

Sunday 6 September – Festival of Creation in Christ

Collect

O God and Father of all that was, is and ever shall be,
help us to be thankful for all that is made
at the hands of your Son
and through the wisdom of your Spirit,
that we may care in heart and in deed for the life of our world,
to the praise and glory of your holy name.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:12-13

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦
tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples. **R**

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦
he is more to be feared than all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him; ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary. **R**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity. **R**

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel: Matthew 8.23–27

²³And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵And they went and woke him up, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ ²⁶And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you of little faith?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. ²⁷They were amazed, saying, ‘What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?’