

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Brunswick, Maine
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Season of Creation
September 27, 2026
10:30 a.m. Eucharist with Music in the Nave



Welcome to St. Paul's!
We are so glad you have chosen to worship here today.

St. Paul's Territory Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we stand on territory that was taken from the Abenaki people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, the people of the Dawnland. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all companions in life. May we learn from our past sins and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native neighbors as they continue to seek their sovereignty here in Maine.

www.stpaulsmaine.org
Find us on Facebook — facebook.com/StPaulsBrunswickMaine
admin@stpaulsmaine.org (207) 725-5342
27 Pleasant St., P.O. Box 195
Brunswick, ME 04011

HOLY EUCHARIST

If you find yourself in physical discomfort when standing, especially for extended periods, please feel free to be seated at any time. If kneeling is difficult for you, either stand or sit instead.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Morning glory, starlit sky

The Hymnal 1982 #585

1 Morn - ing glo - ry, star - lit sky, soar - ing
2 O - pen are the gifts of God, gifts of
3 Love that gives, gives ev - er more, gives with

1 mu - sic, schol - ar's truth, flight of swal - lows, au - tumn
2 love to mind and sense; hid - den is love's a - go -
3 zeal, with ea - ger hands, spares not, keeps not, all out -

1 leaves, mem - ory's trea - sure, grace of youth;
2 ny, love's en - deav - or, love's ex - pense.
3 pours, ven - tures all, its all ex - pends.

OPENING SENTENCES *(all standing as able)*

Celebrant: This is the day the Creator has made.

Response: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CANTICLE 12 A SONG OF CREATION

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise the Lord and highly exalt them for ever.

In the firmament of their power, glorify the Lord, *
praise the Lord and highly exalt them for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise them and highly exalt them for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise them and highly exalt them for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise them and highly exalt them for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise them and highly exalt them for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise the Lord and highly exalt them for ever.
In the firmament of the Lord's power, glorify the Lord, *
praise the Lord and highly exalt them for ever.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

SEASON OF CREATION COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Paul 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.



1 Sure - ly it is God — who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds — known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Matthew R. Scott

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH (from South India, Season of Creation)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND CONCLUDING COLLECT *(standing as able)*
(As we pray, please respond to “God, to whom all creation responds,” with “Help us respond to you”)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: Holy and merciful God,
 we confess that we have failed to honor you
 by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
 We have walked heavily on your earth,
 overused and wasted its resources,
 taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
 and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
 holding future generations hostage to our greed.
 Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
 Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and
 intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts,
 through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: 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. Amen.

THE PEACE *(standing)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving Communion

*Receiving only bread or wine is considered full communion, or you can receive both
elements. You may...*

- 1. Receive the bread, placing one hand on the other, facing up*
- 2. Receive gluten-free bread, hands facing down*
- 3. Drink from the chalice (cup) when it's offered to you*
- 4. Decline to drink by crossing your arms; the Eucharistic minister will extend it toward
you with the words “The Blood of Christ.”*
- 5. Decline both bread and wine, and with arms crossed, receive a blessing.*

Please do not dip the wafer into the chalice.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

PRESENTATION HYMN

The Hymnal 1982 #380 v3 adapted

- 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST Eucharistic Prayer Creation II

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Creator.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our loving God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues:

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you here where the waters of the Mere Brook Watershed and Androscoggin River flow, where town, wilderness, farm, and sea are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, lupine and alewife, cedar and moose, pine and eagle, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

The people join together in the Sanctus, and then the celebrant continues

The Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. Bring us with St. Paul and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People:

Our God 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 for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant says: Be known to us Jesus in the breaking of the bread. We are the communion of Christ's Body.

All: We share one bread together.

THE INVITATION

Facing the people, the celebrant says the following invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Then is said, The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

The ushers will guide the people pew by pew to the altar rail. You may kneel or stand to receive the Sacrament. (Gluten Free is available.) Clergy will distribute the consecrated host to each person. Eucharistic Ministers will hold the cup in front of each person saying, 'The Blood of Christ; the Cup of Salvation.' If you do not wish to receive the Sacrament, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms indicating you'd like a blessing instead.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.



1. When we walk with the Lord In the light of His word, What a glo - ry He
 2. Not a shad - ow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quick - ly
 3. Not a bur - den we bear, Not a sor - row we share, But our toil He doth
 4. But we nev - er can prove The de - lights of His love Un - til all on the
 5. When in fel - low - ship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His



1. sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He a - bides with us still,
 2. drives it a - way; Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear,
 3. rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross,
 4. al - tar we lay; For the fav - or He shows, And the joy He be - stows,
 5. side in the way; What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go,—



1. And with all who will trust and o - bey.
 2. Can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
 3. But is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 4. Are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 5. Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way To be hap - py in Je - sus, But to trust and o - bey.

Words: J. H. Sammis. Music: D. B. Townner.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system contains four lines of lyrics, numbered 1 through 4. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt. Music: *Nova Vita*, Lister R. Peace (1885-1969).

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER FOR SEASON OF CREATION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,
that the gifts of your Spirit may work
in us and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours
and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives
to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

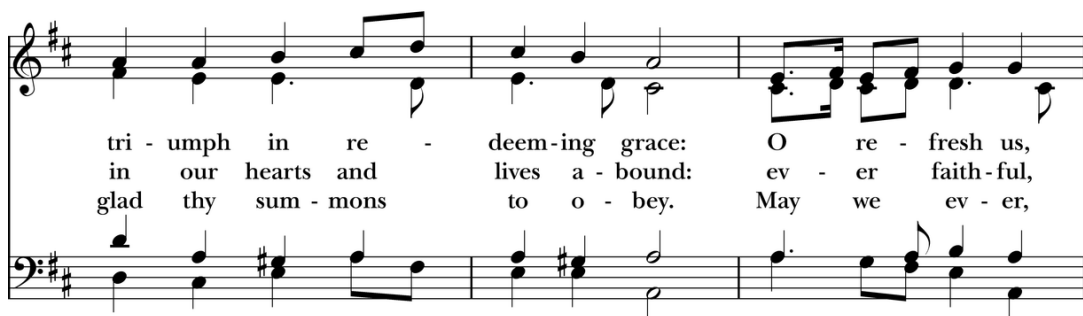
May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To listen to the voice of all creatures
That reflect God's glory in creation.
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen!



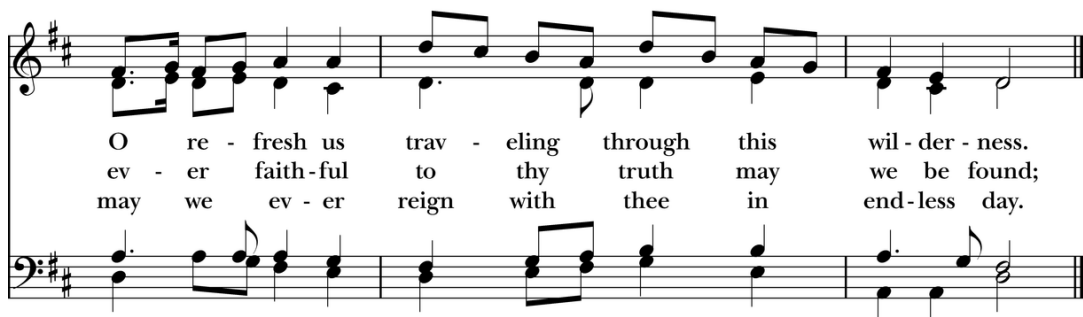
1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the



joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

The Celebrant offers a dismissal.

The People respond: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR EXITING



The Diocese of Maine, The Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, Bishop

St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

The Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Scott, Rector

The Rev. Katie Holicky, Associate Rector

Melissa Carbajal
Lead Administrator

Patsy Oehl
Senior Warden

Andrea Lauerman
Sacred Ground Coordinator

Sunshine Spaulding
Administrative Assistant

Nancy King
Junior Warden

Christina Spurling
Organist/Accompanist

Vestry

Term ending 2027 — Michael Anne Banks, Jonathan Bolton, Mike Sullivan

Term ending 2028 — Roger Barras, Michael Turner, John Bilodeau

Term ending 2029 — Dieuwke Zolas and Leslie Walter