



HARVEST HOME SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL!

We are happy to have you here!

HOW TO KNOW WHEN TO STAND, SIT, OR SPEAK

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.

You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

WE ARE AN OPEN COMMUNION CONGREGATION

This means that any Christian who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is invited to receive Holy Communion.

HOW TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US



Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give**, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

A NOTE ON COMMUNION WAFERS



To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain

15ppm gluten or less (The US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results. If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

GATHERING

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, our Provider, you grant us an abundant harvest so that your children throughout the world may be fed.

Establish in us thankfulness and faithful stewardship, that we may return the first fruits of praise and use your gifts of field and livestock, tree and vine to fulfill the needs of the hungry and the sojourner; through Jesus Christ our Lord

PRELUDE — Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

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

- P Most merciful God, A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- We have squandered your bountiful gifts. We have considered the blessings of the harvest our due. We have been indifferent in planning and planting for the future needs of your Church.
- For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts, and wisdom to mature in our minds, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**



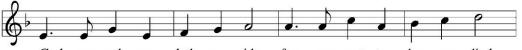
(ELW 693)



- 1 Come, ye thank-ful peo ple, come; raise the song of har vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har vest home;
- 4 E ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi nal har vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win-ter storms be - gin. wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy sor - row grown. or his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way; Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup - plied. the full corn shall ap - pear. First the blade, and then the ear. then give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast. there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



to God's own Come tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home. Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be. the fruit - ful to store in gar - ner ev - er - more. but ears his Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

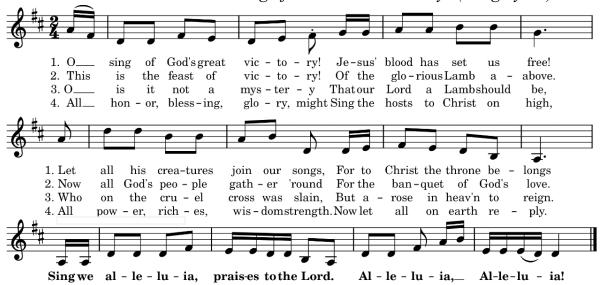
*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

*KYRIE



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE O Sing of God's Great Victory! (Sung by all)



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. God among us, O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through lesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **A: Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 32:1-3A, 6-15

Because Luke often presents Jesus as carrying on the ministry of the Old Testament prophets, our first readings during these weeks is from several of those figures, now from Jeremiah. For much of his life, this prophet warned against the defeat and destruction of Jerusalem. Now that it was at hand, his preaching takes a turn and promises that, following that condemnation, there will be a restoration.

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. ² At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, ^{3a} where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

⁶ Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: ⁷ Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of

redemption by purchase is yours.' " ⁸ Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

⁹ And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰ I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. ¹¹ Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, ¹² and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. ¹³ In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, ¹⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. ¹⁵ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land."

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God**.

PSALM 91:1-6, 14-16

(sung to the tune Beach Spring (ELW 777)

Like Jeremiah, this psalm promises that God's favor will outlast and overcome suffering, not that suffering will not come.



SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

Today we continue reading through the letters addressed to Timothy. By chance this reading echoes the rest of the lessons in warning against the dangers of prosperity.

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

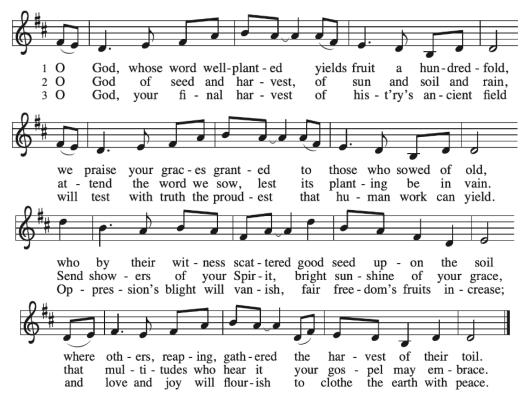
¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal

life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION/GRADUAL HYMN



Text: Herman G. Stitempfle Jr., 1923—2007 Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1932 Text and music № 1990 Augsburg Fortiess

*GOSPEL READING: LUKE 16:19-31

This parable is told to people who are described as "lovers of money." In it, Jesus has a more important agenda than giving us a glimpse of the state of the dead before the general resurrection – it is a mixture of contemporary Jewish (safe in the bosom of Abraham) and Greek (Hades) speculation.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷ He said, Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30 He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

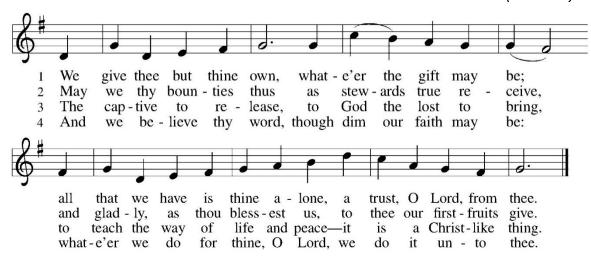
L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

(ELW 686)



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

*INVITATION TO BAPTISM

*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 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.

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **A: Amen.**

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

MUSICAL & HARVEST HOME OFFERING While the musical offering is being played, you are invited to bring forward your produce and donations for the State College Food Bank.



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer

Music: BARB'RY ELLEN, Appalachian traditional

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*OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Gracious God, You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, lesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

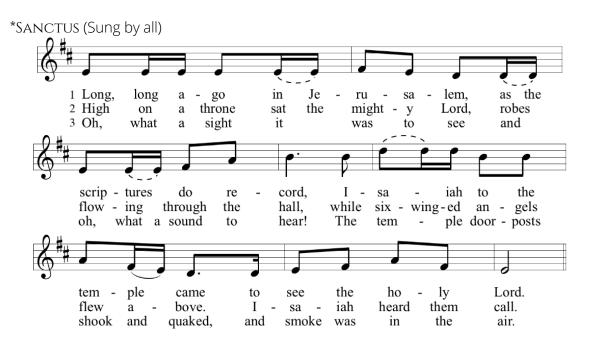
A: We lift them to the Lord.

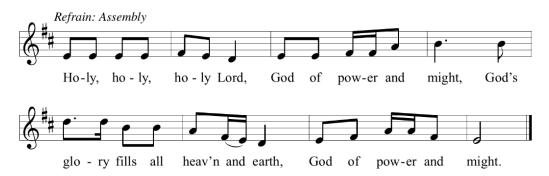
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You sent your Son to reveal your never-failing love for creation. Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you rather than earthly treasure. For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.





*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Let the peoples praise you, generous and abundant Creator:

you scatter abroad and give to the poor;

you provide seed to the sower and bread for food;

Let the peoples praise you:

you called Israel to be your chosen people,

to preserve your Word and to scatter it abroad.

Let the peoples praise you:

when time had ripened, you sent that Word, your Son, into the world, so that all might have life and have it abundantly.

In the night in which he was handed over,

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, how he fed the hungry and gave company to outcasts;

how he healed the sick and freed those in bondage;

how he taught and guided those who were seeking you;

how he was handed over and gathered in for our sake;

how he was resurrected as the first fruits of the dead,

and how he promised to return for the great harvest home;

we give you thanks, not as we ought, but as we are able.

Send, we pray, your Spirit to this Meal.

Supply our needs, and those of all your saints, and fill us until we overflow with thanksgivings.

Empowered by this Meal, enlivened by that Spirit, move us to glorify you in faithfulness to the Gospel and in generosity to all in need.

United by your Spirit with all your people, we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, to you, our Source and our Goal, our Sun and our Shield, our God now and forever.

A: Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

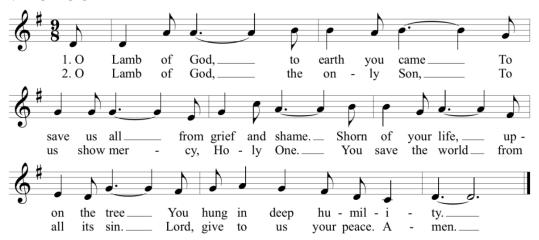
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: Prospect, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, body, mind, and soul, now, and unto eternal life. **A: Amen.**

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE -"O Lord of the Blossom"



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **A: Amen.**

SENDING

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **A: Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, & and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter!"

(ELW 681)



Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 28

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146 (7) 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

Monday, September 29

Amos 6:8-14 Revelation 3:14-22 Psalm 62

Tuesday, September 30

Hosea 10:9-15 James 5:1-6 Psalm 62

Wednesday, October 1

Hosea 12:2-14 Matthew 19:16-22 Psalm 62

Thursday, October 2

2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36 Revelation 2:8-11 Psalm 37:1-9

Friday, October 3

2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37 Revelation 2:12-29 Psalm 37:1-9

Saturday, October 4

Isaiah 7:1-9 Matthew 20:29-34 Psalm 37:1-9



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister	Art Reede
Pianist	Michelle McMullen
Sacristan	Delorse Homan
Reader	Ann Reede

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

Mission

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith • Compassion • Generosity • Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.' – Acts 9:3,15

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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