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# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

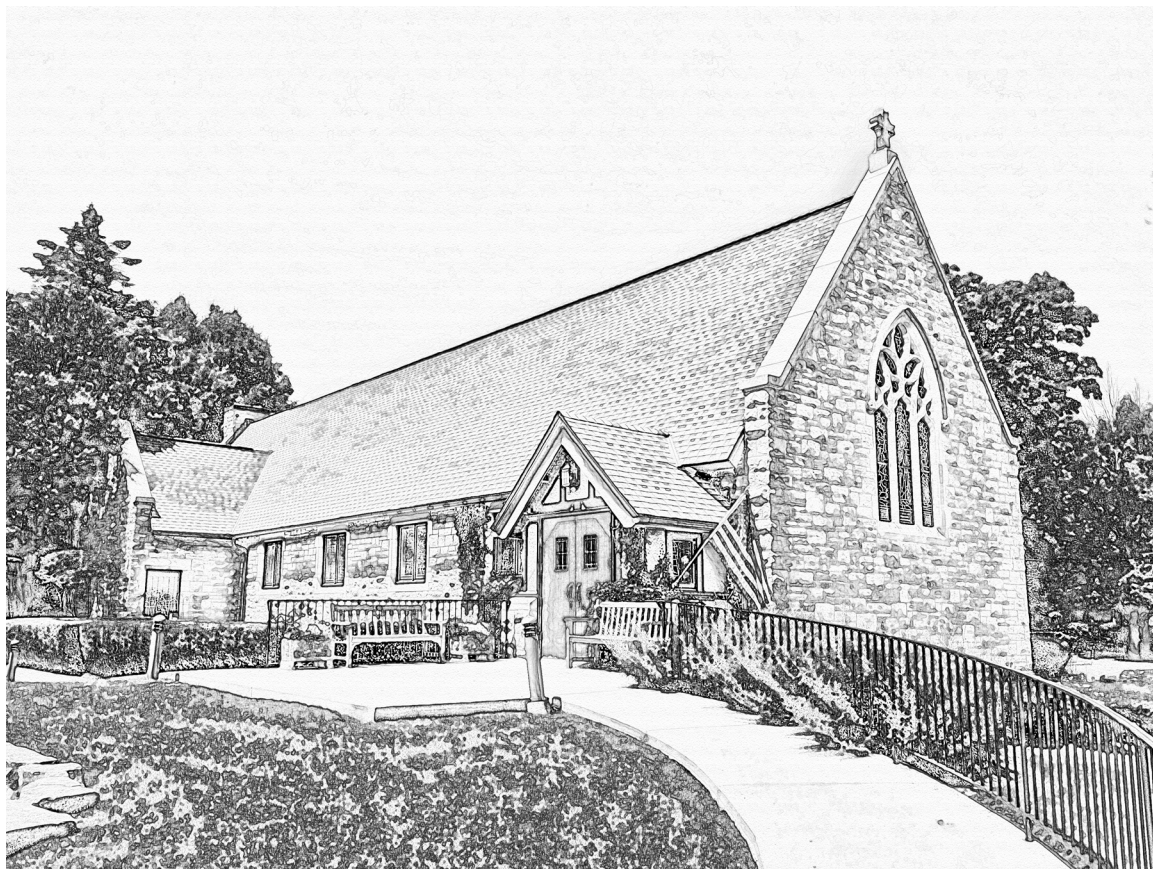
*The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 13, 2026

8:00 AM

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Welcome to St. Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



*This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership, and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.*

## In the Church Year: Season of Creation

From September 1 to October 4, Christians observe the Season of Creation, a relatively recent development in the liturgical calendar.

In 1989, the ecumenical patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church, Dimitrios I, proclaimed September 1 a day of prayer for the environment, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. In 2000, a Lutheran congregation in Australia developed a four-Sunday program to follow it – and the idea for a “season” of creation began. Others adopted it, first across Australia and then more widely. Eventually, the Vatican picked up the practice, and the World Council of Churches promoted the new liturgical season. In the final years of the twentieth century, a mini church season, or a season within a larger season, was added to the year.

During these weeks, Christians are urged to recognize this theological centrality of God the Creator, Creation itself, the human vocation of caring for Creation, and the need to do justice on behalf of the earth and all her inhabitants.

Few words echo through the ages as profoundly as God’s directive to Moses: *Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.*

Holy ground. The same soil from which God created Adam—the sacred dust of our very being. Take off your shoes. Feel the earth underfoot, your toes in the sand or mud, or loam, the stuff of creation.

Those words surely never left him. *What if we let them haunt us, too? What if we recalled them daily? How would they change who we are, our experience of God, and how we act toward the earth?*

-- Diane Butler Bass

## Entering In

The only way to really settle accounts is forgiveness –no matter what. -- Jesus of Nazareth paraphrased

Practice: Where in your life do you need to start the difficult and sometimes humiliating settling straight of accounts? You might need to ask a spiritual friend or guide to help you. The promise is a freedom you have never known.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jim & Polly Baur – September 13

Rose Sengenberger – September 16

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

### The Word of God

#### The Prelude

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### The Opening Acclamation and Kyrie

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Assembly* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider* Almighty God, unto 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 thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

*Presider* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assembly* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Presider* Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## The Lessons

### The Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*Assembly*       **Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

**Judah became God's sanctuary \*  
and Israel his dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went back.

**The mountains skipped like rams, \*  
and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

## The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

*Gospeler*       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*Assembly*       **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed

him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*Gospeler*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Assembly***Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Adam Spencer

*A period of silence follows the sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.**Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Assembly*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible;**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified;  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*The Book of Common Prayer, Form VI*

*Intercessor* In peace, we pray to thee, Lord God.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* For all people in their daily life and work;

*Assembly* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Intercessor* For this community, the nation, and the world;

*Assembly* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Intercessor* For the just and proper use of thy creation;

*Assembly* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Intercessor* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*Assembly* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*Assembly* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Intercessor* For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Paula, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

*Assembly* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Intercessor* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially

Sally Graver

Sherry Schellenbach

Isabelle Thomson

Norris Byrnes, cousin of Libby Hinds

Andre Stoken, brother of Deidre McClurg

Adele & Rick Ferretti

Donna, friend of Walter Aldrich

Leigh, niece of Fred & Annette Johnston

Quinn, friend of Aria Ellis

Griffin & Cheryl, friends of Adrienne Zimmerman  
Patricia, friend of Fred & Annette Johnston

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Hear us, O Lord;  
*Assembly* **For thy mercy is great.**

*Intercessor* We thank thee, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* We will exalt thee, O God our King;  
*Assembly* **And praise thy Name for ever and ever.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in thine eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Lord, let thy loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Assembly* **Who put their trust in thee.**

*Presider* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

## **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

*Presider* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*Please kneel as you are able.*

*Assembly*

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word or deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Presider*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assembly*

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Presider*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Assembly*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Please offer one another a sign of God's Peace.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

*Presider* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*Thank you for your generous giving to the mission and ministry of St. Elisabeth's church. You can leave a donation in the offering plate at the back of the church, or use your phone to scan the QR code to donate online.*



### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*Assembly* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*Assembly* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*Assembly* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Presider* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Assembly* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please remain standing or kneel, as you are able.*

*Presider*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we

beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*Assembly*      **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*All*      **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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*All*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

*Presider*

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, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please stand or kneel at the altar rail. Assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free host available upon request.*

## The Post Communion Prayer

*Please stand as you are able.*

*All*            **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Presider*        The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always.

*Assembly*       **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Presider*        Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Assembly*       **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

# The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

## Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

### Clergy & Staff

|                         |                                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| The Rev. Adam Spencer   | <i>Rector</i>                           |
| The Rev. Larry Handwerk | <i>Priest Associate</i>                 |
| Walter Aldrich          | <i>Director of Music</i>                |
| Caryl Medsker           | <i>Director of Administration</i>       |
| Abigail Pribble         | <i>Director of Children's Formation</i> |
| Elizabeth Clemmitt      | <i>Associate for Spiritual Wellness</i> |

### 2026 Vestry

|                               |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Polly Baur                    | Fred Johnston                       | Kara Superfine                     |
| Robert Fischer, <i>Warden</i> | Jamie Kim                           | Mark Tilton, <i>Treasurer</i>      |
| Hall Healy                    | Carrie Miller-Mygatt, <i>Warden</i> | John Tuohy, <i>Asst. Treasurer</i> |

### Sunday Schedule



- 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (September to June)
- 10:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist: Rite II
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

### Office Hours

Tuesday -Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.