# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

## *Re-Creating the Earth*

## August 9, 2026

**CHRIST THE VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

15700 W. Coffee Road, New Berlin, WI

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**GATHERING** *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Welcome

(+) Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Holy and gracious God,

**We have ignored your call to do the hard work of justice. In our fears of not having or being enough, we have sought easier, more comfortable ways in life. We have neglected the needs of our neighbors. We have closed our ears to the cries of creation. We have thrown in our lot with the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the widow and the orphan. Forgive us for the times our natural instinct for self-preservation has become self-absorption, where our sacred call to self-love has become self-obsession. Make us new in the image of the one who gave all for the redemption of creation. Amen.**

The God who formed you in the womb and knew you before you drew breath also loves you beyond comprehension, and forgives you all your sin. In wholeness and joy, go forth to proclaim the good news of redemption for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend. **Amen**.

(+) Gathering Song *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

(+) Greeting

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.**

(+) *Glory to God* p. 121

*Refrain*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

1 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

3 For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

(+) Prayer of the Day

God of restoration,
**you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you have made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe, and that you would guide us to partner in your work of renewing creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

1st Reading Ezekiel 47:1-12

47:1 Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple;
there water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple
toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was
flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of
the altar. 2 Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and

led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side.

3 Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. 4 Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. 5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. 6 He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. 7 As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. 8 He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. 9 Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. 10 People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. 12 On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation p. 124

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel John 7:37-39a

P: The gospel according to John…
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

7:37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, [38] and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' " [39] Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Song *Shall We Gather at the River* ELW 423

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**
**born of the virgin Mary,**
**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**
**was crucified, died, and was buried;**
**he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;**
**he ascended into heaven,**
**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**
**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**the holy catholic church,**
**the communion of saints,**
**the forgiveness of sins,**
**the resurrection of the body,**
**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Assisting Minister: Merciful God,
**C: Receive our prayer.**

Peace

**MEAL** *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

Offering

*We give thanks to God and to you for your gifts and offerings. Our offering plate is located near the baptismal font at the entrance of the church, and we invite you to place your offering in the plate as you enter worship or at any time.*

Offering Song *We Are an Offering* ELW 692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering, we are an offering.

Offering Prayer

Loving God,
**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**
**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,**
**so that all creation can taste your abundance.**
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**
**through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**
**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving (spoken) p. 129

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.**

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

… we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

*Holy, Holy, Holy* p. 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table and Words of Institution

O God triune, how majestic is your name…

...we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer…

...we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus…

On the night in which he was betrayed…

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table… unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds…
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen and amen.
**Amen and amen.**

(+) 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.**

Communion

*We will receive communion at the altar railing. Please wait to come forward until directed by the usher. The wafer will be placed in your hand. Please take a prefilled cup from the communion tray and then place it in the empty tray as you leave the altar. The cups in the center contain grape juice; the others have wine.*

*We can bring communion to you at your seat if that is helpful – just let the usher know. Prepackaged communion kits are also available near the entrance to the sanctuary if you would prefer to commune that way.*

*Lamb of God* p. 135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God,
through the gift of bread and wine,
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us through this holy meal,
that we may share your love freely,
as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
**Amen.**

## SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Announcements

(+) Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
**Amen.**

(+) Sending Song *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* ELW 763

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

(+) Dismissal

Grow in faith. Serve the Lord.
**Thanks be to God.**