

Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Road B Stoughton, Wisconsin
Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Ministry Administrator:** Jenelle Hoffman
Music Director: Linda Kunz
Special Musicians: Uke Fellowship & Friends
Lector: 8:00 a.m. Colby Smith & 9:15 a.m. Amber Daniels
Technical Support: Tom Lehr
Ushers: 8:00 a.m. Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum & Sharon Manson
9:15 a.m. Austin Gallagher
Missionaries to our community and the world: All Members of CLC



The Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, September 28, 2025

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Lion and Lamby

CALL TO WORSHIP “How Much is That Doggie in the Window” Uke Fellowship
Stand

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN: “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!” #835 ELW Vss. 1, 2, & 6

Vs. 1: All creatures, worship God most high!

Sound ev’ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;

Sing, sister moon and stars of night:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Vs. 2: Sing, brother wind, with clouds and rain
You grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
Make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Vs. 6: O sisters, brothers, take your part,
And worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

CREATION LITANY: Psalm 148: 7-13

L: Praise God from earth, you sea dragons, you fathomless ocean deeps;

C: Fire and hail, snow and ice, hurricanes obeying his orders;

L: Mountains and all hills, apple orchards and cedar forests;

C: Wild beasts and herds of cattle, snakes, and birds in flight;

L: Earth's kings and all races, leaders and important people,

C: Robust men and women in their prime, and yes, graybeards and little children.

All: Let them praise the name of God. It's the only Name worth praising.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "How Great Thou Art" ELW #856 Vss. 1 & 2

**Vs. 1: O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art, how great thou art!**

Vs. 2: When through the woods and forest glades I wander,

**I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, Creator of all that exists, you have given human beings the joy of caring for the garden and all life within it. Give us the desire and passion to care for the earth and the humility to understand that we too are creatures and part of your creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sit

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2: 18-25

¹⁸⁻²⁰ GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion." So GOD formed from the dirt of the ground all the animals of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the Man to see what he would name them. Whatever the Man called each living creature, that was its name. The Man named the cattle, named the birds of the air, named the wild animals; but he didn't find a suitable companion.²¹⁻²² GOD put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept he removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. GOD then used the rib that he had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man. ²³⁻²⁵ The Man said, "Finally! Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh! Name her Woman for she was made from Man." Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh. The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Beautiful Savior" #838 ELW Vs. 1

**Vs. 1: Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God, and Son of Man!
Truly I love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6: 25-29

²⁵⁻²⁶ “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds. ²⁷⁻²⁹ Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

THE WORD

Stand

HYMN OF THE WORD: “A Place in the Choir” Vss. 1,2,3 & 5

Please sing along! I’m sure you all know the tune.

**CHORUS: All God’s critters got a place in the choir,
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now.**

**Vs. 1: Listen to the bass, it’s the one on the bottom,
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t’do,
And the old cow just goes moo CHORUS...**

**Vs. 2: The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs,**

And the old coyote howls CHORUS...

**Vs. 3: Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees CHORUS...**

**Vs. 5: It's a simple song of living sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove CHORUS...**

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND CONFESSION OF SINS

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in Jesus and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

L: 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: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 21

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us make our peace with God, the world around us and one another.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

C: Amen.

PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always
2 Corinthians 13:11

C: And also with you.

Sit

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

At this time we will have the "Blessings of the Animals." Animals to be blessed are brought forward, the pastor will ask for their name and say,

P: Bless, O God, this creature and all who care for _____.

BLESSING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

All: Creator God, we thank you for giving us the animals and the birds and fish which fill our earth. May we all work to care for them and the earth we all call home. By doing so, we praise the One who created us all. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Simple Gifts" Brackett/Tonioli

OFFERING HYMN: "O God, My Help in Ages Past" ELW #320 Vss. 1 & 3

Vs. 1: O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,

And our eternal home:

**Vs. 3: Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

P: May God, the Creator of the plants and the animals – including us, Jesus the Redeemer of all creation, and God's life-giving Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "This Is My Father's World" ELW #824 Vss 1-3

**Vs. 1: This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**

**Vs. 2: This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

**Vs. 3: This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget that,
Though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heaven ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!**

POSTLUDE "This is My Father's World"