

The Fourth Sunday of the Season of Creation: September 27, 2026

Gathering Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King- H400

All stand as able

Verses 1-3 and 7 only



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



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

Collect of the Day *All stand as able*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

First Reading – Exodus 17:1-7 *All may be seated.*

Reader A reading from the book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 *All remain seated; text is read in unison.*

Hear my teaching, O my people;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,

and what our forefathers have told us,

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come

the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,

and the wonderful works the Lord has done.

The Lord worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

The Lord split open the sea and let them pass through;

God made the waters stand up like walls.

The Lord led them with a cloud by day,

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

God split the hard rocks in the wilderness

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

The Lord brought streams out of the cliff,

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Second Reading – A Reading from “Hope is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community,” Luther Smith Jr. *All remain seated.*

Reader A reading from Luther Smith Jr.

“I hear people’s anxiety about the present and future state of the world... All this has led many to feel and say, “The times have never been this bad!” Although I understand how people come to this conclusion, I also know that every generation has faced crises that threatened to rip apart their personal, social, and political foundations... We insult our ancestors by exclaiming that we are overwhelmed and incapacitated because we live in the worst of times.

This is our season! This is our time! We cannot use the increased complexity of our times and lives as an excuse to withdraw from our distinctive challenges. Every generation has dealt with confusing new realities that led to bewildering circumstances. Every generation has had the challenges and opportunities to embrace the work of hope. This is our time! This is our season! Hope is here to enliven us to life and the practices of justice and beloved community... Each one of us can be a sign of hope for this and future seasons.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32 *All stand as able*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Cantor

1. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, from heav - en shine forth

with your glo - rious light. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

2. Come from the four winds, O Spir - it, come breath of God; dis -

perse the shad - ows ov - er us, re - new and strength - en your

peo - ple. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.

The des-ert shall re-joice and blos-som as a rose: 1. It shall 2. For the 3. For the 4. For the

blos-som a-bun-dant-ly and re-joice with praise and sing-ing.
 ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o-pened.
 tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad-ness.
 ground will be-come a pool and the dry land springs of wa-ter.

5. The desert shall rejoice
 and blossom as a rose:
 as the ransomed return to God
 and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
 and blossom as a rose:
 unto Zion we come with joy,
 for our God has come to save us.

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee – H376

All stand as able



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.