



September 7th, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



The Rev. Maxine M. Dornemann
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Exton, PA 19341
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Mark Your Calendar

September 8th — Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

September 19th — Sunset Social 6:30pm

October 5th — Blessing of the Animals



The Mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Exton is to create many doors by which people are invited to enter the church and to exercise hospitality by welcoming all persons who seek a closer relationship with the sacred: those who have much faith and those who have little; those who have tried to live their faith and those who have struggled.

Welcome Back

It's a true delight to gather together again with our full Sunday routine, which includes our two morning services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Join us again for Sunday breakfast, the Adult Forum, and the return of our wonderful choir. Our youngest members will be welcomed back to Sunday School and Children's Chapel.

Beyond Sunday, we invite you to explore our new fall schedule, featuring our special Celtic Service, insightful Bible Studies, and the engaging EfM class.

Welcome back, everyone! We are grateful for your presence and are excited for all that this new season holds at St. Paul's.



Welcome! We are happy to have you worship with us. Please be sure to ask an usher for a guest information card before you leave today. If you have restless little ones, please make use of the rocking chair and soft toys in the Narthex.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite I: 8:00 AM

Rite II: 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

HARP

ENTRANCE HYMN

HYMNAL 388

O WORSHIP THE KING, ALL GLORIOUS ABOVE!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

GLORIA

HYMNAL S280

THE COLLECT

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

~ Children's Chapel Dismissal ~

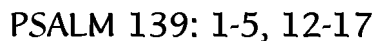
FIRST READING: A READING FROM JEREMIAH 18: 1-11

In our Hebrew scripture lesson the prophet puts forth an allegory for God's dealings with Jerusalem and Judah: it is like the hands of a potter working with clay. Just as the potter may be working with a ruined piece of clay turning on a wheel, so the potter may transform the clay into a thing of grace and beauty. The Lord is the potter, and the house of Israel the clay. Should the people amend their ways, it is within God's power to bring about a restoration and to shape them once more into a worthy vessel.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Give us ears to hear God's word.



Refrain:

Lord you have searched me out and know me.

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

- ¹³ I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- ¹⁴ My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁵ Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.
- ¹⁶ How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!
- ¹⁷ If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like
yours.

SECOND READING: A READING FROM PHILEMON 1-21

This reading contains most of the letter that Paul sent to Philemon asking that he receive back in love the runaway slave Onesimus, who was voluntarily returning to him. Other information indicates that Philemon and Onesimus came from the community of the Colossians. Paul himself is now in prison, perhaps in Rome. Onesimus means "the useful one," and Paul describes him as a man who has now become very useful. Evidently he had recently been converted to Christ. Paul does not speak against the institution of slavery, but tells Philemon that his relationship with Onesimus is changed now that they are brothers in Christ.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister,
to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith

may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Give us ears to hear God's word.

SEQUENCE HYMN

HYMNAL 603

WHEN CHRIST WAS LIFTED FROM THE EARTH
(VV 1-2 Before Gospel, VV 3-4 After Gospel)

GOSPEL READING: Luke 14: 25-33

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Maxine Dornemann

NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Compassionate Lord, we do not know the wisdom of God nor what the Lord intends. But we do know God's mercy. So, we confidently gather our needs and present them to God, our Creator. Unite your church as we bring our prayers to you, saying: Let us pray to the Lord; Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have gathered your Church under Christ's command that we love one another. Bless the leaders of our Church that they might inspire us to have love and compassion for a hurting world. We pray especially for our Presiding Bishop Sean, our Diocesan Bishop Daniel, all Priests, Deacons, and Lay Ministers, especially those who guide the work of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Be with the leaders of our companion Dioceses of Guatemala and Navajoland. Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Mighty One, you call our nation and the leaders of the world to fulfill your law by loving our neighbor as ourselves. We

know you resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so we come before you today to boast of your mercy. Give courage to the powerful to lay aside the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light. Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Uniting God, you call us to reconciliation and peace within our community, and you command us to love one another. Let your compassion and kindness be a hallmark of our Parish of St. Paul's and equip us to serve you with full knowledge of the high cost of discipleship. Help us to put ourselves in your hands that you, as our potter, might mold us into vessels that serve you. Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord, you invite our neighbors into the circle of your divine love. Hear our prayers for those who are dealing with homelessness, fear, and uncertainty as a result of fires and flooding, and also those on our prayer list Gary, Connor Munday, Laurie Grashof, Gayle, Debbie Markowitz, Billie, Kim Brown, Kathy Guilin, Cassie Bowers, Kate Travers, Kat Harting, Jennifer Christian, Iris, Amy, Mark Emmons, and Bill Pollock. Today's altar flowers are given in loving memory of Helmut Listmeier by his family Tracy, Michael, Alaina, and Justin, who keep his family alive. Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Creator, you are our life and our prosperity. We who make mighty plans know that before you, they are little. Fill us with your wisdom; hear us as we lift our needs and the needs of all the world up to you. Help us to care for and preserve your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,
and by 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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all good-
ness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal
life. Amen.

THE PEACE

In the name of our crucified and risen Lord; The peace of the
Lord be always with you. And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SOLO

HARP

SAPPHIRE NOCTURNE BY: FRANK VOLTZ

DOXOLOGY

HYMNAL 380 (v. 3)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-
where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of
heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for
the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and
has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has de-
stroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for
us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices

with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of

Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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

FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S164

COMMUNION

Everyone who is hungry for spiritual food is welcome to be fed at this altar.

COMMUNION SOLO

HARP

NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE

COMMUNION HYMN

HYMNAL 8

MORNING HAS BROKEN

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

HYMNAL 400

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

HARP





Serving:

Officiant	The Rev. Maxine Dornemann
Music Minister	Lisa Hartman
Eucharistic Minister	Rite I: Cindy Christensen Rite II: Joanne Frybarger & Mark Greenawalt
Lectors	Rite I: Peggy LaGarde & Dave Devenney Rite II: Miranda Hodgkins & Barbara Stipe
Ushers	Rite I: Barbara Dockery Rite II: Dangin Family
Acolytes	Nancy Pollock, Margot Longua, Naomi Albert, & Billy Blackburn
Altar Guild	Nancy Pollock & Tracey Listmeier
Flower Guild	JT Grosch
Bread Baker	Cindy Christensen
Livestream	Kristy Wright
Counter	Greg LeBlanc

~ *Blessing of the Animals* ~

Rooted in the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, the tradition of the Blessing of the Animals is a special service held to honor and celebrate the bond between humans and the animal kingdom. St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and ecology, taught that all of God's creation—humans and animals alike—are interconnected and deserve care and respect.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites you to join us for our annual Blessing of the Animals service. This beloved community event offers a chance to give thanks for our cherished pets and companions.

When: Sunday, October 5th, at 2 p.m.

What to bring: Please bring your furry, feathered, or scaly family members on a leash or in a carrier to ensure a safe and respectful experience for all. You are also welcome to bring a photograph of a beloved pet if they cannot attend.

Sign-up: To help us prepare for the event, please sign up using the QR Code.





St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Exton
The Rev. Maxine Dornemann, Rector
Mary Davis, Rector's Warden
Lisa Hartman, Music Minister
Luther Detweiler, Treasurer
Greg LeBlanc, Auditor