



SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

9:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST



TELECOIL ASSIST AVAILABLE

HEADPHONES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE

PLEASE SEE A GREETER FOR ASSISTANCE

HEARING LOOP
Switch hearing aid or CI to
t-coil or request headphones

Welcome to St. Pauls! We are grateful for your prayers and presence on this day in the life of the parish community. We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

We ask that those worshipping with us online reverently pray and meditate on God's grace and blessing whenever you observe the Eucharist being taken.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples who have reserve treaty rights to this land, including the Skagit Tribe who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank these caretakers of the land, who have lived here and continue to live here since time immemorial.

Our Mission Statement

We believe that God is healing and restoring the world, and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.

Prayer For The Search Of The Next Rector

Eternal Guide, please watch over our steps as the congregations of Resurreccion and Saint Paul's walk the path of selecting a new rector. Guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose a spiritual leader and pastor for us – a leader who will care for your people and prepare us for our ministries. We ask that you bless them with insight, faithfulness, patience, and joy, so that they may truly hear your voice during their decision-making. Open the hearts of those who feel called to embark on this journey to an unfamiliar place, and walk with us as we trust in this process together. For the wonder of your love, **Amen**.

Serving Today:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Presider and Preacher:	The Rev'd Keith Axberg
Deacon:	The Rev'd Dennis Taylor
Music Director:	J.J. Cully
Eucharistic Minister:	Judy Smith
Eucharistic Visitors:	Sandy McDougall and Sarah Thompson
Acolyte:	Daniel Dempsey
Greeters:	Melissa and Jeffrey Bird, David and Colvin Swanberg
Lectors:	Barbara Tasker-Mueller and Judy Smith
Counters:	Carol Boss and Acacia McDermott

St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list. Please email Acacia McDermott at redwoodam@proton.me

The Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Welcome Presider

Prelude Hungry Kathryn Scott

The text of the prelude hymn follows, so you can reflect on the words, and pray with them:

Hungry, I come to you, for I know you satisfy. I am empty, but I know your love does not run dry. So I wait for you, so I wait for you, I'm falling on my knees, offering all of me. Jesus, you're all this heart is living for.

Broken, I come to you, for your arms are open wide; I am weary, but I know your touch restores my life. So I wait for you, so I wait for you, I'm falling on my knees, offering all of me. Jesus, you're all this heart is living for.

Hungry, we come to you, for we know you satisfy. We are empty, but we know your love does not run dry. So we wait for you, so we wait for you, I'm falling on my knees, offering all of me. Jesus, you're all this heart is living for.

Opening HymnAt the Name of Jesus.....Hymn 435

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

GloriaHymn S280

In the front of the blue hymnal

The Collect of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated.

The Old Testament Lesson

Lector: A Reading From Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Read antiphonally by whole verse, beginning with the lectern side.

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Epistle Lesson

Lector: A Reading from Philippians 2:1-13

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

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn..... When Love Is Found

1. When love is found_____ and hope comes home,_____

2. When love has flowed_____ in trust and care,_____

3. When love is tried_____ as loved ones change,_____

4. When love is torn_____ and trust be - trayed,_____

5. Praise God for love,_____ praise God for life,_____

sing and be glad_____ that two are_____ one_____

build both each day,_____ that love may dare_____

hold still to hope_____ though all seems strange,_____

pray strength to love_____ till tor - ments fade,_____

in age or youth,_____ in hus - band, wife,_____

When love ex - plodes_____ and fills the_____ sky,_____

to reach be - yond_____ home's warmth and_____ light,_____

till ease re - turns,_____ and love grows wise_____

till lov - ers keep_____ no score of_____ wrong,_____

Lift up your hearts,_____ let love be_____ fed_____

praise God and share_____ our Mak - er's_____ joy.

to serve and strive_____ for truth and_____ right.

through lis - tening ears_____ and o - pened eyes.

but hear through pain_____ love's Eas - ter_____ song.

through death and life_____ in bro - ken_____ bread.

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The Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew 21:23-32

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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?” 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. 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?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 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.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 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. 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.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon..... The Rev'd Keith Axberg

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as able.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Eucharistic Minister: Let us offer our petitions, adoration and thanksgivings to the Lord responding to the bidding, “Hear our prayers, O Lord,” with “And forsake not your children”.

Blessed Father, we pray for your holy church. We pray for Sean, our presiding bishop; for Philip, our own bishop; for David our interim priest, and for Dennis, our deacon. We pray for our Vestry and for those who gently shepherd us. In our own diocese we pray for St. John's/San Juan, Olympia; St. Christopher's, Olympia; St. David of Wales, Shelton; and for our sister congregation, Iglesia de la Resurreccion. In the Anglican Communion we pray for the Church of Bangladesh. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Almighty God, we pray that you watch over our nation and our elected leaders. May they faithfully regard their citizens with respect and dignity. And please watch over our military, police and firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Loving God, we pray for all those whose lives are torn apart by violent wars and genocide especially in the Middle East, in Africa and in Ukraine. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Precious Lord, we praise you for this loving, giving community of St Paul's. Help us to tenderly care for each other. Watch gently over us as we strive to love and care for our hungry and unhoused neighbors. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Blessed Creator, we ask for your healing mercy upon ourselves, our families and our neighbors. We ask your mercies upon your children who are deeply impacted by hunger, poverty and loneliness. We pray also for our brothers and sisters who struggle with addictions or PTSD. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Most Gracious God, we thank you for our families and friends. We thank you for our local farmers who grow and harvest the food for our tables. We thank you for safe shelter over our heads as our weather grows colder and wet. Thank you for every breath we take. May we never take any of your blessed gifts for granted. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

Loving Father, we pray that you welcome into your tender arms our loved ones whose earthly journeys have come to an end, especially those who have died alone. Hold us gently as we tearfully remember the joy and laughter they once brought into our lives. Hear our prayers, O Lord: **And forsake not your children.**

For whom or what else do we pray?

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

Confession and Absolution

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Presider and People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

If you are worshipping with us virtually, use the chat function to “say” peace to your fellow parishioners, or text/email someone with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.

Celebrations and Thanksgivings

OffertoryGather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - tr'y, we are the old who
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing, not in some hea - ven



van - ished a - way, See in this place our fears and our dream - ings
 yearn for your face, We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way, But here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day,
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race,
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth,
 now is the King - dom, now is the day,



Gath - er us in the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in the
 Gath - er us in the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame, Call to us now and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong, Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you, Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own. Gath - er us in all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song,
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

Your gifts are much appreciated.

If you are joining this live stream, you may mail your offering/pledge to 415 S. 18th Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98274. You can also make payments online at www.stpaulsmv.org

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Holy Communion -- Eucharistic Prayer A

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to come forward for communion or blessing. Gluten free wafers are available. The assembly is invited to stand as they are able for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Intinction, also known as dipping the bread in the wine, is not practiced here. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please cross your arms in front of our chest as the chalice bearer approaches. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SanctusHymn S125
In the front of the blue hymnal

Presider: Oh God, you are holy and gracious: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, our Rock and our Foundation.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal Reign.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Most Blessed One, now and for ever.
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: Alleluia! Christ Our Passover is sacrificed for us:
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Hymn..... S161

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

Those present are invited to receive Holy Communion. You can approach the altar after the invitation by the Presider. Those with us online, during these next moments of meditation, wherever you are, receive God's gifts to you. We share spiritual communion today.

Communion Hymn..... When Jesus Set His Table



1. When Je - sus set his ta - ble, no one was turned a - way.
2. No race, no creed, no na - tion, no love of heart and vow.
3. Who - ev - er we find troubl - ing and seek to keep out - side,
4. When Je - sus set his ta - ble, no one was turned a - way.



1. That ta - ble was a pro - mise of bles - sing and of grace.
2. No gen - der is re - ject - ed. The ta - ble's wait - ing now.
3. that is the ve - ry neigh - bor who must not be de - nied.
4. That ta - ble is our pro - mise. It's ours to tend to - day.



So set the ta - ble ful ly. In - vite the whole world in.

Last time fine
D.C.



If we would share love's wel - come then here's where we be - gin.

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors:

The Deacon sends forth the Eucharistic Visitors:

Deacon: We who are many are one body -

People: - because we all share one bread, one cup.

Deacon: In the name of God and of this congregation we send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: As you have been fed, now feed others in the name of Christ.

Deacon: Our prayers go with you, go in peace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

Closing Hymn..... Glorious Things of Thee are SpokenHymn 522

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude Let It Be Said of Us arr. Tornquist

Announcements and Opportunities

Take this page home with you to update your calendars.

Welcome to our guests: We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today! Please put your name and contact information in our guest book so that we may get to know you better.

Blessing of the Animals

Next Sunday October 4 will be the blessing of the animals, held before the service, in the Narthex. Bring your companion, or a photo of them, or even a representative stuffy for a blessing.

Today's Altar Flowers

The altar flowers today are given by Don and Arlene Zimmerman, with joy in celebrating 64 years of marriage!

If you would like to enhance our worship experience through the giving of flowers, please sign up in the Parish hall.

Coffee Hour

The coffee hour this morning is hosted by Sandy McDougall, Sue Shepherd and Elizabeth Tucker. Stop in and enjoy conversation and coffee.

Sign up with someone(s) in the Parish Hall to share the hosting of a coffee hour, many hands makes light work.

Lectionary Bible Study

Dave+ has agreed to facilitate a Bible study based on the weekly lectionary readings. The study will be on Wednesdays between 10:30-noon, beginning October 14. The approach will follow a version of the Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) model and will cover the readings from the Old Testament, the Epistles, and the Gospel for the coming Sunday.

Video Series

A video series by Rabbi A. J. Levine will be presented on three Wednesday evenings in October, with soup supper followed by a video and conversation. 5:30 for the soup, and 6:00 to 7:15 for the video/discussion. Sign up in the Parish Hall so we know how much soup to make. **October 7 is "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" presented Jan 15, 2024 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC, moderated by the dean of the cathedral.**

Gospel Bible Study

A new Bible study on the Gospels consisting of 4 separate units of 12 week sessions will begin in September. Our weekly sessions will be held on Monday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm on Zoom. The first session will begin on September 14th using the study book "Focus on Luke" by Carol Cheney Donahoe. If you would like to join these sessions or if you have questions, please talk to Sandy McDougall who will be the facilitator. 360-630-9405 sandymcd29@gmail.com

**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**



Mount Vernon, WA

**SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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