

17th Sunday after Pentecost — September 20, 2026

Prelude *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

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Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness **WOV Pg. 10**

L: The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **P. Amen**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Compassionate God,

All: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: Hear this good news:

All: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn *Lord of All Hopefulness* **ELW 765**

Text by Jan Struther, 1901-1953 c. by Oxford University Press

Music: Irish Traditional in Public Domain - All rights reserved

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Apostolic Greeting **WOV Pg. 28**

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

P: And also, with you

***Gloria**

WOV Pg. 29

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also, with you

L: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **P: Amen**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is this not what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and

perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and many animals?"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 145: 1-8 *chanted responsively*

- ¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
and I will re- | count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

P: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation

WOV Pg. 31

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 20th Chapter. P: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

Text in Public Domain by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music in Public Domain by Carl D. Gläser, 1784-1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

Prayers

L: Blessed by a generous God, we are generous in our prayers for others.
Lord. in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer**

AM: For a deepening faithfulness within the Body of Christ, and a desire to learn our
Lord's will, Lord. in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer**

AM For a generous spirit among all peoples and nations, especially in treating all our
neighbors with compassion, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer**

AM: In gratitude for the immense fruitfulness of our planet, and a dedication to share
its bounty with all our neighbors, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer**

AM: For our own Sunday School and Confirmation students and teachers, that their
time together may be a blessing to all, Lord in your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer**

L: For all other needs left unspoken, that God's grace may touch each one, Lord in
your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer Amen**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **P: And also, with you**

Please share a sign of God's peace.

The offering is received



Anthem

God Gives Us Love

Words by: Nancy Price & Don Besig and Music by: Don Besig
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To make our lives worth living, God gives us love. To learn the joy of giving, God gives us love. To help us through each day, to guide us on our way, to show us what to do and say, God gives us love. To bring our families nearer, God gives us love. To keep our vision clearer, God gives us love. To use the gifts we share, to find the time to care, to ease the pain we almost bear, God gives us love. God's perfect love, that wondrous gift from heaven, lives in our hearts to guide our steps each day. And when we share that love, so freely given, we will reflect God's grace in every way period to share with one another, God gives us love. To learn to trust each other, God gives us love. To help us

lend a hand, to try to understand, to teach us how to be a friend, God gives us love. Share God's love. Share God's love.

***Offertory Hymn**

WOV Pg. 35

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving –

L: The Lord be with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: And also with you.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Proper Preface is spoken

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus**

P: 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. Hosanna in the highest.

The Word of Institution

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,
forever and ever. Amen**

***Agnus Dei**

WOV Pg. 39

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

arr. by William M. Felton

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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

WOV Pg. 41

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

P: Amen

Closing Hymn

O Zion, Haste

ELW 668

Text in Public Domain by Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923

Music in Public Domain by James Welch, 1837-1901

Dismissal

WOV Pg. 41

AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors.

P: Thanks be to God

Postlude

Come, Labor On

arr. by Lani Smith

Tune "Ora Labora" in Public Domain by Thomas Tertius Noble, 1867-1953 - Setting c. 2014 by Lorenz

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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

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*Glory to God, Alleluia Verse, Let the Vineyards, Holy, Holy, Holy, and Lamb of God from
With One Voice Setting 5 (Bread of Life) by Jeremy Young

Let the Vineyards by John W. Arthur and Jeremy Young

Text for all but the Alleluia Verse and Let the Vineyards: English Language Liturgical Consultation

Text for Alleluia Verse and Let the Vineyards c. 1978 by Augsburg Fortress

Music c. 1995 by Augsburg Fortress

Happenings Around the Church

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am \$12

Bible Study

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm

In person Bible Study Wednesdays
10:00 am

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am

Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Event	Date	Time
Rally Sunday – Jesus is my Rock	Sunday, 9/20	
CT Yankee Chorale Rehearsal	Tuesday, 9/22	7:00 pm
Toastmasters Meeting	Wednesday, 9/23	7:00 pm
Evangelism Meeting	Sunday, 9/27	11:00 am
WELCA Meeting	Monday, 9/28	6:30 pm
CT Yankee Chorale Rehearsal	Tuesday, 9/29	7:00 pm
CAFAF CPR Class	Wednesday, 9/30	6:00 pm

Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly	\$6,290
Received	\$3,094
Shortfall	<u>-\$3,196</u>
YTD	-\$ 79,906

- Those interested in becoming official members please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.
- Today after worship, we'll be taking a large group picture of all that want to be included for use in publicity. Anyone who does not want to be in the picture will be able to exit first.

PUPPETTUDE TRAILER FOR SALE!



- ★ Purchased New in 2012
- ★ Size: 12' x 6'
- ★ Single Axle
- ★ No Electric Brakes
- ★ Inside Shelves



\$3,300.00
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FIRST *Holy* COMMUNION



CELEBRATED DURING

**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

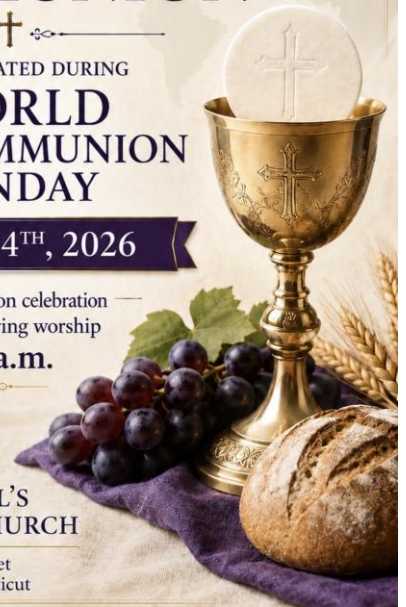
OCTOBER 4TH, 2026

First Communion celebration
will be held during worship
at **10 a.m.**



**SAINT PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

837 Charles Street
Torrington, Connecticut



**St. Paul's
Lutheran Church**

**PUMPKIN
PATCH**

OCTOBER 4 TO 31

..... Get your
PUMPKINS
for
HALLOWEEN!

**GREAT
PUMPKINS
for
EVERYONE!**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We need volunteers for the offloading of the pumpkins on Saturday, October 3rd (after 2PM) **AND ONLY A FEW MORE TO** help to man the sale table in 4-hour shifts (11-3 or 3-7). See Kathy or Lisa if you have any questions when volunteering.

What a great way to get involved with your church and a community event. We will give any student a certificate for "community service hours" if needed for school.

We thank you in advance for your support and participation in our first Pumpkin Patch at St. Paul's.

**St. Paul's
Lutheran Church**
837 Charles St., Torrington, CT



Fabulous Fall Dinner!

Friday, October 16, 2026

 Fellowship - 5:15
 Dinner - 6:00

\$17.00
Adults
Kids 5-10 **\$10.00**

Food, Fellowship, Fun
PRIZES




 Roasted Pork	 Veggies	 Potatoes	 Salad	 Bread	 Dessert
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We hope to see you there!

Tickets available on Sundays after church or at the Church Office
call 860-482-3555

**St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
837 Charles Street
Torrington, Connecticut



Holiday FALL FAIR

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 7TH**
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

 HANDMADE CRAFTS	 ARTISAN MARKET	 SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH
 BAKE SALE	 THEME BASKETS	 PRIZES GALORE!

For more information,
CALL 860-482-3555

Gift Cards for sale!

AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY!

 **CAN ALSO ORDER!**
Can't find what you need?
We can order it for you!

 **CHURCH GETS A PERCENTAGE!**
Your purchase helps support our church.

 **YOU PAY the value OF THE CARD.**



 CASH  CHECKS  CREDIT CARDS

We take

Thank you for supporting our church!

Gift Cards are available for sale in the Narthex after worship

Cards for restaurants, department stores, discount stores and outlet stores, electronics, entertainment, fast food, gas and auto, grocery, home improvement, sporting goods and even universal prepaid cards!

Don't see one on the list that's available – just ask.

If you are thinking “ahead of the holidays”, put your list together and see the people at the gift card table.

You not only save yourself time going shopping but the church also gets a % of your sales.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a list of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott	Charlotte Madia	Justin Wade & Family	Kyle W.
Casaundra Abeling	Audrey Marquard	The Videtto Family	Rowan
Roberta Alteri	Abigail Marine	Eveyln Walters	Stefan Nikola J
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens	Eric Marine	Margaret Miller	Janet E.
Michelle Ahrens	Richard Marine	James Weber	Wendy Fedor
Coni Aparo	Janis Martin	Diane Wright	Laurie Otis
Bridget Deemer	Gil & Marilyn Martin	Bruce Yauney	John Fleming
Kathy Ann Campbell	Michael Meyers	Clayton Young	Ethan Troy Danner
Angelo & Nicole Capasso	Brigitte Mueller	Clarence & Priscilla	Fred Rakyta & family
Vinni Carey	Bob Murphy	Ed	Ryan English
Charlotte	Barbara Nalette	Jaiden	Mae Johnson
Emma Cortina	Karen Ness	Steve	Jackie Fleming
Emily Decker	Tom O'Brien	Lou W.	Kiley Lombardo
Irene Douglas	Karen Pagano	Todd	Christine & Fran Gaffney
Judy Elliott	Maria Payne	Robert K.	Patricia & Richard Sawitzke
Diane Engle	Melissa Pilbin	Hagbard	Shannon Hilton
Jan Eucalitto	Lisa & Dennis Polzun	Peanut	Deb & Jon Sterling
Weston Faith	Ed & Susan Regner	Diane L.	David Little
Amy Falls	Baerbel Roehl	Sandie Harper	Carol Vrluk
Bruce & Liz Falls	Lori Sola	Pam Ewing	Terry
Rosemarie Foth	Vincent Scarrozzo	Michelle	Ruth Ann Stone
Steven Fosbrook	Jean Schlapfer	Marci	Joyce Young & family
Bob Frantz	Sarah Seelye	Diane Tanner	The family & friends of
John Lewis	Lucille Videtto	Baby Olive Pressler	Cecile Scheidel
Danise Hall	Paul Smith	Carol DeLeppo	The family of Howard
Marge Kiernan	Marilyn Killingbeck	Tom Sterling Sr.	Kreidwise
Renate Higgins	Sigrid Smitley	Shay Cronin	Shaelynn Holmgren
Rusty Judd	Patricia Switzer	Patrick Friday	Bob Hauser
Kathleen Hilton	Gloria Thibault	Leigh Martin	The Marold family
	Roger Jensen	Linda Martin	

OUR NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Francine Ahrens	Mae Fay
Dee Gammon	Betty Hilton
Walter Joray	Midge Rosenbeck

OUR MILITARY FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn
Eric Beuis
Dominic Boscarino
Ethan & his Marine Unit
Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Fr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson
Ben Speaker
Noah Braatz
Christian Braatz
Aiden Avenia
Sydney Craig & her Army unit

