



ST. MATTHEW’S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist10a

Second Sunday in the Season of CreationSunday, September 6, 2026

It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.

Land Sunday

We worship with all the lands of Earth

The Word of God

Prelude: Andante molto from Piano Sonata in e minor, Op 7Grieg

People stand as able

Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Font of Every BlessingHymnal 686
Nettleton

Opening Acclamation

PresiderBlessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
PeopleAnd blessed be God’s reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children in kindergarten through the fifth grade may choose to follow the cross to Godly Play during the Song of Praise.

Song of PraiseS 280
Robert Powell

Collect of the Day

PresiderGod be with you.
PeopleAnd also with you.
PresiderLet us pray.

God, our Creator, we celebrate your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the soil, the fields and the land. Help us to empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the land, the flowers of the field and all the creatures of the countryside. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

First ReadingGenesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16

The People are seated

The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said,

“I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen, your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.” Then the Lord said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.
PeopleThanks be to God.

Psalm139:7-12



7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me, *
and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,”

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *

darkness and light to you are both alike.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second ReadingPeople are seatedRomans 5:12-17

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

LectorThe Word of the Lord.
PeopleThanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Now the green blade risethHymnal 204
Noël Nouvelet

Holy GospelMatthew 12:38-40

Remain Standing

PriestThe Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.
PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

SermonThe Rev. Dan Dykstra

Nicene CreedBCP p. 358

The People stand as able

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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;

