



ST. MATTHEW’S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist10a

Third Sunday in the Season of Creation Sunday, September 13, 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.

Wilderness Sunday

We worship with the wilderness of Earth

The Word of God

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

People stand as able

Opening Hymn: Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling Hymnal 658
Hyfrydol

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And 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 Praise S 280
Robert Powell

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us and our kin in creation, especially in the rocks, the deserts, and the wilderness. Help us empathize with your creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the wild world of untamed places. In the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

First Reading Job 38:1-7, 25-33

The People are seated

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up your loins like a man;
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone
when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

“Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain
and a way for the thunderbolt,
to bring rain on a land where no one lives,
on the desert, which is empty of human life,
to satisfy the waste and desolate land,
and to make the ground put forth grass?

“Has the rain a father,
or who has fathered the drops of dew?
From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the hoarfrost of heaven?
The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.

“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loose the cords of Orion?
Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,
or can you guide the Bear with its children?
Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
Can you establish their rule on the earth?

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm18:6-19



6 I called upon you, O God, in my distress; *
I cried out to you for help.

7 You heard my voice from your heavenly dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to your ears.

8 The earth reeled and rocked; *
the roots of the mountains shook;
they reeled because of your anger.

9 Smoke rose from your nostrils
and a consuming fire out of your mouth; *
hot burning coals blazed forth from you.

10 You parted the heavens and came down *
with a storm cloud under your feet.

11 You mounted on cherubim and flew; *
you swooped on the wings of the wind.

12 You wrapped darkness about you; *
you made dark waters and thick clouds your pavilion.

13 From the brightness of your presence, through the clouds, *
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

14 O God, you thundered out of heaven; *
O Most High, you uttered your voice.

15 You loosed your arrows and scattered them; *
you hurled thunderbolts and routed them

16 The beds of the seas were uncovered,
and the foundations of the world laid bare, *
at your battle cry, O God,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

17 You reached down from on high and grasped me; *
you drew me out of great waters.

18 You delivered me from my strong enemies
and from those who hated me, *
for they were too mighty for me.

19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster, *
but you were my support.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second Reading People are seatedRomans 8:18-27

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Hymnal 513
SongBridegroom

Holy GospelMark 1:9-13

Remain Standing

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SermonThe Rev. Suzanne Barrow

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;
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 the People

After each petition, the People respond Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.

Presider and People

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 neighbors 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 Name. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of
Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements and Celebrations

Birthday Collect

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as
they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and
strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift
will help us continue vital ministries. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option.
Please use this link for online giving. <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K/>

Offertory: Down to the River to Pray

Spiritual

Presentation Verse

Hymnal 380, stanza 3
Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

The people remain standing.

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider says a proper preface

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and
praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast
expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and the planets in their courses, and this
fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the
capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation.
But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your
righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your
servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have
looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Presider and People

Sanctus

S 129
Robert Powell

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

The People stand or kneel as the prayer continues

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night
he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the
bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is
given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of
you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the
forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of
thanksgiving, **We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection as we await the day of
his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new
people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your
Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one
spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. **Risen Lord, be
known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver

us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength;
for pardon only and not for renewal.
Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great
High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory,
and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

S 155
Gerald Near

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let
us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. If for
any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your
arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest
giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Christ is fully
present in both or either the bread and wine.

Eucharistic Visitors may be commissioned.

Music during Communion: Bell ringing, for piano

Edward Grieg

Anthem: For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

Postcommunion Prayers

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior
Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body
and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and
courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through
Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising

Hymnal 590
Charterhouse

Dismissal

The deacon says the dismissal, and then the people say:

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God

Postlude: Danse from Capriol Suite

Peter Warlock