



Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Red Hill
Sharing Our Faith, Spreading God's Love
Rev. Kevin Compton - Pastor

SUNDAY – Sept. 27, 2026 – Eighteenth SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“All are welcome in this place!”

This is the title of a popular modern hymn in the Lutheran tradition by Marty Haugen. He begins his hymn with this line, “Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.” These words testify to the meaning of the body of Christ in this world, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church has embodied the love and welcome of Christ in the Upper Perkiomen Valley since 1739. No matter who you are, if you are seeking a loving community of people following Christ, if you are curious about this man named Jesus that we call savior, or even if you are not sure what you are looking for, know that you are welcome. You are created in the image of God, and you are welcome.

Pastor Kevin Compton

We believe the sound of children in worship is not a distraction. It is evidence of life, growth, and the future of the church. If your child makes noise, you are not bothering us. You are blessing us.

This service is being streamed: By remaining, you consent to being recorded or live-streamed on the Internet. We do have no-camera areas in the balcony and in the back rows of the Sanctuary for you to help limit your exposure.

Music is reprinted, podcast/streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744022 & CCLI LICENSE #1083898. All rights reserved.

The Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our mother and father, and 4 brothers; Ellen; Doris and Uncle Lin and my husband Donald, Presented by Ester Wood and family.

The Chancel Flowers Given to the Glory of God in celebration of their lives together on the 9th anniversary of the wedding of Kevin Compton and Ali Clark, presented by Rev. Kevin Compton.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME – Rev. Erika Wesch is joining us this morning to lead the worship and preside at the table in Pastor Kevin's absence.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon Earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin to God.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – God is Here - Blue Book 719

THE GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

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

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9 (Assistant)

Please join me in a responsive reading from Psalm 25

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13 (Assistant)

Our second reading is from the book of Philippians, the Second chapter.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death-
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please rise in body or in spirit)



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32 (Pastor)

The Gospel is from St. Matthew, the Twenty-First chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For 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 after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ (Please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE – Pastor Erika Wesch

SONG OF THE DAY - Wonderful Merciful Savior

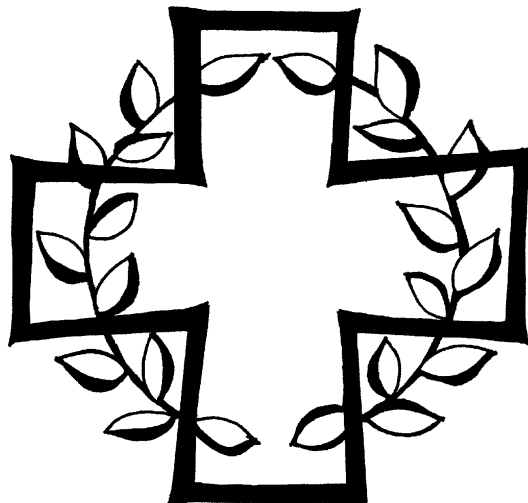
Words and Music By Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse ©1989 Word Music LLC | Dayspring Music, LLC. CCLI# 1083898

Wonderful, Merciful Savior, Precious redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we Adore.
You give the healing and grace, our hearts always hunger for.
Oh our hearts always hunger for.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. **Chorus**

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before your throne.
Oh, we're falling before your throne. **Chorus**



CREED (Assistant):

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith, sharing together the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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 (Assistant)

Empowered by God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.
(Allow for a brief silence.)

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all people your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. We pray especially for the people on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, the prayers we have left unsaid, and bless this body of people with the strength for your work. We ask this in Jesus' name

Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you all!

And also with you!

(Please greet your neighbor with a sign of peace and return to your seats for the offering)



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING We begin our celebration of communion by returning a portion of the blessings we have received from God to sustain the body of Christ.

OFFERTORY SONG - For the Fruit of All Creation Blue Book 760

For the Fruit of All Creation



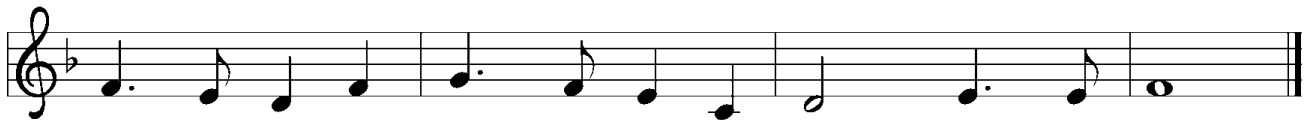
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERTORY SONG – Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Bless the Lord, O My Soul



Text: Ps. 103:1

Music: PRAISE PSALM 103, traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

Amen.

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.

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;
who overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Pastor)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Amen. (Please be seated)

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Follow the usher's directions.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Blessings are available in lieu of communion or for any young person who has not yet received communion instruction.

**SONG DURING COMMUNION - Oh Jesus, I have Promised
Green Book 503**

**SONG DURING COMMUNION - Lord, Whose Love in Humble
Service
Green Book 212**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Please rise in body or in spirit.)

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

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

THE BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

SENDING SONG - Love The Lord

Lincoln Brewster 2005 Integrity's Praise! Music

Love the lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
Love the lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
With all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, with all your strength;
Love the lord your God, with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

****Musical Interlude****

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.
I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.
With all my heart, with all my soul,
with all my mind, with all my strength;
I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.

****Musical Interlude****

Leader: I will love You;
All: I will love You;
Leader: I will praise You;
All: I will praise You;
Leader: I will serve You;
All: I will serve You;
Leader: I will trust You, Lord
All: I will trust You.

With all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, with all your strength;
With all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, with all your strength;

I will love You, Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.
I will love You, Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.
I will love You, Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind and with all my strength.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Rev. Erika Wesch for stepping forward to lead today's worship service at St. Paul's while Pastor Kevin is away. We are praying for traveling mercies to Pastor Kevin and his family.

Our music today is led by St. Paul's Music Director, Eve Keane. Thank you Eve for your talents and your leadership!

Thank you to our worship assistant Alyssa Smith; ushers, Sheila Kraus and Gary Hager; live streaming team; Communion set up team, Pat Walter; sacristy team, Barbara Nace and Pat Walter; flower sponsors and all who help with worship.

We Remember in Prayer

Jason Adamczyk
Joyce Allebach
Anita Breyer
Shelby Chadwick
Nancy Esterly
Rev Dr. David
Genszler
Dave and Gail
Gerhard
The family of Jim
Gipson
Barbara Green
Dave Hamblin
Janet Hill

John Hockenberger
Frances Lechner
Melissa Leinback
Jeff McMurtrie
Becky McIntosh
Madalena McMahon
Becky McNeilly
Tricia Parker
Dennis Renninger
Alan Richard
Kirk Robinson
Donna Rodenberger
Tom Sands
Diane Schantz

Margarita Serbia
Linda Shagg
John Sheeran
Sarah Stever
Beth Ann Thomas
Arlene Vandenburg
Ryan Weaver
Larry Weiss
Dave Woodward
Pastor Jessica
Zurcher
Janet Zylinski

Announcements and Upcoming Events

TAIZÉ EARLY EVENING WORSHIP!

Third Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

The Center at The Open Link, 517 Jefferson Street, East Greenville.

The next Taizé Worship is on October 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Come and enjoy a brief, midweek sanctuary from our busy lives. Center your hearts in praise and prayer, song and silence, word and welcome.

WELCOME WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall!

This service is centered on Christ's love for everyone. We are focused on making the worship accessible, contemporary in style, interactive, and intergenerational. We expect the service to last about **45 minutes**.

Come take part in worship, or pray for the new thing God is doing among us! Help us share the energy of St. Paul's and the love of Christ to the Upper Perk in a new way!

The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News

Join us beginning this Thursday for a six-week study of the Gospel of Mark based on the book by noted scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. This is intended to be an accessible and lively introduction to Mark's fast-paced account of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

Thursdays

October 1 - November 5

1:30pm - 3:00pm

**The study group will meet at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in
Pennsburg in their multipurpose room.**

Each class will be led by a pastor from the Reformation Sister Churches of Upper Perkiomen Valley.

Reading the book *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News* is highly recommended to get the most out of the study. If you are interested in getting a copy of the book, please contact Pastor Kevin when he returns on Monday, September 28.