



**The Blessing of the Animals
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 2026**

**Christ Lutheran Church
700 County Road B Stoughton, Wisconsin**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Music Director: Linda Kunz

Special Musicians: Uke Fellowship

Lector: 8:00 a.m. Sandy Grant 9:15 a.m. Marti Conant

Technical Support: Tom Lehr

Ushers: 8:00 a.m. TBA 9:15 a.m. TBA

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “How Much is That Doggie in the Window” Ewekulele
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 Are Welcome” #641 Vss. 1, 2, & 5

Vs. 1: Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Vs. 2: Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain...**

**Vs. 5: Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain....**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 humility to understand that we too are creatures and part of your creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Sit

ANTHEM: "What a Wonderful World" Soloist: Marshall Olsen

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” #835 ELW

**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/CHILDRENS WORD

Stand

HYMN OF THE WORD: “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!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH AND CONFESSION OF SINS

P: 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

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

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

Jude 21

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

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

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

P: 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

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

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: 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." The Pastor will come around to bless the Animals. 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.

C: 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.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY: "This Is My Father's World" ELW #824

**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!**

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 out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "Let All Things Now Living" #881 ELW

**Vs. 1: Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise.**

Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

Who still guides us onto the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,

a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,

till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,

as forward we travel from light into light.

Vs. 2: God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses

**And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

POSTLUDE “All Creatures of Our God and King” set by Tonioli