
ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

8:00 AM

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

Everything Jesus did, he did by self-emptying. He emptied himself and descended into human form. And he emptied himself still further, “even unto death on the cross.” In every life circumstance, Jesus always responded with the same motion of self-emptying—or to put it another way, *descent*: taking the lower place, not the higher. – *Cynthia Bourgeault*

Practice: In what ways might your life be transformed by taking the lower place, not in some false humility, but a real handing over of your power to live in compassion with those in the lower places? What one lower step might you take this week?

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Carol Heitman-Mazzocco – September 20 Bryan Tangri – September 21
Brandon Tangri – September 26

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.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; 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 16:2-15

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For

they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 105

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

**For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.**

So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

**He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,**

That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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.”

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

Intervessor In peace, we pray to thee, Lord God.

Silence

Intervessor For all people in their daily life and work;

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

Intervessor For this community, the nation, and the world;

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

Intervessor For the just and proper use of thy creation;

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

Intervessor 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.**

Intervessor 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.