

Bold type indicates congregational responses.

- As we gather...***

We kick off the fall worship and preaching season starting a new year of the Narrative Lectionary, which offers an entire snapshot of the Bible from the beginning to the end. We begin the year with great stories from Genesis, starting with Noah, the ark, and the great flood. What does it reveal about God in relationship to humanity? Is there more than you remember from Sunday School? We receive and celebrate anew God's promises of faithfulness and mercy.

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE *Variations on "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* arr. Albert Travis
(The prelude serves as the opening act of worship, setting the tone – reflective or festive – and inviting and preparing the congregation for blessed time together in God’s word.)

Psalm 118:1,24 (adapted)

Let us give thanks, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!
 This is the day that God has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts.

Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation. You are forgiven, made new, and given the promise of God's eternal love and life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace and be freed anew for love of God and neighbors.
Amen

*** GATHERING HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

*** 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.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God of promise, you set a bow in the sky to remind us that you will never again forsake your creation. Make us ever mindful of your promise, so that we would honor your love and share in your peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 6:5-22

(God's patience with humanity's wickedness and violence wears thin to the point of regretful destruction. Yet, through Noah and his family, God does not fully give up.)

⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of humans was great in the earth and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that he had made humans on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the humans I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air—for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

⁹ These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. ¹⁴ Make yourself an ark

of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷ For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰ Of the birds according to their kinds and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹ Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up, and it shall serve as food for you and for them." ²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Water Is Wide

arr. R. Vandall

Piano Duet: Leo Schreoder and Carolyn Diamond

SECOND READING: Genesis 8:6-12; 9:8-17

(After the flood's devastation, a raven or dove provides sign of hope. God makes a self-limiting promise to humanity, while also providing a visual reminder.)

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, ⁹ but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, ¹¹ and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more.

⁹ ⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all

flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* **ELW #172**
Halle, halle, hallelujah. (3x)
Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 8:23-27**
(Threatened by strong winds, the disciples wake Jesus and witness an astounding security enacted by his mere command.)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 8th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ A windstorm suddenly arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” ²⁶ And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm. ²⁷ They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Pastor Charlie Ruud**

HYMN OF THE DAY *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace* **ELW #684**
(As comfortable, all are invited to stand for the final stanza.)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Iona Creed** *(The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community, and the renewal of worship.)*

We trust in God who befriended a wandering people, delivering them from slavery into freedom; yet who in Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Cyrus, Darius and many others called outsiders to be agents of God's purpose.

We trust in Jesus who was revered by Persian sages, sought and found asylum in Egypt, preached that God loved Syrians, attracted Greeks to his cause, found his first evangelist in a

Samaritan, saw incomparable faith in a Caananite woman, had his cross shouldered by a Libyan, and ascended above his native land that he might be present in all places.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, who at Pentecost proved that heaven has no favored mother-tongue; who, in the baptism of the Ethiopian denied racism a foothold in faith; and who in the ancient and modern worlds founded churches in different cultures.

We believe that the heart of God is made known in Jesus, yet we affirm that God is present among people who do not own Christ as their Lord.

We affirm that the kingdom of God is bigger than the Church, and the love of God is beyond our understanding. We therefore celebrate that God's ways are not our ways, that God knows whom God chooses, and reserves the right to surpass all human expectation. Blessed be God forever! Amen.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Gifts in cash or check can be made as the offering plates are passed. To give electronically, scan the QR code to the right or text the desired amount to (612) 688-2798



OFFERING ANTHEM

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Chancel Choir

ELW #693

*OFFERTORY

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW #689, stz. 1, 4

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**Then with your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.**

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:
...Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

IV. SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Triune God.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

ELW# 756

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy, and be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. Travis

(The postlude serves as an added "Amen" to worship, providing inspiring conclusion to the shared gathering and sending God's people out in love. Feel free to relish it seated or let it bless you as you go out with joy.)

Our service continues with invitation to refreshments in community together across the hall; and then in the world with all our neighbors.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon, September 14. John 3:13-17

Thurs, September 17. Psalm 145:1-8

Tues, September 15. Psalm 133

Fri, September 18. 1 Corinthians 13:5-10

Wed, September 16. Genesis 50:22-26

Sat, September 19. Zephaniah 2:13-15

Next week in worship...

We continue in Genesis focusing on the story of the call of Abraham. God promises land, descendants, and for Abraham to be a blessing to the nations. In the way of Jesus and the gift of baptism, we might consider ourselves among those promised descendants. The story gives opportunity to reflect on what those promises mean for us today, and how we fit in God's work to bless all people. We also receive Holy Communion as part of the worship. Show up to receive new hope, joy, mercy, and inspiration in love.

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