

September 24, 2023 Proper 20

Season of Creation

St. Mary's, Shelter Island
Welcome!

Opening Hymn: TBD

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit **And Blessed be God's
Kingdom, both now and forever. Amen**

The Collect for Purity

—
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.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
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. 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.**

The Collect

**Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious
about earthly things, but to love
things heavenly; and even now,
while we are placed among things
that are passing away, to hold fast
to those that shall endure; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. Amen.**

Old Testament Jonah 3:10-4:11

A Reading from the Book of the
Prophet Jonah: When God saw what
the people of Nineveh did, how they
turned from their evil ways, God
changed his mind about the calamity
that he had said he would bring upon
them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah,
and he became angry. He prayed to
the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this
what I said while I was still in my own
country? That is why I fled to Tarshish
at the beginning; for I knew that you
are a gracious God and merciful, slow
to anger, and abounding in steadfast
love, and ready to relent from
punishing. And now, O Lord, please
take my life from me, for it is better for
me to die than to live.” And
the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be
angry?” Then Jonah went out of the
city and sat down east of the city, and
made a booth for himself there. He sat
under it in the shade, waiting to see
what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and
made it come up over Jonah, to give
shade over his head, to save him from
his discomfort; so Jonah was very
happy about the bush. But when dawn
came up the next day, God appointed
a worm that attacked the bush, so that
it withered. When the sun rose, God
prepared a sultry east wind, and the
sun beat down on the head of Jonah
so that he was faint and asked that he
might die.

He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 145:1-8 *Exaltabo te, Deus*

**1 I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and
ever.**

**2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and
ever.**

**3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be
praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.**

**4 One generation shall praise your
works to another *
and shall declare your power.**

**5 I will ponder the glorious splendor
of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.**

**6 They shall speak of the might of
your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.**

**7 They shall publish the
remembrance of your great
goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous
deeds.**

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of
compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

The Epistle Philippians 1:21-30

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians: To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks Be to God

**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
R. Alleluia, alleluia., alleluia**

The Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in

the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin
Mary, and was made man.**

**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 and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He 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

Let us pray to God our Father whose generosity is always greater than we expect or can imagine. Let us say: R/ Lord, your love is everlasting

- For the Church, especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury. In the Anglican Cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of Ireland. We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, Geralyn, Daniel, and William our Bishops, all the people and parishes of the Diocese of Long Island, and for Charles our Priest.

This week our Diocese especially prays for St. Gabriel's, Hollis; St. Mark's, Jackson Heights; the Staff & Board of Directors of the Mercer School and for Grace Church, Jamaica. For all of these let us pray: :

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- That the fresh faith of new converts may wake up and inspire those who are "cradle" Christians, let us pray:

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- That there may be more justice in our world but that justice may always be imbued with much love, let us pray:

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- That Christians may contribute to our world a sense of giving out of pure generosity and goodness, and a sense of joyful celebration, let us pray:

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- That in our human community everyone may be accepted as he or she is; that we may not exclude anyone from our love and that we may learn to forgive everyone, let us pray:

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- That in our Christian communities we may not be jealous of each other's gifts and talents but use ours and let others use theirs to serve the unity and growth of all, let us pray:

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

- For all those whose names appear on our parish's prayer list.

For those who have departed this life, and all those who rest in our cemetery invite you to share with the community gathered here any intercession or names you may wish us to pray for ...Pause..... For all of these we pray....

R/ Lord, your love is everlasting.

Priest Lord our God, you say of yourself that you are good with love that surpasses even justice.

Thank you for accepting the little ones as much as the great, those who turn to you at the last hour as well as the laborers who have toiled all their lives.

Open us more to the gifts of your grace, make us accept them with gratitude and appreciate how liberally you give to others.

Turn our ways into your ways of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

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.

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

The Peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you

Offertory Hymn The Doxology

Eucharistic Prayer 3 *The Episcopal Church USA's Enriching Our Worship 1 (EOW1)*

Presider The Lord 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 God thanks and praise.**

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Presider and People

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

The Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, aid the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People
Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and for ever.
AMEN!**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, All: **Our Father...**

The Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world **Have mercy on us**

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world **Have mercy on us**

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world **Grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the People of God, take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith

Communion Musical Meditation

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as
living members**

**of your Son 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 Lord. Amen**

The Blessing EOW1

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother

over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn TBD

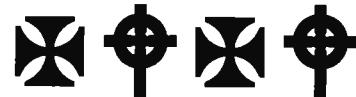
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God



Birthdays

September 21 Devon Cross
September 26 George Patterson



Pray for the Healing & Support:

We pray for Wendy Turgeon, Paul Mobius, Betianne Morritt, Chrissy Gross, Rod Griffis, Jane Babinski and Doris Schultz and their continued recovery. and we continue to pray for Cindy Belt's sister Susan Belt Hartson. We pray for Ukraine, for peace and for safety. For all those suffering from extreme weather in our country and around the world.

For those grieving loved ones, for those who are ill, for all those who serve the sick, the needy and those in prison, for all those who are anxious or fearful. For all those in the midst of war or natural disasters and we pray for...

Barbara Brigham, Sara Mundy, Jean Adams, Kathy Cogan, Jim Fancher, Diane & Nancy Fickett, Bob Fisher, Sharon Gibbs, Kathryn James, Halle Kneeland, Virginia Springsteen, Vita Stellke, Valerie Capon, Linda VanArdale, Beth Wagner, Louie Cicero, Barbara Allen, Hermance Canning, Matthew Cole, Sr. Joy Wright, and all our parishioners living with cancer, known or undetected & for all those who participate in a 12 step group here at St. Mary's. Call in any requests or corrections to the office. (631) 749-0770

The Spirituality of Creation

It is the spirituality of creation—our affinity, our care, for the rest of creation—that really stretches us to the wholeness of ourselves and to the wholeness of God, as well.

Only when we see ourselves, humans, as part of creation, rather than as the crown of creation, will we ever be able to come anywhere close to really grasping the greatness of God and God's gifts to us.

Only then will we begin to see the glowing face of God everywhere. Only then will we begin to understand that we are all meant to come to fullness of life together—plants, animals, planet, and humans in one great reciprocal circle of a common creation. Until we do, all of us will go on living life with spiritual blinders.

What we do not do to save the whole of creation will shrink our own spiritual vision and separate us, starved and emaciated in soul, from the wholeness of life. We will look at forests and, like the loggers destroying the rain forests on this earth, fail to see the living gift of them. We will take for granted the devotion of our pets and fail to recognize that real human relationships are about more than sex or social comfort or authority. We will watch our children grow up in cement jungles, denied the right to plant tomatoes or the wonder of picking flowers. We will find innocent enemies and set out to destroy them rather than protect them as sisters and brothers and make them our friends.

What we do to the rest of creation we do to ourselves. What we destroy in the rest of creation makes it even easier to destroy in our own.

But God sees the despoliation of all that is "good" and comes closer to those who are its saviors. And therein lies the secret of both the quality of our "dedication" and the depth of our relationship with God. Why? Because it's profitable to steward the world well? No. Because it is holy to care for the world as God cares for the world. Because co-creation is the task of being human.

—from *The Monastic Way* by Joan Chittister



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

Amos 5: 24



When I think of being rooted in abundance, the first image that comes to mind is my grandmother. In my small hometown in Zacatecas, my grandmother's house was where everybody went for a meal or a listening ear. Her table served not just food but wisdom. My people were poor, but there was always enough. We learned how to give what we had for the good of everyone. I was taught that giving meant more than just giving money. My grandmother taught me to give myself fully to God.

My roots are my cultura. In Latino culture, it's never about the individuals or the immediate family but about being rooted in each other. My grandmother's life was hard, but she was so connected to God, the earth, and all that is holy. Being in Austin, where I teach at the Seminary of the Southwest, has called me to grow closer to her and her lessons. I felt disconnected from anything familiar for the first few months here. I didn't yet see that God was planting me in a new place and that something new was growing within me. Now I know that my colleagues here are also my people. I feel my roots taking hold of the land here, and I will trust God. If my grandma can do it, so can I.

Trees are an image of stewardship of abundance and not just survival. Communities of color and poor communities in the episcopal church are sometimes treated as "poor people" who can't give. We must switch that mentality and consider these communities' newly planted trees. They will not grow overnight, but if we care for and nurture them, these communities will thrive and plant deep roots. The roots will be interconnected in a community of love of God and neighbor where there is always enough for everyone. | TENS.org



The Reverend Nancy Aidé Frausto is Director of Latinx Studies, Seminary of the Southwest.



Questions for Reflection:

Talk about a time when you were planted in a new place or a new position. How did you find a root structure to ground you?



THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP