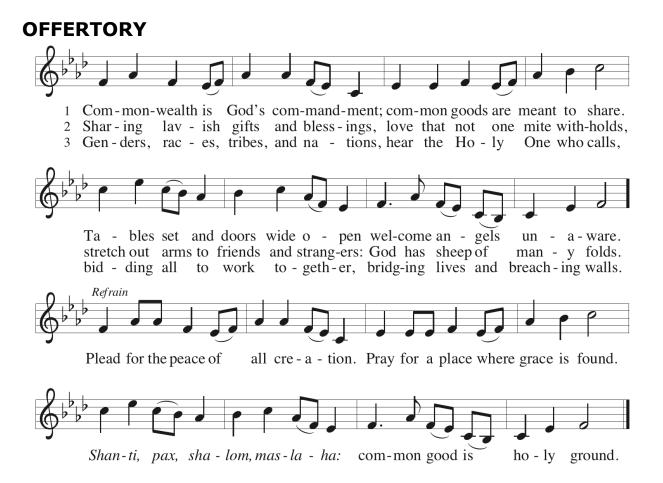
With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy and abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

# Thanks be to God!

# PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you all! And also with you.



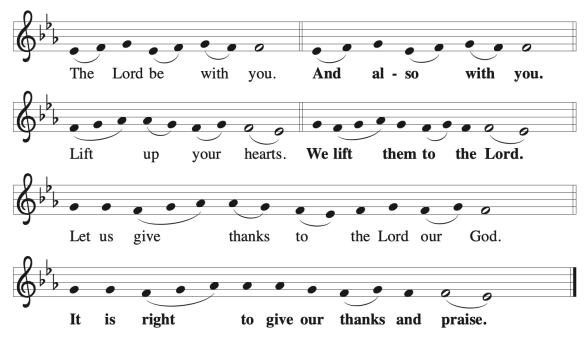


#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and as signs of our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth. **Amen** 

# **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



# PREFACE

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Therefore, with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

#### SANCTUS



# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

In 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.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again and again to each of us and to all creation, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, through whom all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. Amen. LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

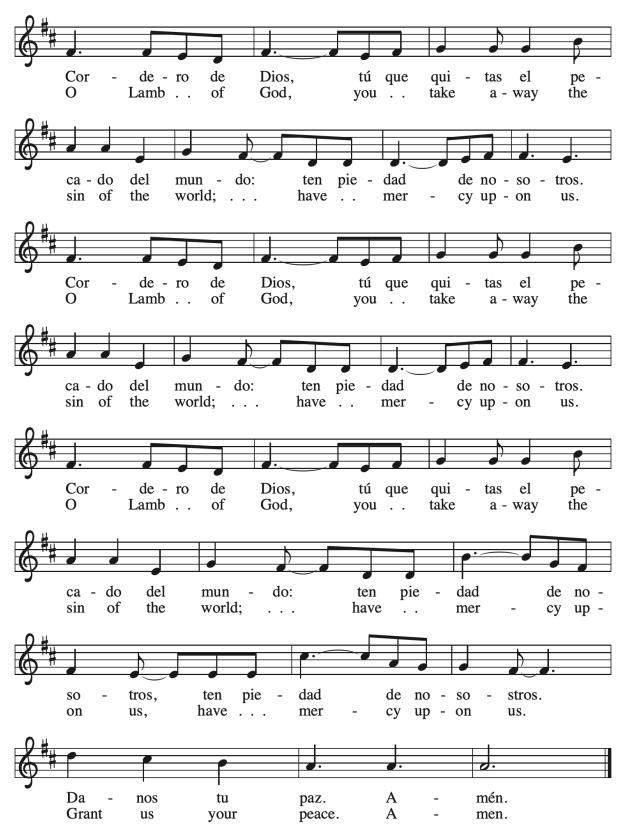
(Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa for the 2022 Season of Creation Curriculum. This version of the Lord's prayer was influenced by Maori theologians.)

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come, for all things are now ready. Come to the table with all your kin, and share with all in need: the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears. P

# May we who share these gifts share Christ with one another and all our kin.

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**



Take, Oh Take Me As I Am	Red 814
O Holy Spirit, By Whose	Blue 638
Healer of Our Every Ills	Red 612

#### TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us now and forever. **Amen** 

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the One who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen** 

#### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BENEDICTION

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in the Earth and the impulse of + Christ within you. **Amen.** 

The blessing of the God of life be ours. The blessing of the loving Christ be ours. The blessing of the Holy Spirit be ours, To cherish us, to help us, to make us holy.

SENDING HYMN How	Great Thou Art	Blue 423
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#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth! Thanks be to God!

#### POSTLUDE