

Liturgy for Pilgrims

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | August 30, 2026



We are a community inspired by Jesus's message of love, peace, and living in solidarity with the marginalized. We welcome people to join us in rejecting allegiance to empire and systemic injustice by building a better world together.

Through shared meals and evolving traditions, we dedicate ourselves to honoring the worth of every person.



GATHERED FROM OUR VARIOUS WORLDS

Ring of the Bell to Center the Community

Bringing the Light and Censing the Gathering

Acclamation

Blessed is the beloved community of God's peace.
And blessed are those who follow the ways of love.

Introduction to the Day's Liturgy

Gathering Song

**Come, dear friends, let's feast together,
stories share and fears release.
Christ is opening wide the circle.
may this house shine bright with peace.**

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Welcome all to this space of hope and love. As we light the peace lamp, we are reminded of our commitment to make this place a safe place where hatred is turned to love, fear is dispelled, and peace prevails. **May the design of God's peace be present today.**

Singing



SHARING OUR STORIES, ANCIENT AND NEW

Prayer of Illumination

Eternal One, strip away the pretense of the ancient texts that have so dutifully been attached. Grant us eyes to see through those layers and the courage to bear the genuine fruit of your justice and liberation in this world. **Amen.**

Sharing Our Stories

After each sharing: **We are loved.**

from 2 Kings 2

Elisha never saw Elijah again. Elisha grabbed the clothes he was wearing, and he ripped them in half. He picked up Elijah's cloak, which had dropped to the ground when he was taken up into heaven, and then he went back to the Jordan riverbank and stood. He struck the water with the cloak.

Elisha: Where is the Eternal One? Where is Elijah's True God?

After Elisha struck the water, the Jordan River divided, just as when Elijah had struck the waters. Elisha then walked across on dry land. The prophets' disciples at Jericho standing on the opposite shore were watching this.

Prophets' Disciples: Elijah's powerful spirit now rests upon Elisha. Elijah's cloak now clothes Elisha.

Then the prophets' disciples at Jericho approached Elisha and humbled themselves before him.

Prophets' Disciples: There are 50 strong men along with us, your servants, who could go looking for your mentor. Perhaps the Spirit of the Eternal inside the whirlwind swept Elijah up into heaven and left him on some mountaintop or in some valley of the lowlands.

Elisha: That won't be necessary.

But they kept asking his permission for a search, and he felt ashamed, so he finally agreed. They sent out a search party of 50 men who spent three days looking for Elijah, but they found no trace of him. The search party came back to Elisha while he was still in Jericho.

Elisha: I told you not to go. He's gone from the earth.

Men of Jericho: Life is pleasant in this city; and as you can see, the city is in an advantageous location, except for the water. It's contaminated, so the land is barren.

Elisha: Fetch me a new bowl, and pour some salt into it.

So they brought him the bowl with the salt he had requested. He then walked outside to the water spring and tossed some salt into it.

Elisha: This is the Eternal One's message: "This water is now entirely pure. It will no longer bring death or cause the earth to be barren."

This water has been potable ever since, just as Elisha said.

Elisha then traveled north to Bethel retracing his last steps with

Elijah. On his way there, a large group of young boys came out of the city and began making fun of him:

Young boys: “Keep going, baldy! Keep going, baldy!”

When Elisha looked back at them, he spoke against them by the authority of the Eternal. Almost immediately, 2 female bears walked out of the forest and ripped up 42 of the young boys. Elisha then returned to Mount Carmel, and he went back to Samaria.

Sacred stories to inspire us. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 1

Antiphon

How blessed are those
who delight in the Law of A-DO-NAI*
and meditate on it day and night.

How blessed are those
who reject the path of *violence*,*
who refuse to associate with criminals
or even to sit with people who be-lit-tle *others*.

How blessed are those
who delight in the Law of A-DO-NAI*
and meditate on it day and *night*.

They're like trees planted by flowing water—
they bear fruit in ever-y *season*,*
and their leaves never wither:
everything they do will *prosper*.

But not wrongdoers!
They're like chaff that the wind
blows a-way.*
They won't have a taproot to anchor them
when judg-ment *comes*,
nor will corrupt individuals be given a *place**
at the Gathering of the *Just*.

ADONAI watches over the steps
of those who do *justice*;*
but those on a path of violence and injustice
will find themselves irre-trieva-bly *lost*.

Gloria

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*;^{*}
One God, now and for-ever. A-men.

Antiphon

How blessed are those
who delight in the Law of A-DO-NAI^{*}



and meditate on it day and night.

Gospel Acclamation
Mark 11:12-25

The next morning, when they departed Bethany and were traveling back to the city, Jesus was hungry. Off in the distance, He saw a fig tree fully leafed out, so He headed toward it to see if it might have any ripe fruit. But when He reached it, He found only leaves because the fig season had not yet come.

As the disciples listened, Jesus pronounced a curse on the tree.

Jesus: No one will ever eat fruit from your branches again.

Upon reaching the temple that morning, Jesus dealt with those who were selling and buying animals for sacrifices and drove them out of the area. He turned over the tables of those who exchanged money for the temple pilgrims and the seats of those selling birds, and He physically prevented anyone from carrying anything through the temple.

Jesus (to those who were listening): Didn't the prophets write, "My house will be called a house of prayer, for all the people"? But you have made it into a "haven for thieves." The chief priests and the scribes heard these words and knew Jesus was referring to

them, so they plotted His destruction. They had grown afraid of Him because His teachings struck the crowds into astonishment.

When evening came, [Jesus and His followers] left the city again. The next morning on the way back to Jerusalem, they passed a tree that had withered down to its very roots.

Peter (remembering): That's the fig tree, Teacher, the one You cursed just yesterday morning. It's withered away to nothing!

Jesus: Trust in God. If you do, honestly, you can say to this mountain, "Mountain, uproot yourself and throw yourself into the sea." If you don't doubt, but trust that what you say will take place, then it will happen. So listen to what I'm saying: Whatever you pray for or ask from God, believe that you'll receive it and you will. When you pray, if you remember anyone who has wronged you, forgive him so that God above can also forgive you.

Story of our brother, Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

A Midrash

Our Faith

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives; whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth; whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all; and, whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust that love. And in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others: to seek justice and to live in peace; to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of Love; and in the company of all the faithful – past, present, and yet to come – so to be the Church, for the glory of God. **Amen.**

Confession

Eternal One, in the name of him who gave bread to the hungry, we remember all who through humanity's greed and love of power are condemned to live in want. We protect our own privilege too often while systems of power harm the vulnerable. Help us build a community of solidarity and equity, and bless the efforts of those who work to overcome poverty and hunger, that sufficient means may be found for all.



future. Thanks

(Silence is held.)

Jesus brings the liberation of God's commonwealth and shatters our complicity. We are released, with eyes and ears and mouths and hearts open, sent forth to dismantle the powers of death and embody love. **Those in power do not hold our be to God.**

SACRED MEAL IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF CHRIST

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you!**

Presentation of the Gifts

**Praise God, the source of life and breath.
Praise Christ, the one who conquers death.
Praise Holy Spirit, wind and flame.
The One and Holy Triune Name. Amen.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up in hope.
Let us give thanks for life and breath.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider prays ... With those who have sung the song of peace and hope in every time and place, and with all who are just learning the words, we lift our voices in praise to you:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and strength.
All creation is full of your imagination.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

Presider continues ... Eternal One, we now offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of justice and the wine of the age to come, and we we proclaim a mystery of our faith:

Christ lives. Christ dies. Christ rises again and again.
Presider continues, followed by the "Our Father"

**O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
show mercy in us.**

**O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
grant us peace.**

Until the day when justice is no longer imagined but lived, when peace is not enforced but shared, when every table is crowded and everybody is welcomed—we will gather, we will give thanks, we will break bread, and we will practice the future. **Amen.**



Communion of Solidarity

WE GO IN PEACE TO LOVE

Next Week in the Liturgy

Pastor's Commendation

Sending Song

**Go, dear friends, bring liberation:
stories share and fears release.
Christ has opened wide the circle.
May your lives shine bright with peace.**

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



Next Week: The Feast of Creation (9/6/26)

The Feast of Creation marks the opening day of the Season of Creation, grounding our liturgical life in the radical belief that the Holy One's presence infuses all living things. It transforms the Eucharist from an abstract ritual into an anti-imperial act of solidarity with an abused Earth, proclaiming that to exploit nature is to desecrate a divine sacrament. On this feast, love means actively resisting the systems of greed that exploit both marginalized people and the land.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Montgomery, OSL, Pastor