

"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

10:00 AM

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF SERVICE

*Our morning worship begins with the first note of the organ prelude
and your silent prayers. Please refrain from conversations during this time.*

PRELUDE: *Bachianas Brasileiras, No. 5*

Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959)

Arranged for Guitar and Bassoon

Jessica King & Tim Schmidt

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 449 • “O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

Deo Gracias

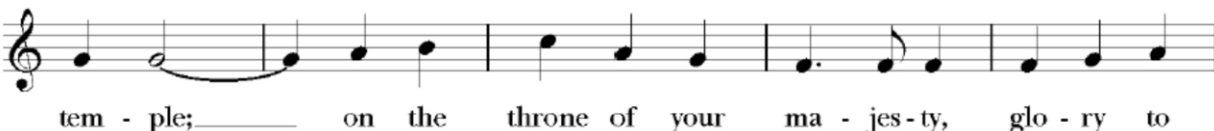
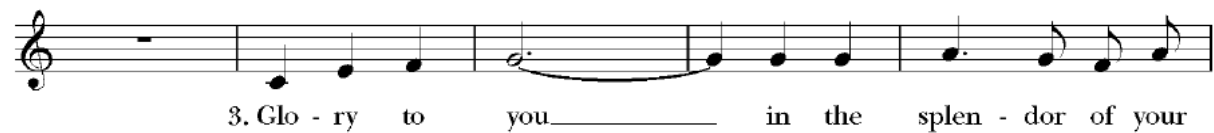
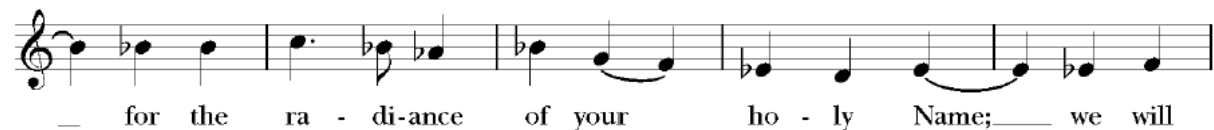
LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant † Blessed be the one, holy, and living God:

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

CANTICAL S-236 • A Song of Praise *Benedictus es Domine*

John Rutter (b.1945)



you. _____ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; _____ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

5. Glo - ry to you, _____ be - hold - ing the

depths; _____ in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

you. _____ 6. Glo - ry to you, _____ Fa - ther,

Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; _____ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Exodus 17:1–7

Lector A reading from Exodus.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

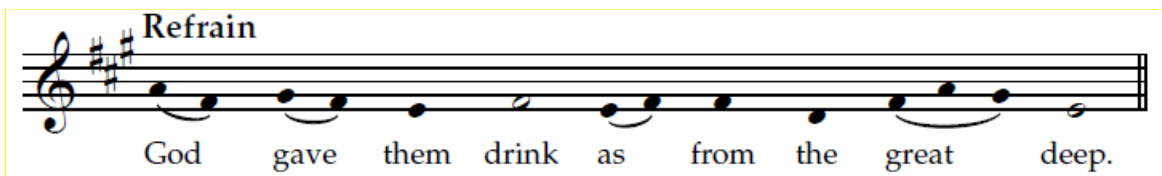
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 78: 1–4, 12–16 *Attendite, popule*

Mode 8

The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.



Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; ***Refrain**

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children. We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works he has done. **Refrain**

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls. **Refrain**

He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire. He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep. He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers. **Refrain**

EPISTLE • Philippians 2:1–13

Lector A reading from Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 489 • “The great Creator of the worlds”

Tallis's Ordinal

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 21:23–32

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Philip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, translated here as “we believe.” Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be “we give our heart,” “we trust,” “we rely upon.” Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in

worship for almost two thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, all authority in heaven and earth are yours. Receive the offering of our trust and service, for the honor and glory of your name.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God who cares for all people; give us the will to continue caring for the lonely, the outcasts, and those who have no food or home. Strengthen our concern and outreach for those who are hungry or homeless.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As Christ's disciples, we pray for the world in which we and our neighbors live. May the leaders of our country and those around the world work for peace and justice. We pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine, throughout the Middle East and refugees and immigrants seeking a safe home.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for your loving guidance for our church leaders. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, DeDe, our Bishop, Philip, our Rector and for all who worship and serve at St. Paul's.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we come to you today with our hearts heavy with our ill friends and family. While struggling to know what to do, we lift up in prayer *n*. We ask that you bring healing, comfort and your constant presence.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for those left behind at the death of those they loved. Comfort our empty hearts. Meet us in our loss. We remember *n*., those we name silently or aloud, and those whose names have been forgotten.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

CONFESSION

The people are invited to sit / kneel.

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Officiant † Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The people are invited to stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.

OFFERTORY

At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering stpaulsyr (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The People are invited to sit.

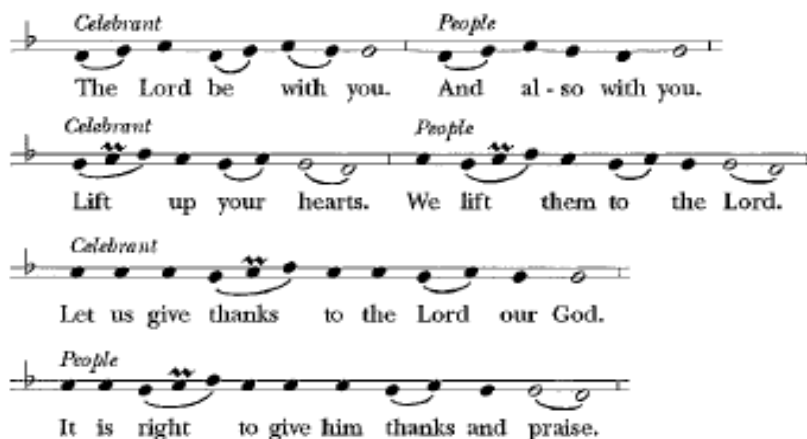
AN ANTHEM:

Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

The people are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, The Eucharist Prayer is from the Church of South India



Celebrant

Truly it is right and good to glorify you at all times and in all places, by offering you our thanksgiving O Lord. You spoke and the light shattered darkness, order arose from confusion. You breathed into the dust of the earth and we were formed in your image. Through your Holy Spirit you brood over the chaos we create, mothering us and shaping a new creation. You enlighten everyone coming into the world. You inspire prophetic voices to speak the right word at the right time. You liberate, equip and commission your people for the continuance of your mission to make everything new.

In Christ Jesus you came to us while we wandered. He met us as a refugee, a threatened child. He called us by name to leave what is comfortable to be his disciples and friends. By his death he destroyed the power of death. By his resurrection he opened the way of eternal life.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-129

Robert Powell (1932-2025)

Celebrant

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread and when he had given thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

All **Lord we commemorate your death on the cross, we celebrate your resurrection, and we await your coming.**

Celebrant

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him.

May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with

your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10–15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-155

Gerald Near (b.1942)

*You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. **We are not dipping the bread into the wine at this time.** Our understanding is that the sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both. During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *Thee we adore*

T. Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord, and give them meat in due season.

Glory be to Thee of Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN • 339 “Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness”

Schmücke dich

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant

Let us pray.

All

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 477 • “All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine”

Engelberg

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • “Jesus Christus, unser Heiland” BWV 665

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

(Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior)

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W., Hillary B., Anne D., Bob J., Jeanne A., and Denise D.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of LaUna & Edward Williamson, and Edith E. & WCR Williamson. Given by Gary Sr., Donna, Gary Jr., & E. Verescak

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Georgett & Tim Schmidt

Lay Reader: Joseph von Souder

Ushers: Sue Stinson / Joe Russo

Flowers: Sandy Wiley / Harriet Averill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Join us this afternoon at 4 p.m. for the next event in our Bicentennial Celebration: Organist Jeremy Filsell, former organist at St. Thomas' Church, NYC presents a concert of organ music.

* Bring your friends and neighbors! *A Tiny Home for Good* will host an open house on the second floor of St. Paul's, Tuesday, October 13th from 5:30-7:30.



**HEARING LOOP
INSTALLED**

Switch Hearing Aid to T-Coil

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#28. *When the Eucharistic Minister offers the bread or the wine, they say words of institution, such as "The Bread of Heaven" or "The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life." Where do these words come from? What should I do when I receive the bread or wine?*

The words for the distribution of communion are often taken from The Book of Common Prayer (1979). The most common phrases are found on page 365. During the English Reformation, different factions within the church attacked and sometimes killed those who disagreed with their choice of words for communion. In a spirit of reconciliation and inclusion modeled by Christ Jesus, we include words that point toward both catholic and protestant understandings of the meaning of communion.

The most important thing for us who receive communion is our full presence and attention as we are receiving the sacrament. After the Eucharistic Minister says the words of institution, you may respond by saying "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." Some people make the sign of the cross on their chests before or after receiving the sacrament. If responding 'Amen' or making the sign of the cross helps you participate more fully, I encourage you to do so. We just try to remember that there is not one 'perfect' way to participate. These are examples of adiaphora, an idea for discussion next week!

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org. Fr. Philip +

Officers

2026

Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

Vestry & Team Leaders

2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Isiah Lavender, Tim Simmons
2028: Joseph von Souder, Amy Mangram, Catherine Gerard
Finance Committee Chairperson: Joe Moorman
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Liz Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

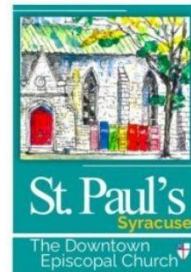
Staff

Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
The Ministers of St. Paul's: The entire congregation!
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Custodian: Nicole Steele
Technology Specialist: Mark King
Security: Derek Lane



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Church office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.