



Saint Paul's Parish

174 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

(Episcopal/Anglican)

(203) 775-9587 (Office)

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Preacher & Celebrant

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

Question of the Day: *"Is there anything in your life you didn't like doing at first, but now has become a treasure you couldn't imagine living without?"*

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us this morning.

We pray you experience the presence and love of Christ
as we worship together!

Saint Paul's Staff

Priest-in-Charge

Priest Emeritus

Wardens

Warden Emeritus

Vestry Members:

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

The Rev. John E. Morrison, III

Chris Barrett and Mary Beth Durkin

Lois Hunt

Jim Miller-*Treasurer*, David Williams-*Clerk*, Jeff Chowanec, Geoff Dent,

JoAnn Hornak, Tim Huber, Mike Kirner, Kagan Kronberg,

Ned Marcalus, Diane Peterson, Bill Schrull, Andrea White

Organist and Choirmaster

Sunday School Administrator

Operations Director

Kirsten Peterson

Kagan Kronberg

Mary Perry

Prelude

“Trusting Jesus, That Is All”

Michael Shea

Volunteer Appreciation

All stand as able

Opening Hymn

“Praise, my soul, the King of heaven”

[Hymnal 410](#)

The Word of the Lord

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis *(Please stand as able)* “Glory to God”

Hymnal S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray together. **God** of mercy, shape our hearts by your compassion, strengthen us to live in Christ, and make us eager for your kingdom's treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh 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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” 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.

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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” 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. 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 also many animals?”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8

I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Epistle

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response

“Help us, O Lord, to learn”
(Verses 1 & 2)

[Hymnal 628](#)

(Please stand as able for the Gospel)

The Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

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

People: **Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

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

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

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Response

“Help us, O Lord, to learn”
(Verse 3)

[Hymnal 628](#)

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

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

You may stand, sit or kneel for the prayers

Celebrant: Let us pray to the God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love.

Intercessor: Merciful God, you call your Church to proclaim the surpassing worth of your kingdom, like treasure hidden in a field. Strengthen all ministers, lay and ordained, to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. Make us bold in witness, steadfast in hope, and joyful in service.

All: Make us faithful stewards of your kingdom, O Lord.

Intercessor: God of compassion, you rebuked Jonah's narrowness and revealed your mercy for all peoples. Turn the hearts of nations toward justice, peace, and generosity. Where anger and resentment rule, sow your grace; where oppression reigns, bring liberation.

All: Teach the world your mercy that embraces all.

Intercessor: Gracious Lord, you uphold all who fall and lift up those who are bowed down. Bless this community with kindness, patience, and mutual care. Guide our leaders, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods to reflect your goodness.

All: Let your graciousness be known among us.

Intercessor: God whose compassion extends to the great city and the smallest sparrow, look with love upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Strengthen those who endure hardship for the sake of Christ, and surround the weary with your healing presence. Be near to all who long for your healing as we pray for those in need as we remember those who have asked for our prayers...

(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)

Intercessor: Lord of life, you gather the righteous and the unrighteous, the old and the new, as a net gathers fish of every kind. Receive into your eternal kingdom all who have died, and comfort those who mourn with the hope of resurrection.

All: Bring all your children into the joy of your kingdom.

Intercessor: Holy God, you search our hearts and know our motives. Deliver us from the smallness of spirit that begrudges your generosity. Shape us into people who rejoice in your mercy, delight in your love, and live lives worthy of the gospel.

All: Form us into vessels of your grace.

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

Celebrant: O Lord, you are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness. Hear our prayers and make us signs of your kingdom's treasure, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Please kneel as able

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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

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

People: And also with you.

Gratitude Reflection - *Chris Goodman*

All stand as able for hymns

Offertory Hymn

“Be thou my vision”

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

(hymn continues on next page)

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Remain standing as able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you are gracious and full of compassion, showing mercy beyond our deserving, calling us to lives worthy of Christ, and revealing the treasure of your kingdom to all.

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

Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as triplet markings indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical phrases.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant: 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,

**All: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: 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 Saint 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- Please follow the ushers directions for receiving the Eucharist at the altar rail.
- Let an usher know if you prefer to remain seated at your pew for distribution of the Bread and Wine.

Communion Hymn

“Breathe on me, Breath of God”

[Hymnal 508](#)

Communion Hymn

“Sing, my soul, his wondrous love”

[Hymnal 467](#)

Postcommunion Prayer

All: Gracious God, you have gathered us into the joy of your kingdom and fed us with the bread of life. Give us merciful hearts like yours and strengthen us to live in Christ and to serve him faithfully in this world, courageous in suffering, generous in forgiveness, and steadfast in proclaiming the good news of your kingdom, whose treasure surpasses all we possess; through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: Go out in the strength of God's gracious gifts. Live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. Stand firm in one spirit. Strive with one mind for the faith of the gospel. **Amen.**

And may God work for good in all things for you;
May Christ Jesus conform you in the image of his love;
And may the Holy Spirit help you in your weakness, interceding for you,
and in you, according to the will of God. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn "Spread, O spread, thou mighty word"

[Hymnal 530](#)

Dismissal

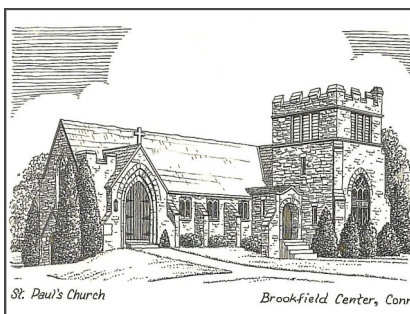
Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

"If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

Johann Sebastian Bach



"Celebrating 241 years in the Spirit"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS:

Sermon Talkbacks - Join us in Crocker Hall at 9:45 am, each Sunday thru Oct. 25th. Sermon Talkbacks are a chance to keep the conversation going. At St. Paul's, we believe preaching happens not just for the church, but with the church as we reflect on our current sermon series on The Giving Parables of Jesus.

Sunday School Resumes This Morning - Sunday School classes and the confirmation class resumes today at 9:45 am. Children will return to their parents or guardians during the service.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

The Women's Evening Bible Study is beginning a new study on Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 on Zoom. The focus is on seven parables of Jesus that will coordinate with Fr. Nate's preaching through the end of October. All women are welcome. For information contact Kathy Whipple at kthyw49@gmail.com.

Choir Rehearsal - Choir rehearsals have resumed. They gather each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome.

UPCOMING:

Sun, Oct 4, 1:00 pm - Blessing of the Animals

Sun, Oct 18, 9:45 am - Visit from our Cambodian Missionaries

Sun, Oct 25, 2:00 pm - Trunk-or-Treat

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

Name Tags - Please be courteous to fellow parishioners, newcomers, and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. You can leave them in the baskets at the doors as you leave for refiling. And remember to wear them to coffee hour.

The Weekly Point - is our weekly newsletter. If you did not receive this e-mail this week and would like to, contact Mary Perry at communication@saintpaulsbrookfield.com and let her know.

Our Facilities - Our restrooms are located downstairs at the rear of our parish hall. Take the stairway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The restrooms are located on the far left, across from the kitchen. A play area for our young ones is also set up in the parish hall as well as live streaming and audio of the service on a wide screen TV. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Calendar For The Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

(Check website for up to date Zoom links - www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com)

Sun., Sept 20	8:00 am - Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:45 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
	9:45 am - Sermon Talkback, Crocker Hall
	10:30 am - Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
Mon., Sept 21	7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live)
	10:00 am - Sexton Volunteers, Crocker Hall
Tue., Sept 22	9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
Wed., Sept 23	10:00 am - Holy Eucharist & Healing (YouTube Live)
	12:00 pm - Noonday Prayer Meeting, Guild Room
	7:00 pm - Women's Evening Zoom Bible Study (Zoom)
Thu., Sept 24	9:30 am - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room
	7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Fri., Sept 25	9:00 am - St. Paul's Walking Group, Bridgewater Village Store
	10:00 am - Sexton Volunteers, Crocker Hall
Sat., Sept 26	7:30 am - John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
	10:00 am - PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall (Zoom)
Sun., Sept 27	8:00 am - Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:45 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
	9:45 am - Sermon Talkback, Crocker Hall
	10:30 am - Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)



Next Sunday - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Preacher: Fr. Nate

Readings for September 27th

[Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32](#) - [Psalm 25:1-8](#) - [1 Corinthians 4:1-7](#)

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)

