

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

*Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*



SEASON OF CREATION
Sunday, September 14, 2025

**10 AM Service of
Holy Communion**



During the *Season of Creation*, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate in prayer and action our Gospel calling to protect the Earth that God entrusted to our care. Prayers, readings, hymns, and liturgies from the global communion and beyond reflect the whole Gospel for the whole world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image.

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

**Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.
If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.**

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDE

*"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" - arr. Jacob B. Weber
NEW BRITAIN*

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

The Holy One's love is new every morning.

The Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, having shown us how far your love goes in saving the lost and forgotten, mercifully grant that we might join you in the work of reuniting with all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
ELW 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

A PENITENTIAL ORDER FOR CREATION

Because we view our lives in Christ through the forgiveness we receive from God, I invite us to confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

We have forgotten who we are.

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We have sought only our own security.

We have exploited simply for our own ends.

We have distorted our knowledge.

We have abused our power.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the land is barren.

And the waters are poisoned.

And the air is polluted.

We have forgotten who we are.

Now the forests are dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing. We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Help us to remember who we are.

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

Peace with yourself. Peace with Creation. Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace
in word and gesture, saying, **Peace be with you.***

The assembly is seated.

✝ WORD ✝

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 32:7-14

Moses begs the LORD to turn from anger against the Hebrews

A reading from Exodus:

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Teach us your ways, O God, and write them on our hearts
so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

- ² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

CREATION READING

"Nothing Is Lost" from *Ladder to the Light*

Steven Charleston

A reading from *Ladder to the Light*:

In the days of conquest, when darkness covered the land, the hoop of many nations was broken, the story of many people lost — and lost forever. The number who perished will never be counted, but their graves are still here. Their testimony is written into the earth. The wisdom of the ancestors is a mist over the valley, a cloud passing before the moon. The teachings of the elders can be heard in the rain, the message of the poets seen in the first stars that put the sun to bed. Nothing is finally lost. The ancient visions are within us. The old dreams are part of us. The steady rhythm of hope was never silenced. It beats today for all who would hear it. It beats within me. It beats within you. Life is still growing beneath the concrete. The sound of the earth is breathing beneath the glass and steel.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia! from the
Liturgy for the Family of God*

Peter S. Klemp



GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-10

Looking for the lost sheep, silver coin: Jesus eating with sinners

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when

she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World Like

ACS 1047



1	What	is	the	world	like	when	God's	will	is
2	What	is	the	world	like	when	God's	will	is
3	What	is	the	world	like	when	God's	will	is
4	What	is	the	world	like	when	God's	will	is
5	These	are	the	sto -	ries	that	Je -	sus	im -



done?	Mus -	tard	seeds	grow	more	than
done?	Wit -	ness	the	wan -	der -	ing
done?	No	more	is	neigh -	bor	just
done?	Read -	y	for	feast -	ing,	we
parts,	filled	with	the	Spir -	it	who



we	can	con -	ceive:	roots	thread	the
child	com -	ing	home;	watch	as	the
al -	ly	or	friend;	peace	thrives	in
watch	through	the	night,	tend -	ing	our
joins	us	as	one.	Born	through	our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

South Indian

Together we affirm our faith:

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
 who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
 who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life,
 who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
 the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
 who loves and cares for this world
 and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
 who came to reconcile and renew this world
 and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
 who moves with God
 and who moves among and with us today.**

We believe in everlasting life in God.

And we believe in the hope that one day

God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. Bring an end to violent discord in our communities. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain, especially Tres, Bruce, John, Karen, and those on our prayer list, as well as those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Remind us of those who cannot be with us for worship, especially Olive, Heyward, Patricia, and Jane. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

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

Amen.

Be seated.

✙ MEAL ✙

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so records are maintained.*

ANTHEM

"Lead Me Out of the Wilderness"

Nix

Sanctuary Choir

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

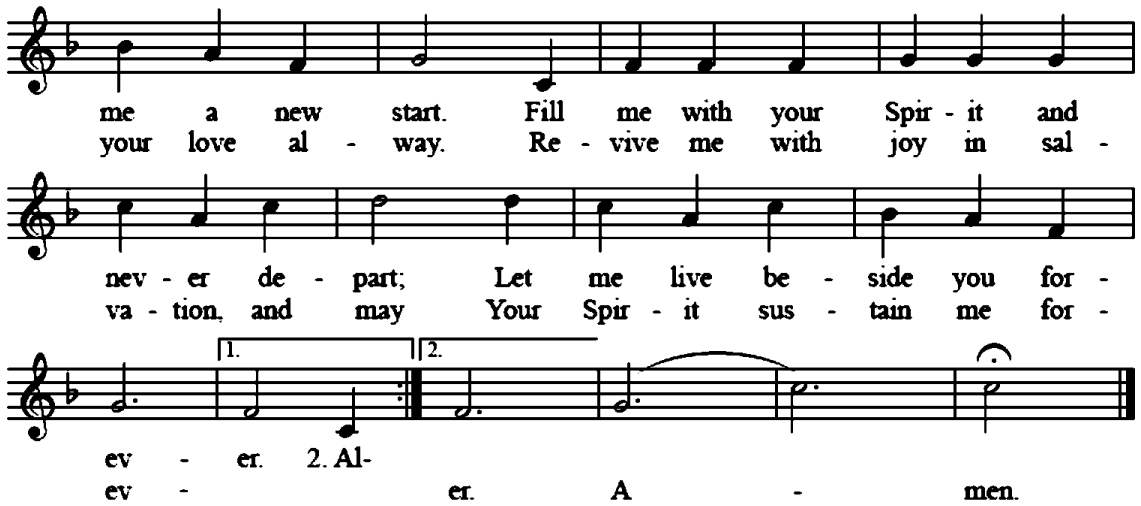
O God, My Creator from the
Liturgy for the Family of God

Peter S. Klemp

Psalm 51, alt.



1. O God, my Cre - a - tor, make
(2.) though I have sinned a - gainst
me a clean heart; For - give me, O Lord, to give
you, Lord, I pray, Have mer - cy up - on me with



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Collect for the Stewardship of Creation

Let us pray. O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature:

Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and remembering the account that we must give one day, grant that we may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer with Creation III

God is with us.

God is present here.

Rejoice! Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Most High.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We praise you, our intimate God, the one who is with us, and with all of creation, the source of this magical, mystical, sensual, beautiful, earth. From microbes to whales you have created all of us. We are privileged to be a strand in all of your creation, including this strange and wonderful home, our earth, the open sky

above, the dazzling array of stars and planets, and the unfathomable galaxies beyond us. You have blessed us with a world of infinite variety and beauty, a land of mountains and meadows, canyons and valleys, deserts and jungles. Over and through this land you have provided oceans teeming with life, streams and rivers, crystal clear lakes, and cascading waterfalls. We share this land with all of your creatures, from mosquito to mountain lion, from seal to scorpion. You have formed all of this, this land of such intense wildness and beauty. Therefore, we praise you, O Sacred One, joining our voices with the cry of your animals, the rocks, the stars, the Moon, the Sun, and all the universe as we shout with joy:

Sanctus (Holy) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klemp

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho-san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

All-Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to be among us. Through His incarnation, You taught us that You are always with us and all of the world. He showed us the way to grace and freedom, and how to show compassion to each other and the world. He gathered a people as your own and filled us with longing for

justice and peace for all of creation. Keep us ever vigilant to follow his example so that we may bring about Your reign that He opened for us, through his life, his death, and his resurrection. It is a reign where all your creation will be one.

On the night before he died, Jesus came to table with those he loved. Recalling his own actions of feeding the poor and eating with the outcast, he took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."

When supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, and passed the cup among his friends and said: "Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, do this in memory of me."

Therefore, let us pray:

Gracious God among us, help us to feel your presence, and give us the strength to serve your creation and your people this day and every day.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, O Sacred One. May they become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, just as we, your people, are that same Body. Breathe your Spirit upon us also and upon the entire earth. Make us one with your earth, so that all of Creation may become one with your Body.

Bring all of us, from every clan, tribe, and nation together, to feast upon your abundant banquet, prepared from the fruits of your earth and made possible by the redemption of your Christ.

Through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the entire Universe, all glory and honor to God and Creator, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

Holy One, our only Home, hallowed be your name.

May your day dawn, your will be done, here as in heaven.

Feed us today, and forgive us as we forgive each other.

Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.

For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever.

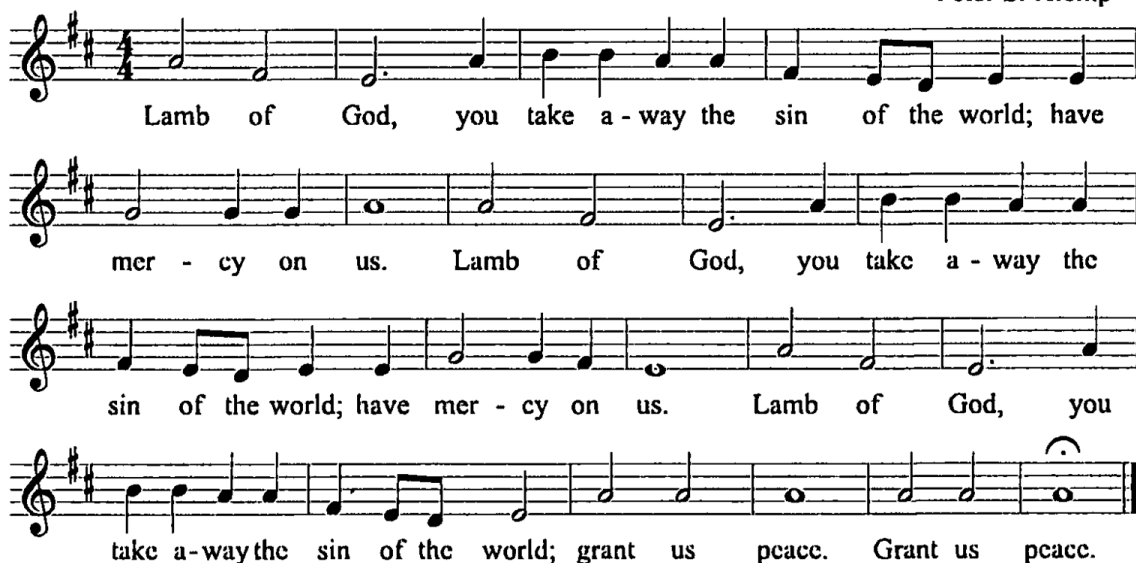
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Creator God, you fed us from the beginning.
Happy are all, called to the Supper of Creation.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from the
Liturgy for the Family of God
Peter S. Klump



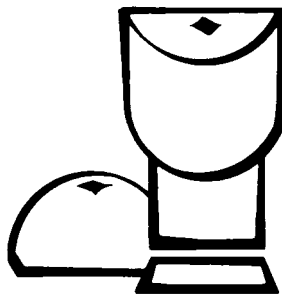
Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Chief of Sinners Though I Be ELW 609

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Can You Feel the Seasons Turning

ACS 1065



1 Can you feel the sea - sons turn - ing, winds and waves grown
 2 Can you hear the crea-tures cry - ing— lynx and ot - ter,
 3 Can you feel the sea - sons turn - ing? Storm clouds gath - er



wild and strange? Can you feel cre - a - tion groan - ing,
 wolf and whale? Can you hear the Spir - it sigh - ing
 in the skies. All a - round us signs of warn - ing



fear-ful of the com - ing change: ice - caps melt - ing,
 as her chil - dren grieve and fail? Na - ture's poor, the
 bid us o - pen fright - ened eyes. Called by God to



o - ceans ris - ing, homes and hab - i - ta - tions lost?
 first to suf - fer, pay the price of hu - man greed.
 serve as stew - ards till earth's gar - den greens and thrives,



Can you feel the sea - sons turn-ing? Can you count the bit - ter cost?
 Can you hear the crea-tures cry-ing, beg-ging us to stop and heed?
 can we learn in time to lis-ten? Can we turn and change our lives?

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: LLANSANNAN, Welsh melody

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After all have communed and returned to their places, remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

Strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and kept in his grace, we pray:

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

God of the galaxies, God of the starburst and sunlit morning, God of the forest and shining seas, God of the blooming desert and rolling grasslands – shine on us today and bless us with your presence. And the blessing of the Creator God, ✠ the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Christ, Our Light, Our Radiance True

ELW 675

Found on p. 19

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve God's Creation.

Thanks be to God the Creator.

POSTLUDE

"Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"

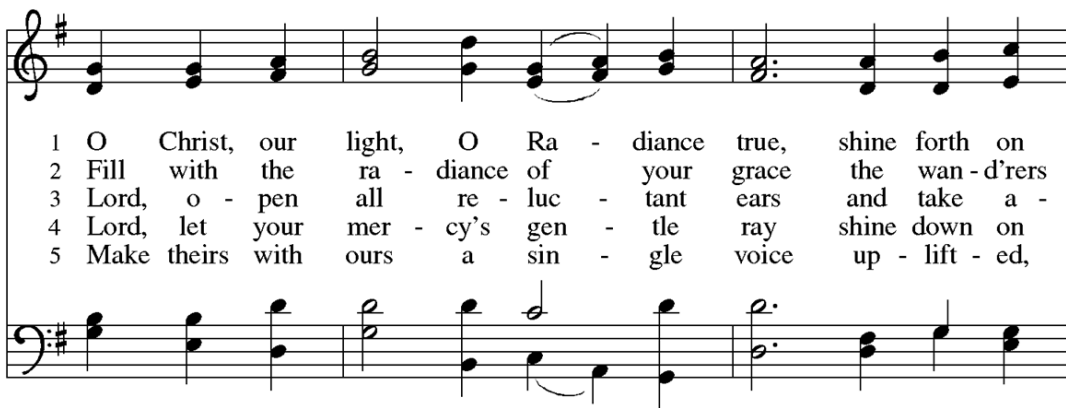
arr. Wayne L. Wold

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN



The flowers in the chancel are given
to the glory and praise of God.





1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
 3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
 4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
 5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
 lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and
 way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
 oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
 ev - er to re - joice with wond'-ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
 minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.
 press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.
 sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
 praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: MaryBeth Bergstrom

Lector: Eric Mease

Bread Provider: Sherry Mench

Altar Guild:

Flower Guild: Gale Paul

Today's "creation author," The Right Reverend Steven Charleston (b. 1949) is a Native American elder, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, an author, and a retired bishop in the Episcopal Church. He is widely recognized as a leading proponent for justice issues and for spiritual renewal in the church in both the United States and Canada. Among other roles, he has served as the national staff officer for Native American ministries, the Bishop of Alaska, and the Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School.

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Season of Creation resources from a *Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes*

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Liturgy for the Family of God written by Peter S. Klemp

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*Let your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.*

Psalm 119:135

LOST AND FOUND

Today's readings give witness that God has a heart for losers. God reconciles with the idol-worshipping people of Israel. The faithful shepherd rescues the wandering sheep and carries it home. The woman who lost one of her ten silver coins searches for it until she finds it. Similarly, God doesn't abandon people even when people abandon God. The cross and resurrection testify to God's faithfulness in that regard. God rescues strays one by one, making the first move to find the lost and create new hearts in them. When (in the first reading) Moses holds God to promises already made in the covenant, the breathtaking picture emerges of a God so committed to relationship that God is influenced — changed — by what people need and ask. This faithfulness of God, shared with overflowing grace in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, is patient, forgiving, energetic, and ready to celebrate. Take the bread and cup — Jesus hosts the worshiping assembly again this week to welcome sinners and eat with them! Suddenly, "sinner" is no longer the best name for us. Try "guest," "graced," "gifted," "loved," and "empowered." Then it's time to follow Jesus out of the gathered assembly and into the world as apprentice sleuths for missing persons, bent on finding the lost and the broken and giving them an invitation to come home.

CONNECTIONS WITH CREATION

"Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Fresh snow may be familiar, but hyssop likely less so. Knowledge of hyssop is also mentioned as a sign of Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 4:33), but we don't know exactly what plant the Bible means! Some hyssops are members of the mint family. Other times the name relates to oregano, thyme, or capers. Whichever type, hyssop was part of Passover rituals in Exodus 12 and lifted sour wine to Jesus on the cross in John 19. Leviticus 14 prescribed hyssop for a purging ritual after disease, and many of these various hyssops do offer health benefits. Your local medicinal plants are also reminders of God's blessing.

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

STEWARDSHIP WANTS YOU TO "STEP UP TO THE PLATE"!

It's time to head over to the "ballpark" (Fellowship Hall) to hear the "first pitch" for our Stewardship pledging campaign! We'll be introducing the fall program this morning and we want you to join us for a brief overview, a hot dog - and maybe a chorus or two of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." We'll have your tickets, some peanuts and Cracker Jacks, and a lot of examples of how our ministries are hitting a home run, all thanks to your financial support!

OLDER, WISER, LUTHERANS

This Wednesday, September 17, the OWLS are flocking to a tour of the Nemours Estate followed by lunch (on your own) at Elizabeth's Restaurant in Greenville. The tour is being privately led for our group at 10:00 AM. We will meet for shared rides from St. Paul's at 9:20 AM.

Join the OWLS for another fun fall outing aboard Chesapeake Water Tour's Cider & Donut Cruise on Saturday, October 4. Enjoy scenic views of the C&D Canal and Upper Chesapeake Bay on this 90-minute cruise, while savoring complimentary apple cider donuts and warm apple cider from the one and only Milburn Orchards. Treat yourself to seasonal drink specials, including Apple Cider Mimosas, Caramel Apple Crushes, and other fall-inspired beverages. After the cruise, we'll gather at Schaeffer's Restaurant on the north side of the canal for dinner. The cost of the cruise is \$43 (including Maryland tax), and as usual, dinner will be on your own. The departure time for the cruise is 2:00 PM. If you wish to join us, please reserve your seat with Bill Saylor (302-378-8946/ 302-354-3363/ bsaylor2@verizon.net). The deadline for reservations is Sunday, September 21. Payment (cash, check, Venmo or Zelle) is due at the time of reservation.

HOLY HIKE

Please join us for our next Holy Hike after worship on Sunday, September 28. We will be meeting at White Clay Creek Preserve, Lot 2, Northeast of 404 Sharpless Road, Landenburg, PA. This is a four-mile wooded and flat trail.

FISH ARE “FALL”ING

It's September and the leaves are starting to fall, but we can use your help with FISH to make sure we don't fall short in our food distribution. As usual, we'll pick up at the Food Bank on Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 PM and take it back to church for unpacking. Then later that day at 6:30 PM, we'll meet in Fellowship Hall to box it up. On Friday, September 19, we'll host our monthly distribution from 2:30 - 4:00 PM. Come and join us for any or all of the events. For more information, contact Keith Bart (302-345-6107/keith.m.bart@gmail.com).

QUILTERS

St. Paul's Quilters will be meeting on Saturday, September 20, beginning at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We usually meet until about 12 Noon. You can come for all, or part, of that time as your schedule allows. We will be assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Community Services. Please contact Lorraine Fett (302-545-6024/lorraine.fett@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Our preschool is up and running with an excited gaggle of young people running around the playground and learning together in the classroom. We have room for more kids. Please invite your neighbors with young ones to reach out to the school to schedule a tour. There are brochures available at the end of preschool hallway with more information.

MUSIC MINISTRY SCHEDULE

St. Paul's offers a vibrant ministry of music for adults, high school age and up. All are invited to share their vocal and instrumental talents with the congregation. Rehearsals are held on Thursday in the sanctuary.

6:30-8:00 PM Handbell Ensemble

8:00-9:30 PM Sanctuary Choir

FESTIVAL CHOIR MEMBERS SOUGHT

On All Saints Sunday, November 2, we will present Faure's "Requiem" as edited by John Rutter. Join the Sanctuary Choir and learn this exceptional masterwork, to be performed with a chamber orchestra and organ, within their weekly rehearsals. Rehearsal tracks are available for at-home practice in between time.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to
live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



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Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

