

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, July 26, 2026
The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

3900 Freemansburg Ave., Easton PA 18045

standrewspalmer.org

(610) 252-2258

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9:30am Worship Service

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess to you 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C **Thanks be to God!**

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

L A reading from 1 Kings, Chapter 3.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136 (*spoken responsively*)

- L ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore, I obey them with all my heart.
- C ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**
- L ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.
- C ¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**
- L ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- C ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**
- L ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.
- C ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING

- L A reading from Romans, Chapter Eight.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- L Word of God, word of life.

- C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of Our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Red Hymnal #780

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

A God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially for . . .*)
God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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 forever. Amen.**

P May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us.
May God look on us with favor and give us peace.

C **Amen.**

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Red Hymnal #773

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Organist: Mark Jonkman
Audio-Video Production: John Costanzo
Worship Assistant: James Ritchie
July Offering Counters: Nina Kramer and April Shaheen
August Offering Counters: Shirley Kerbaugh and Kathy Brandt
July Altar Guild: Sue Heater
August Altar Guild: Debbie Ealer

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, July 26 9:30am Worship
Monday, July 27 5:30pm Nursery Committee – Hope House
7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group
Friday, July 31 7:30pm Crossroads AA
Sunday, August 2 9:30am Worship

ZOOM LINK FOR LIVE BROADCAST:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82677651018?pwd=d1NSZ2V4NTVtMnFJaGp0Mm5GdTZrQT09>

By phone: +1 646-558-8656 (New York) or +1-312-626-6799 (Chicago) TOLL CHARGES MAY APPLY.

Meeting ID: 826 7765 1018 Passcode: 454700

MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Lori Guillen, Jerry Heebner, Nicholas Hill, Nicole Ryan, Don Sachs, Melissa Steckel, Allyssa Ward, and James Welsh.

MEMBERS OF THE ST. ANDREW'S FAMILY IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Immediate Prayers: Colleen Connlain, Donna Doran, David Fretz, Lori Gilbert, Lori Guillen, Jerri Heebner, Melanie Lynn, Jim Pennoyer, Bob Skudera, Steve, and Kate Zumas.

Members Homebound/Nursing Home: Margaret Bennett, Shirley Curto, Lisa Detweiler, Carol Ehler, Carl Fisher, Joan Holland, Theresa Lawhead, Irene Neel, Doris Neumeyer, Jean Pleiss, Doris Wanamaker, and Marge Weidner.

Long Term Prayers: Jessica Arnoldi, Elaine Bobeck, Rodney Burda, Charlie, Dianna Dillian, Crystal DiLonardo, Michael DiLonardo, Debbie DiLonardo, Carol Ehler, Maj-Britt Enblom, Kevin Gallagher, Ryan Gorrie, Rich Heater, Karen Israel, David Jackson, Sandy Joyce, Jennifer, Kamilah, Keith, Ingvar Kjellberg, Carol Laustsen, David Laustsen, Eric Laustsen, Laura Lee Laustsen, Barbara Lindner, Pete Merluzzi, Nancy, Paul, Penny, Dan Philipps, Rachel, Lisa and Jim Reinish, Shirley, Ethel Shive, Danielle Smith, Andi Steckel, Melissa Steckel, and Doug VonNessen.

Service Members: Courtney Baskwell, Matthew Baskwell, Levi Birchfield, Kyle Callantine, Anthony Duginski, Vince Franchino, Elizabeth Gordon, Derek Hartman, Kristina Himmelreich, Jan-Oskar Kjellberg, Rhiannon Perry, Mark Pollard, and Joseph Suhr.

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Now the Feast and Celebration: OL #01108; **Gospel Verse:** OL #01111; **As the Grains of Wheat:** OL #01112; **The Great Thanksgiving:** OL #01113; **Eucharistic Acclamation 1, 2 or 3:** OL #01114; **Holy, Holy, Holy:** OL #G3488H; **Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ:** OL #01115; **Amen:** OL #01502.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand: OL #73682

Shepherd Me, O God: OL #00751