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# ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

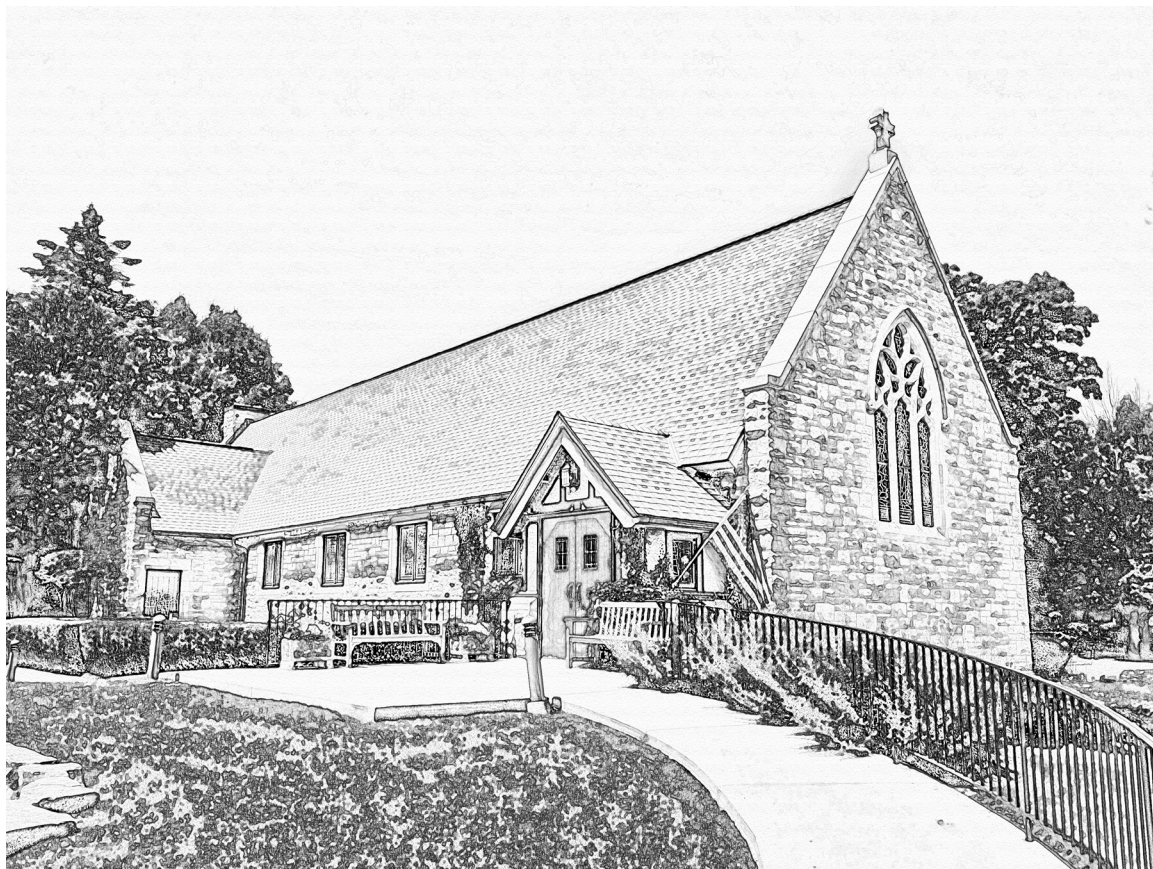
*The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 27, 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?*

-- Diana Butler Bass

## Entering In

Laughter may well be the ultimate act of letting go and letting be: the music of the divine cosmos. For in the core of the Trinity laughing and birthing go on all day long. -- Matthew Fox

Practice: Name a time when you let go of something you dearly held and found yourself laughing about it. What did the letting go give birth to?

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 29 – Eve Thornton, Rocky Baur, & Bruce Tangri  
 October 1 – Carter Superfine                      October 3 – Alex Landon

## 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, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Assembly* **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## The Lessons

### The Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

### The Psalm

Psalm 78

Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable; \***  
**I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \*  
and the wonderful works he has done.**

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

**He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
he made the waters stand up like walls.**

He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

**He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

## **The Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of

his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*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

## Coming Up at St. Elisabeth's

### North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk

The North Suburban Chicago CROP Hunger Walk steps off from the North Shore United Methodist Church on **Sunday, October 4**, in support of the food insecure people in our community. Please scan the QR code to donate or register.



Sponsored by Church World Service, CROP Hunger Walks are in support of just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

### Family Promise Returns in October

Family Promise is returning to St. Augustine's in Wilmette the week of **October 11 through 17**, and we at St. E's are excited to partner with them both again. Dinner and overnight hosts are available throughout the week, so scan the QR code for specific dates and times.



Also, it's wonderful to announce that I'm taking over the coordinating responsibilities from Robert Fischer; many thanks to Robert for his work over the years and I'll do my best to keep it moving forward smoothly. Family Promise continues to be a wonderful program keeping families together as they work through challenging housing situations. We at St. E's are grateful that we can be a part of such a vital ministry. — Jim Baur

### Sunday Forum: A (Re)Introduction to Christian Teaching and Practice

On **Sunday, October 11**, Adam will continue the Sunday Forum series, focusing on the book written by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Willaims, *Discovering Christianity: A Guide for the Curious*. We will be reading and discussing Chapter 2, "What is Christianity?" Copies of the chapter will be available at the back of the church. Feel free to get a copy of your very own from your favorite local bookstore or from anyplace online where books are sold.

### October Book Group Meeting

This year St Elisabeth's Book Group is reading selections from *The Art of the Short Story* (Gioia and Gwynn). In October, we will talk about **Paul's Case** by Willa Cather. This is the story of a high school student whose version of the life he wants doesn't correspond to the life he has. We will meet in the Chapel at 1:00 PM on **Tuesday, October 13**. Linda Illes will lead the discussion.

# 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.