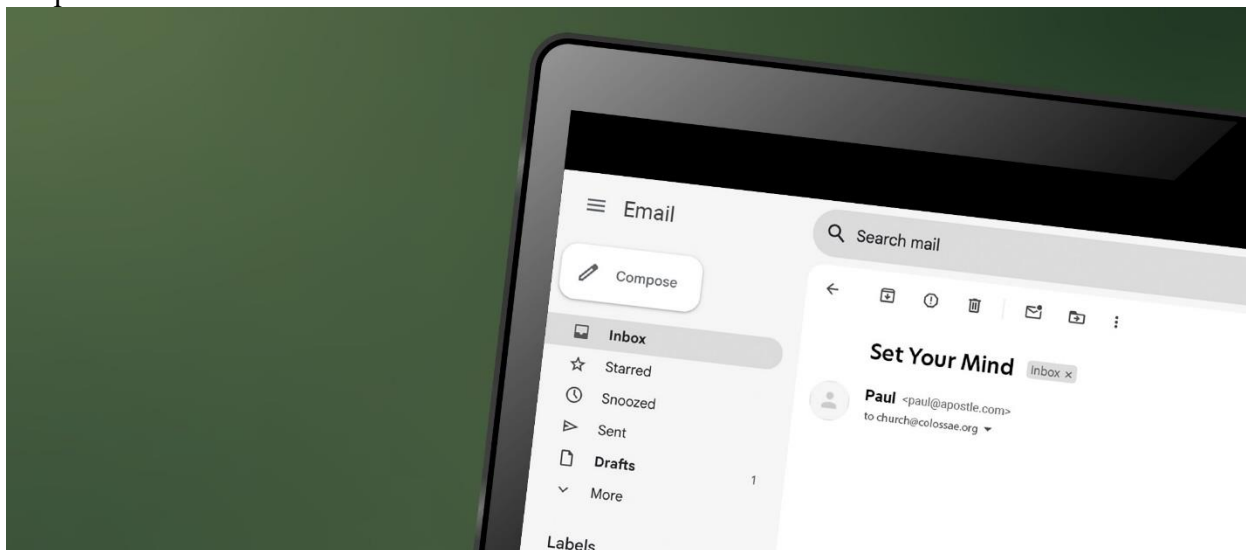


August 3, 2025
9:30 AM
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
Supply Pastor: The Rev. Bob Mitman

Paragraph for bulletin cover:

This week marks the last “email” from Paul to the Colossians in this worship series, the last reminder about who the Christians of Colossae are and how their story forms their identity as a community. And, of course, how the Christians of Colossae might also inform who we are as the Christians of Little Rock, Buffalo, Athens, Wichita, Alamosa...I think you get the picture. The church in Colossae is part of our story, and we are part of theirs, even as we are all diverse Christian communities planted in places uniquely different yet somehow similar to Christian communities that sprouted and grew almost 2000 years ago.

Graphic for bulletin cover:



+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE What Joy is Mine, O Friend of Mortals - J.S. Bach
 second piano part by R. Coleman
 Donna Fesmire, guest musician

CONFESSION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and renew us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love; know that our sins have been forgiven.

May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Amen.

HYMN ELW 650 In Christ there is no East or West

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, our guide and our protector, as we gather today in your holy house, open our minds and souls and hearts, that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Help us follow you as you lead us to the land you have created for us, where we may dwell with you and in you. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

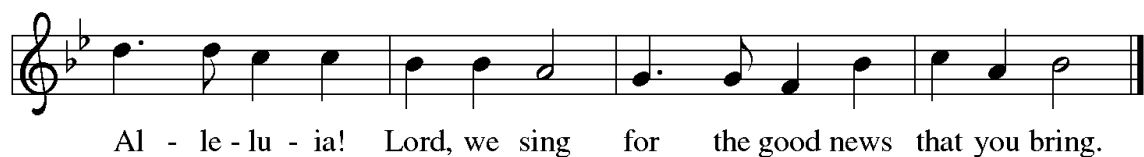
FIRST READING: Colossians 3:1-11

At the conclusion of the reading:

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:13-21

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Robert Mitman

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 679 For the Fruit of All Creation

APOSTLE'S CREED

Together with people of faith in all times and places, we profess our faith with the words of the 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

Each petition ends with the phrase:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

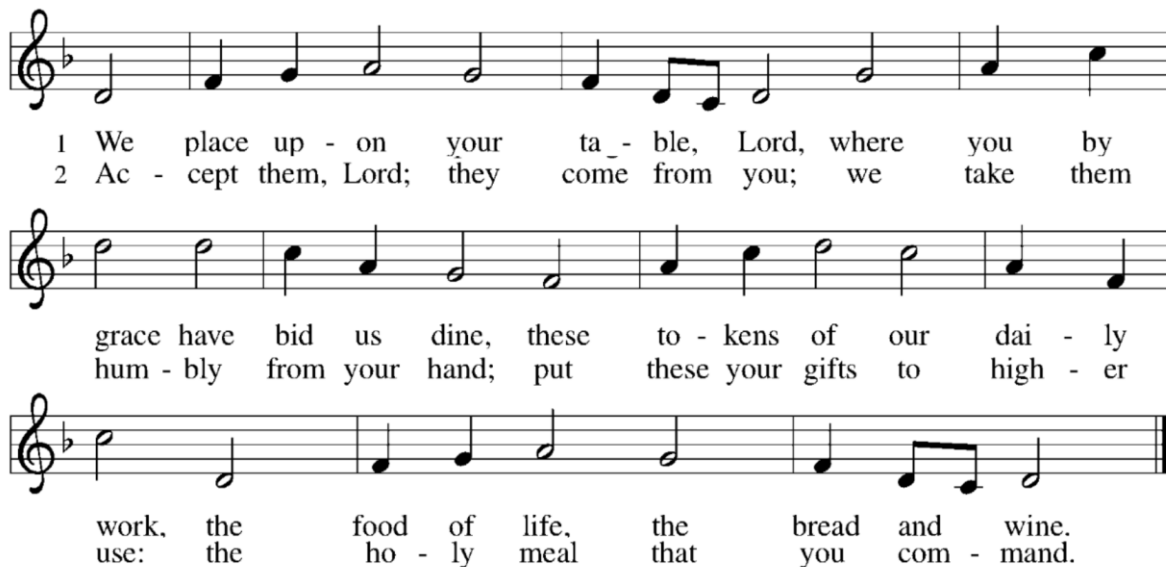
+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING O Worship the King - setting by Joel Raney
Donna Fesmire, guest musician

OFFERTORY ELW 467 We Place upon Your Table, Lord



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy and ever-present God, you call us to set our minds on things above, to let go of all that weighs us down, and to embrace the new life found in Christ. As we bring these gifts, shape our hearts in generosity, our hands in service, and our minds in faithfulness. May these offerings be used to transform lives, to build up your kingdom, and to reflect your love in this world. Keep us ever mindful that we give because you have first given so abundantly to us. In Christ's name, we pray. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 496 One Bread, One Body

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Children of God, receive this blessing:
may the renewing grace of the Triune God surround you;
may the steadfast love of the Triune God uphold you,
and may the goodness of the Triune God entice you
to set your mind on Christ that you may live
as God's image-bearers and gospel-bringers wherever you go.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 840 Now Thank We all our God

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Humble us by Thy Goodness – J.S. Bach, arr. Becket Williams

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We give thanks to Pastor Robert Mitman for serving as our supply pastor this morning. For a Pennsylvania Dutch boy who started out in Pipersville, Bob has just celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination. From the Pennridge schools (where he met Linda in ninth grade) to Muhlenberg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the couple ended up back home where they would raise their two children, Eric and Jennifer, and care for their parents toward the ends of their lives.

Linda has a nursing degree from Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales. She has been a visiting nurse most of her career, which concluded as nursing coordinator for Community Home Services in Harleysville.

Bob cut his pastoral teeth on the beloved congregation of Grace Lutheran Church of Wyndmoor, a suburb of Chestnut Hill. God bless them! In 1980 the Mitmans moved to Kellers Church (St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Perkasio), where Bob was pastor until 2016. During that period the church and educational buildings were maintained and updated, and attendance rose to 300 per Sunday before the downturn that befell most mainline congregations (but fortunately not Church of the Holy Spirit!)

Bob's passions include worship leadership and singing, although a series of vocal fold surgeries have curtailed the singing. He bowls and golfs once a week. Linda enjoys cooking, gardening, and reading. Both follow their 5 grandchildren's activities from sports to concerts.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Ruthie Jadick, Jill Iris, Ed Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Joe Tursi, the Stauffer family, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Sarah Keller, Linda Lysoby, Mary Bonar, Mary Flint, Richard Ditzler, Paige Seasock, Charlie Izurieta, Jeff Jadick, Joy Miller, Alyson Harvey, Audrey Sell, Sonny Carson and Katie Knowles.

Mark Your Calendar

Friday, August 8, 2025	7pm Firepit Friday
Saturday, August 9, 2025	9:30am Book Club
	3pm National Night Out
Sunday, August 10	9:30am Worship

Fridays at the Firepit! Join us Friday, August 8th at 7pm. Bring a chair and join the fun!

St. John's & Friedens Book Club is reading *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. They will be meeting in St. John's fellowship hall on Saturday, August 9th to discuss this book and share a light breakfast and coffee. Questions, please contact Pastor Becky or Pastor Stephanie.

Order your hoagie by Monday, August 11th. Sign up outside PB's office or contact Elaine Keller at elainekeller@comcast.net or 215-262-5366.

National Night Out will be here at St. John's on Saturday, August 9th from 3-6pm. Come out and meet our local police and fire fighters, safety demonstrations, music, games and food and more! If you can help out, please contact Paul Barndt (pbarndt@barndtagency.com).

Blessing of the New School Year Sunday, August 24 – 9:30 AM

As we prepare for a new school year to start, we will take time during worship to bless not only our students but also all those who work within the school system – teachers, aides, administrators, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc.

Younger students are welcome to bring their backpacks for the blessing!

Bring your Grandparent to Church Sunday, September 7 – 9:30 AM

September 7 is Grandparents day – so bring your grandparents (or grandparents can bring their grandchildren) to church! After worship, enjoy some special fellowship time with refreshments and an easy craft activity. All are welcome!

Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday, September 14th

Sunday school starts at 9 AM followed by worship at 10:15 AM

Picture your Cross ☐ On Sunday, September 14th we will be celebrating Holy Cross Sunday and we plan to run a slide show with pictures of crosses that are meaningful to you. Please take a photo of that cross and send it to the church office no later than Monday, September 8th to be included.

Outdoor Worship at New Goshenhoppen Park on Sunday, August 31st at 10:30 AM. Bring a lawn chair and a side dish or dessert to share at the picnic that follows the join worship service. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. This is also the hair color reveal following the Stop Hunger Challenge.

Stop Hunger and choose a color for Pastor Becky's hair! Collect \$3,000 for her to have to color her hair, if we collect \$3,500 St. John's gets to choose the color!