

# Creation by the Word

09-07-2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN** [ELW#876 – “Let the Whole Creation Cry”](#)

**P** From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory and honor, giving us dominion over your

works. Enable us so to care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C      Amen**

*Please be seated.*

### **PSALM 8**

**L      <sup>1</sup>O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! —**

**C      <sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;  
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

**L      <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

**C      <sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

**L      <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.**

**C      <sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

**L      <sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,**

**C      <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

**L      <sup>9</sup>O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**ANTHEM    ["Speak O Lord" by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty](#)**

*Brad Bondhus, voice*

*Debbie Bondhus, piano*

### **GENESIS 1:1 – 2:4a**

**L      A reading from Genesis: <sup>1</sup>When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over

every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#556 – “Morning Has Broken”](#)

**SERMON:** [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

**L** Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**L** We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**L** We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**L** We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely, especially Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**L** We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**L** For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For an end to war and conflict, especially in Gaza, Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Ethiopia...*
- *For victims of sexual assault and violence...*
- *For earthquake victims in eastern Afghanistan...*
- *For landslide victims in the Darfur region of Sudan...*
- *For wildfires in California...*
- *For safety amidst protests in Indonesia...*
- *For students, families, and school personnel beginning the new school year...*
- *For all professional fields, vocations, and jobs of any kind, and for fair and equitable labor policies...*

**L** We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

**L** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**C Amen**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

**OFFERING\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*

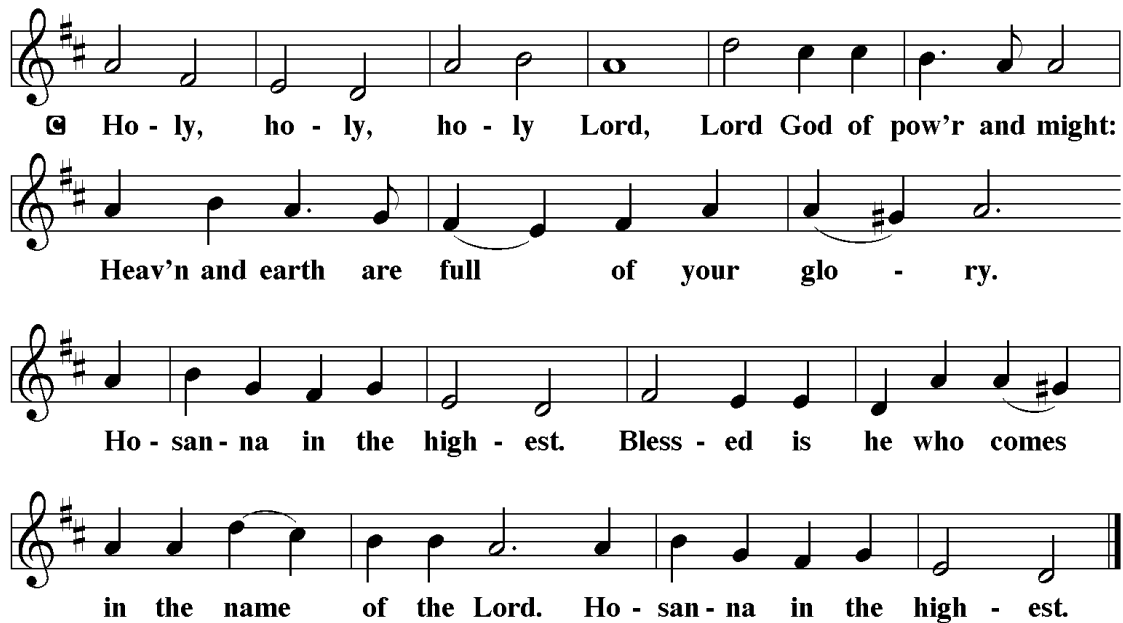
**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:*



**P** Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love: with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C** Amen

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** 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**

**P** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*After all have communed, the following is sung:*



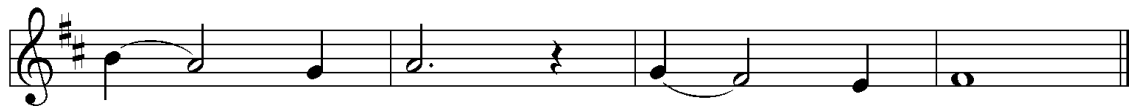
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen



**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.**



**He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy**



**with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**P** 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.

**C Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** [ELW#771 – “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”](#)

**P** Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

\*Offering to be sent to  
Robert Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)

### **Upcoming Events**

- Saturday, September 20, 3pm to 6pm - Crew 851 Farewell Party
- Sunday, September 21 during 9:30 am service - recognition and thanksgiving for the partnership between Venture Crew 851 and Epiphany Lutheran.
- Sunday, September 21 after 9:30 am service - Fall Picnic

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