

# 4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Season of Creation: A Service of Holy Communion

## Leader's Guide

### GATHERING

#### Prelude

(begins at 10:10a)

#### Welcoming Comments & Opening Sentences

(begins at 10:20a)

P. We gather in the image of the Creator

**A. who is a community of love.**

P. We gather in the name of the Redeemer

**A. who reconciles all of creation.**

P. We gather in the presence of the Life Giver

**A. who inspires new life and renews it.**

#### Baptism of Clara & Joseph Pantalone

P. In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

F. We present Clara Valentina Pantalone and Joseph Oakley Pantalone for baptism.

P. Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

F. We do.

P. As you bring your son to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that your children may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

F. We do.

P. Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Clara and Joseph in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

F. We do.

P. People of God, do you promise to support Clara and Joseph and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**A. We do.**

P. I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

F. We renounce them.

P. Joining our assembly, I ask, do you believe in God the Father?

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

P. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**A. 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.**

P. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**A. 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. The Lord be with you.

**A. And also with you.**

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

**A. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P. Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A. Amen.**

P. Clara, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A. Amen.**

P. Joseph, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A. Amen.**

**A. Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.**

P. Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Clara and Joseph with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**A. Amen.**

P. Clara, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**A. Amen.**

P. Joseph, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**A. Amen.**

F. Let your light so shine before others  
That they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

P. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**A. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

### **Sung Response**

### **The Earth is Yours by Michael Gungor**

**A. Holy, Holy! Holy, Holy, Lord  
The earth is yours, and singing...  
Holy, Holy! Holy, Holy, Lord  
The earth is yours, The earth is yours!**

### **Gathering Hymn**

### ***O God Beyond All Praising***

### **Greeting**

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

**A. And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A. Amen.**

## WORD

### First Reading

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

AM. The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

### Musical Meditation

**(roughly 3 minutes)**

## **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 21:23-32**

P. The Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**A. Glory to you, O Lord.**

P. 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."

P. This, my siblings in Christ, is the Gospel of our Lord.

**A. Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

**Rev. Jonathan Vanderbeck**

## **Hymn of the Day**

***Touch the Earth Lightly***

## **Prayers of Intercession**

P. We ask that you lift up your prayers in the comments section of Facebook Live (or in your hearts) at this time.

P. Hear us, O God

**A. Your mercy is great.**

## **Intro to Response to God's Call: Micah 6:8**

## **Response to God's Call: Micah 6:8**

## **Peace**

P. And may the peace of Christ be with you always.

**A. And also with you.**

P. Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

## **Announcements**

*Announcements may be shared at this time.*

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**

P. At this time, if you'd like to make an online gift using [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) or via mail to Messiah, feel free to do so.

### **Offering Prayer**

AM. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A. Amen.**

## **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Lord's Prayer**

P. God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer Video**

**A. 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.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

- P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen.

- A. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

- P. Even when we cannot be physically together, we are one in Christ Jesus united around a common table. Indeed, at this table, Jesus gathers us all together: the humble and the proud, the joyful and the grieving, the pious and the profane, those of strong faith and those who only long for faith, to everyone, without exception. Come siblings in faith, and join in Spirit filled community!

## **Distribution of the Sacrament**

*At this time, all may share Holy Communion amongst their families. A brief musical reflection can be played here, perhaps with shots of the Community Harvest Table.*

## **Post Communion Blessing**

- P. The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood strengthen you, and keep you in God's Grace. Amen.

- A. Amen.**

## **Prayer After Communion**

AM. We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

P. Mothering God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**A. Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

*All Are Welcome*

## **Benediction**

P. May God who established the dance of creation, Who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation.

*(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)*

## **Postlude**