

Season of Creation
19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4th, 2026



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton ~ St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówinj, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson
Office Manager: Eve Cooney
Minister of Music/Choir Director: Amy Crousore
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

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Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.

Outside of these hours, please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

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www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Setting 12

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Meditation on Terra Beata*

arr. Franklin L. Sheppard

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

P: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:

God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

HYMN# 835

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE:



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

MISSION MOMENT

Maryn Olson

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine ¹ out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and ¹ planted it.

⁹ You cleared the ¹ ground for it;
it took root and ¹ filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered ¹ by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees ¹ by its boughs.

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils ¹ to the sea
and its branches ¹ to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck ¹ off its grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ¹ ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have ¹ grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O ¹ God of hosts,**
look ¹ down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and ¹ tend this vine;
preserve what your right ¹ hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21th chapter:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ Is the Life*

Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991

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CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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 into hell. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord:
Peace be with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING (Gethsemane Choir): *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

Vajda and Schalk

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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, forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION

P: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

For the Beauty of the Earth

HYMN# 879

God of the Sparrow

HYMN# 740

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

P: Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *God the Sculptor of the Mountains*

HYMN# 736

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *God of the Sparrow*

Carl Schalk, Arr. Nancy Raabe

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
Natalie Traylor Fontana in memory of Hannah Abigail.



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Joan Williams
USHERS	Adam Rentchler, Colleen, Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Becky Rentchler
LECTOR	Maryn Olson
CANTOR	Robyn Wolfsberger
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt
ACOLYTE	Finn Wolfsberger
DONUT DRIVER	Rentchler
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Needed</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell
CAMERA	Jaryd Wolfsberger
WINE SPONSOR	Olson-Fulton

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson: healing at home
Kate Hartz: courage and trust
Barb Johnson: continued healing and increased mobility
Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace
Sharon Salerno: healing and strength
Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke
Joan Williams: successful shoulder surgery and recovery

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Prayer for Molly Johnson and her family	<i>Bellis Family</i>
Arlis (comfort and hope); Barbara (bravery)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Columbia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); John and Rita (comfort as they mourn); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Rose Gant (Dawn's mother) healing and recovery after a fall	<i>The Schuessler Family</i>
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (justice), Dale (employment), Allen (healing), Rob, Chase, Judy, Russell and Tanya, Diane, Nicole and Steve (housing, food, health and hope.)	<i>Social Action</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

The **October Big Ask** is **toilet paper and multipurpose cleaner**, to support both Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's ministries. We collected **1,231 diapers** for last month's diaper drive! Thank you!

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce**, preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry.

Due to the tremendous need in our neighborhood, Gethsemane also now has a fund for **Homeless/Unhoused ministries** to help with emergency needs in our community, including rent for Ronnie's apartment. This is separate from the Little Free Food Pantry funds. Donations are welcome.

Ronnie York has moved into his apartment! Thank you to all who donated furniture, kitchen and bath supplies and other housewares.

ACT

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or Betsy Bartholomew, or check the box on the weekly attendance insert.

SAVE THE DATE! The Fall edition of Gethsemane's **Church Work Day** is coming up on October 17, 9 am – 2 pm. This is the day to pitch in and help with a deep clean to get our beautiful church in tip-top shape for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons!

Share your voice! Send November newsletter items to Gretchen by October 25.

JOIN

Blessing of the Animals is **today at 4 pm**. All are welcome and encouraged to come with their pet for a blessing and to welcome our neighbors and their pets. Blessings, snacks (for both people and pets) and activities will happen on the front lawn.

It's already time to start planning for **Christmas** and **next summer**! All **Sunday School teachers** and anyone interested in **VBS (Vacation Bible School)** is welcome to join the first planning meeting after worship **TODAY** in the fellowship hall.

Sunday School has started before Worship. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers! We hope it is a great year!

Here is the schedule:

9:00 am: All gather in the sanctuary for music

9:15 am: groups will head to their classrooms (3 years old – 5th Grade)
or to Faith Village (younger children and parents, fellowship stage)

9:50 am: Sunday School concludes, followed by Worship at 10 am

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
September 27 – October 4, 2026

10/4 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am 4:00 pm	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube VBS Planning Meeting and Christmas Program planning Blessing of the Animals. Volunteers Wanted!
10/5 Monday	6-7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
10/6 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
10/7 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
10/11 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bridge Bread! Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Oct 12	1-5 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sat, Oct 17	9 am – 2 pm	Fall Church Clean Up day! Projects for all ages!
Sun, Oct 18	9 am	Bread For the World Sunday
Tues, Oct 20	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun, Oct 25	10 am	Reformation Sunday and Confirmation
Tues, Oct 26	11:30 am 6:00 pm	GLC Women's Luncheon at Favazza's on the Hill, contact Kathleen Moe to RSVP NorthHampton Neighbors Meeting
Fri, Oct 30	6:30 pm	Halloween Organ Concert featuring Amy's organ students and other Gethsemane musicians

Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

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