

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

Welcome

If you are a guest with us today, we welcome you in the name of Jesus! If you have questions or prayer requests or want to get in touch with us, please sign the guest book in the lobby (or use this QR code) or email or call.



Welcome to all! Thanks for joining us this morning.

Children's bulletins and church bags (soft activity books, quiet toys and other “surprises”) are available in the narthex.

The Children's Nursery Area is available downstairs in the Parish Hall. The service streams on the monitor and there is a soft rug, chairs, books and toys available. Turn right out of the sanctuary and go down the stairs.

Prelude: Please use the prelude as a time for quiet prayer and meditation before worship.

Prayer request cards are available in the pews facing you. You may give the card to an usher or place in the offering plate.

For Those Who Desire to Receive the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. Paul in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion trays, and gluten free wafers are also available.)

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924

www.stpaulcatonsville.org email: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org

Pastor Gregory Alms

Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director
Vicar Nate Demlow

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Prelude: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word Johann Gottfried Walther
(1684-1748)

Stand

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Psalms 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination

Confession of Sins

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalms 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

What shall I render | to the LORD*

for all his bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*

is the death | of his saints.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



Gloria

LSB 946



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
△ 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C Amen.

Sit

Anthem:

O Gladsome Light, O Grace

Louis Bourgeois
(c. 1510-1561)

O gladsome light, O grace of God the Father's face, the eternal splendor wearing:
Celestial, holy, blest, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Joyful to Thine appearing.
Now ere day fadeth quite, we see the evening light, our wonted hymn outpouring.
Father of might unknown, Thee, His incarnate Son, and Holy Spirit adoring.
To Thee of right belongs all praise of holy songs, O Son of God, lifegiver;
Thee, therefore, O Most High, the world doth glorify, and shall exalt for ever.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



Verse

John 20:31



Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

LSB 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

Sermon



Rite of Confirmation and Reception of New Members

Confirmation

Arnold Holz

Sela Plummer

Lucy Peterson

Transfer and Affirmation of Faith

Dwayne Anderson

Connor Heimerman

Betty Ann Gotte

Address

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord’s bidding. Jesus said, “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Profession of Faith

- P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- R** *Yes, I do.*
- P** Do you renounce the devil?
- R** *Yes, I renounce him.*
- P** Do you renounce all his works?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- R** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Confirmation Blessing

P (Name), the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

R *Amen.*

Reception of New Members

P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. I invite you to participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Collect

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via this QR code or through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)



Offertory

LSB 895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voice - es,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won - drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count - less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinckart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

LSB 821



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
 scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
 tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
 Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
 like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87 Text and tune: Public domain

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

LSB 740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

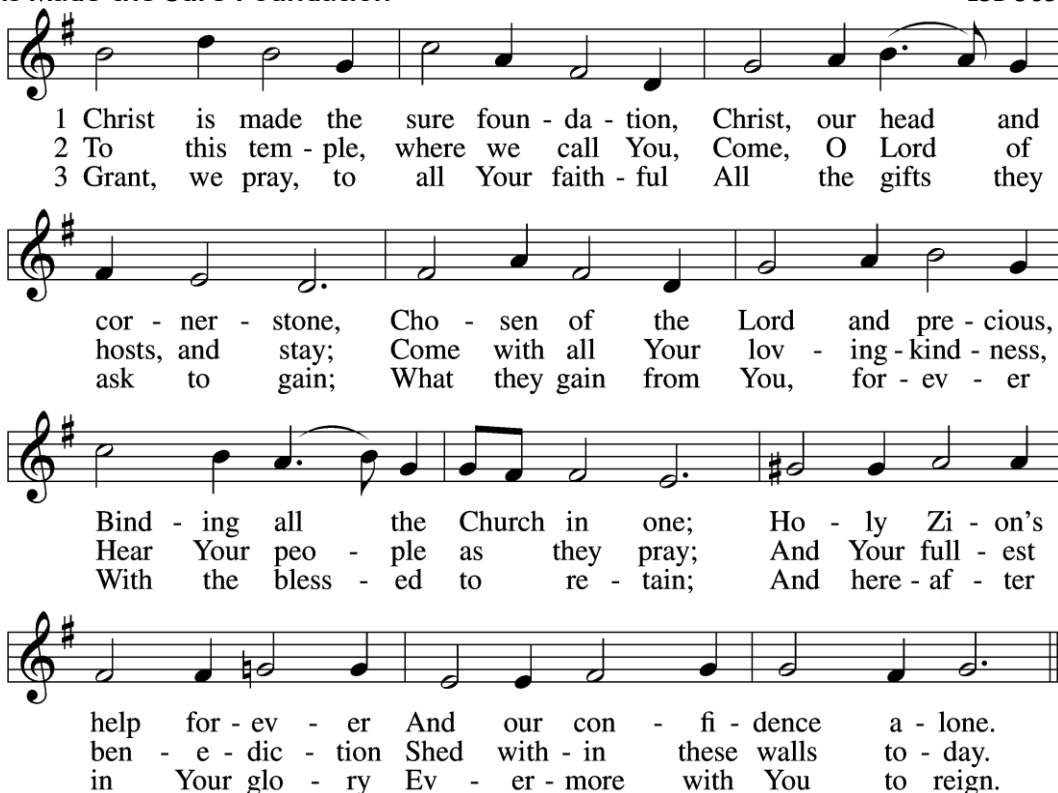


day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig
 Text and tune: Public domain

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

LSB 909



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
 3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they

cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er

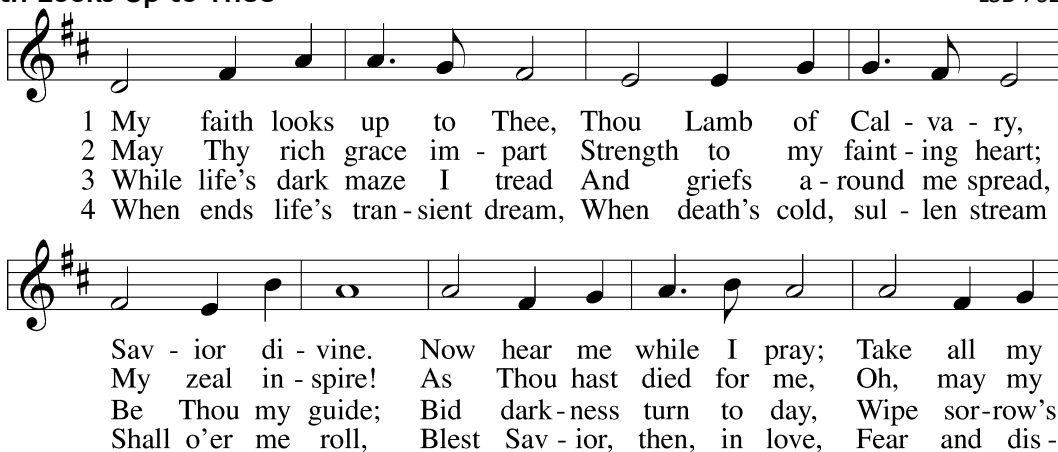
Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter

help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–95, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light as to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

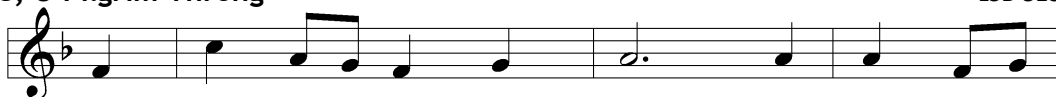
Psalm 103:1

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

LSB 813



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
saints on earth Pour out the strains of
chant and song, Through gate and porch and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

5 Still lift your standard high,
Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend
Till dawns the golden day. Refrain

6 At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

△7 Praise Him who reigns on high,
The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God forevermore. Refrain

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt. Tune: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)



Acknowledgments

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News And Notes

Altar Flowers

Flowers are given by Pat Wesselman in memory of Don Wesselman on our anniversary.

Isaiah Bible Study is Underway

Get your study guide today in the Narthex and join us next week at 8:45 am.

Women's Guild

Ladies important date changes we normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month, for the remainder for this calendar year we will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Octobers meeting date will be October 20th at the home of Pat Wesselman.

What is Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building

It is a joyful, celebratory response to everything God has done at St. Paul! This is not a campaign born of crisis or anxiety; it is an act of faith and gratitude. We trust the words of Ephesians 3:20, that God is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. *Firmly Rooted, Boldly Building* is our congregation's yes to where He is leading us: to reach the lost in our community, to serve our neighbors, and to build room for the mission He has already placed in our hands. The three pillars bring this more into focus: we will retire the mortgage, we will expand our facility space and add a new playground, we will as individuals seek to commit to specific acts of service and outreach. All in thanksgiving, all in celebration!

Prayer for the 2026 Ministry Expansion Campaign:

Dear Lord, as we look back over the years since we last expanded our physical space here at St. Paul, we give you thanks for all you have done through the work and ministry of St. Paul over those years. We give thanks for the mortgage that enabled us to expand our physical space those years ago and for all that St. Paul congregation has been able to accomplish through that mortgage. Please bless our efforts to retire that mortgage and help us to embrace the gifts you have given us to spread your loving gospel as we move forward into new opportunities for ministry made possible by your great love.

Reception for New Members

Please join us downstairs for a reception welcoming our newest members. Take a moment to greet them and enjoy some time of fellowship together.

A Note About Parking

If you are able to park a little further away from the front "red doors" entrance that would be great. Some of our older members need that entrance to avoid the difficult walk up the stairs from the basement. Whatever you can do is appreciated!

ESL (English As A Second Language)

With the rain coming down, it looked like a wash out. However, 16 students and 7 teachers huddled together in the first grade classroom for our first session of English class on September 21. This year's students come from places like China, Japan, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Pakistan, and Myanmar. And yes, we need some more space and tables! But we'll work it out. The students are enthusiastic and just lovely people. What a blessing!

Welcome Back, Stan and Dana!

Stan and Dana Stigdon are here at St. Paul today! Stan and Dana both previously served at St. Paul as principal and church administrative assistant. They currently serve as LCMS missionaries in the Dominican Republic. We pray that God continues to bless their service to His Church.

The Youth Group

The Youth Group will have its first gathering on Saturday, October 3rd from 4:00-7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a devotion, dinner, and time to play some games/ sports. Pizza and drinks will be provided, please feel free to bring other snacks or fruit.

Additionally, we will be hosting a Youth Group trunk for Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 31st from 3:00-5:00 PM. We would love to see you there! Feel free to bring a friend or two as well. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vicar Demlow at

vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org.

Calling All Young Adults!

The Young Adult Group will meet per usual on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in October (10/10 & 10/24). From now on, we will begin at 4:00 PM rather than 5:00 PM. All young adults 18-30 are invited to attend. Please reach out to Vicar Demlow at vicardemlow@stpaulcatonsville.org for additional information.

Trunk or Treat!

This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 3pm. It is always such a fun family event with trunks, games, and fun. There are several ways you can help! You can join the planning committee, host a trunk to decorate, donate candy, or facilitate a game. Please contact Kirsten Hall (kirsten.hall@splscatonsville.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

Calling all parents!

We hope to get everyone excited about the Ministry Expansion Campaign, including our youngest members! There are goodie bags for the children of the congregation (and visiting children!) downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at the "Kids Corner" table. If you did not get one last week, you are welcome to stop by the table during Fellowship Hour so that your child can pick their favorite color bag! In October, there will be fun activities and themed treats for the children at this table during Fellowship Hour. We will start next Sunday, October 4, with "Rooted in Jesus", where kids will get to take a plant cutting home to watch it grow roots!

Newsletter

The October Newsletter is available in the narthex.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week 27th	Next week 4th
Cantor	TBD	TBD
Reader	Karen Eichelman	Ken Waibel
Usher	Kevin Dungey	Ben Haberl
Usher	Taylor Dungey	Jim Baeder
Greeter	Pat Wesselman	Ed Cohen

Daily Readings

Sept 28, 2026	2 Chr 31:1–21, Phil 4:1–23
Sept 29, 2026	2 Chr 32:1–22, Col 1:1–23
Sept 30, 2026	2 Chr 33:1–25, Col 1:24—2:7
Oct 01, 2026	2 Chr 34:1–4, 8–11, 14–33, Col 2:8–23
Oct 02, 2026	2 Chr 35:1–7, 16–25, Col 3:1–25
Oct 03, 2026	2 Chr 36:1–23, Col 4:1–18
Oct 04, 2026	Neh 1:1—2:10, 1 Tim 1:1–20

Happening This Week

Monday, Sept. 28, 2026

7:15 PM – 9:00PM

ESL

Media Center

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

AA Small Group

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026

6:00 PM- 7:00 PM

Bell Choir Practice

Sanctuary

Wednesday, Sept.30, 2026

Thursday, Oct 01, 2026

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Bible Study

Sacristy

7:15 PM – 9:00PM

ESL

Media Center

Friday, Oct 02, 2026

All Day

Pastor's Day Off

Saturday, Oct 03, 2026

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2026

8:45 AM- 9:45 PM

Bible Classes

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sunday Worship

Sanctuary

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Oromo Worship

Sanctuary

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Oromo Fellowship

Sanctuary

CHURCH MEMBERS

Jim Kyne (knee replacement)
Eleanor Hoffman, (lung cancer and chemo)
Steve Hoffman (recovering from illness)
Debbie Frech (cancer, chemotherapy treatment)
Lindsey Gay (recovering)
Marilyn Blomster (recovering)
Marilyn Haberl (scleroderma)



SHUT-INS

Dorothy Shifflett

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Seyeon Harmon, preparing for heart surgery (wife of Matthew Harmon)
Hayden Allen Reynolds, Born premature; prayer of thanksgiving and for continued health for both him and his mom (Great grandson of Ken and Joyce Waibel) 9/22
Kelly Kolenda, spine compression surgery (Mom of Emily Kolenda) 9/15
Ross Davis, bone marrow disorder (brother of Linda Jones) (9/15)
Mary Unglesbee, brain tumor treatment success (mom-in-law of Christina Unglesbee) 9/15
Raymond Frazier, liver transplant (brother-in-law of Josh Leuschner) 9/15
Kathy Schindler, cancer (cousin of Carol Taylor) 9/1
Hannah Hauk, living with ALS needing constant care (friend of Dave and Faith Carnes) 8/2
Eine Haasmaa (Sari Nguyen's mom) 3/22
Walt O'Reilly for recovering (Renata O'Reilly's husband)

THANKSGIVINGS TO GOD

Gracie Inman, recovered from surgery (wife of Tanner Inman)
Sari Nguyen (recovered from eye surgery)

Prayer is a great gift and privilege for Christians. To add people to the prayer list printed in the bulletin, please email pastoralms@stpaulcatonsville.org or linda.jones@splscatonsville.org or call the church office at 410-747-1897. Family and friends will automatically be removed after one month. If you want your request to stay on for another month, just contact the office.



Sermon Notes



Ezekiel 18:32

