

**Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park Church
An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church
Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**

*We are on a mission to know Christ; to make Christ known in our community;
and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.*

The Rev. John D. Daniels, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director
Tessika McClendon, Soprano
Veronica Flemings, Acolyte

Holy Eucharist (BCP 355)

Prelude: What a Friend We Have in Jesus **arr. Carol Tornquist**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Opening Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name **BLUE #450 vs. 1, 2, 3**

The Word of God (BCP 355)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn of Glory: Glorious is the Name of Jesus **LEVAS #63**

The Collect of the Day (BCP 357)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: A reading from Exodus 17:1-7

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 for 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?”

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (BCP 694-96)

Hear my teaching, O my people;
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
 I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forefathers have told us,
 we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come
 the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
 and the wonderful works he has done.
He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,
 in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through;
 he made the waters stand up like walls.
He led them with a cloud by day,
 and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
 and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff,
 and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Lesson: A reading from Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection 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 empty 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 existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: There is a Balm in Gilead

LEVAS #203 vs. 1, 2

The Gospel: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 21:23-32

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When he 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. John D. Daniels

The Nicene Creed (BCP 358)

Celebrant: Our Affirmation of Trust in All that is Holy

People: 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 worshipped 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.

The Prayers of the People (BCP 392 (Form VI))

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

(Silence)

For all people in their daily life and work.

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Daniel, our Diocesan Bishop; for John, our Priest in Charge; for Simpson, our Priest Associate; for David, our Music Director; for

Tessika, our singer; for Veronica, our acolyte; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all people everywhere;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
(Silence)
Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
(Silence)
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(Silence)
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession (BCP 360)

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 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 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 (BCP 360)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion (BCP 361)

Offertory Anthem: Somebody Talkin' 'Bout Jesus **arr. Marvin Mills**
Tessika McClendon, Soprano

The Doxology**BLUE #380 vs. 3**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (BCP 361)

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You have filled us and all creation with blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing the hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus**BLUE #S130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 say,

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day your 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 (BCP 364)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

BLUE #S164

Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem: In Remembrance of Me
Tessika McClendon, Soprano

Buryl Red

Post Communion Prayer (BCP 365)

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be with you and with those you love, this day, and for ever more. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Lead Us, Heavenly Father

BLUE #559

The Dismissal (BCP 366)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Basse de Trompette

Michel Corrette

Please Join us for Coffee Hour in the Narthex following the service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schedule a meeting with Father John: If you would like to schedule a time to meet with Father John or want to speak with him at any time, please call at 484-983-7943.

New Vestry Member. Catherine Reed Holochwost has been nominated to join the Vestry and she has accepted. If you have any objections to her serving on the Vestry, please contact one of the Vestry members by October 4, 2025. The Vestry is currently composed of: Felicia Anyanwu, Karen Jantzi, Bob Lockyer, Doug Martin, Kumi Reed, and Herbert Welles.

Friends of St. Paul's Restructuring Announcement. The Friends of St. Paul's is restructuring and looking for church and community members to serve as board members and officers. If interested, please contact Carlene N. Welles at [757-206-3804](tel:757-206-3804) or cnbrd13@gmail.com.

Church Picnic. Holy Nativity Church is holding a picnic on September 27, 2026 at noon. All are welcome for food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family. Holy Nativity Church is located at 205 Huntingdon Pike, Rockledge, PA.

The Prayer Band: A small, but faithful group, the Prayer Band has continued to meet faithfully over the last 10+ years. The Prayer Band meets every other Monday at 6 p.m. on Zoom. The next meeting will be September 28, 2026
Zoom ID: 85240760054; Password 728050.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Paul's: The Prayer Shawl knitting group meets on the 2nd Saturday every month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

St. Paul's Fall Birthday Celebration. Please join us on Saturday, November 14 from 1pm to 4pm at Jay Cooke Hall. For more details, contact Anneke, Carlene, Herb, or Yeisha.

Friends of St. Paul's Elkins Park Presents: Holiday Pops Concert. Join us and celebrate the holiday season on Saturday, December 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be \$25.

Bright Lights Ministry – Hats and Mittens for St. Stephen's Homeless Outreach. Our former deacon, Jeannie Sachs, is seeking knitted or crocheted hats and mittens for donation. They must be bright, vibrant, and colorful. Contact Jeannie at deaconjeannie@stpetersglenside.org or 215-877-1765 ext. 403.

Food Donations: Remember to donate to the Food Pantry Wagon located in the Narthex.

October Birthdays

3 – Sandra Farmer
9 – Christian Stech
24 – Bob Lockyer

7 – Desulien Pierrelus
13 – Erica Moten