

to save us and make us new. We offer to You now our lives, and with them the work of our hands, as represented by that which is contained in this offering. Please bless us and all we offer, both now and forevermore, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Opening Prayer
and Words of Institution Rev. Gordon

Distribution of the Bread: *The body of Christ, broken for you.*

(Please note that for Communion we use both gluten-free and dairy-free bread or crackers.)

As you pass the bread/crackers, please say to the next person:
“The body of Christ, broken for you.”

Upon receipt of the bread, please hold it until all have been served, so that we can partake of the bread together, as a sign of our oneness in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Distribution of the Cup: *The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

(Please note that for Communion the juice we use is non-alcoholic grape juice.)

As you pass the cup, please say to the next person:
“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

Upon receipt of the cup, please hold it until all have been served, so that we can partake of the cup together, as a sign of our oneness in Christ and membership in His corporate body—the Christian Church.

Please use the baskets we have provided in alternate rows for disposal of the used communion cups

Prayer following Communion Rev. Gordon

*Hymn No. 644:
May the Mind of Christ My Savior.....St. LEONARDS

*Benediction Rev. Gordon

Postlude: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovaharr. Tornquist*

After the Worship Service

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and cookies after the Worship Service in the rear of the sanctuary.

Personal Prayer

If you wish to have a time of personal prayer, please speak to one of our Ruling Elders—Zachary Harvey, Robert LeSuer, or Amy Stearns.

Monthly Prayer Focus

During September, we will continue to pray for God’s wisdom and leading for Redeemer Church. Significant changes are coming to Redeemer, and we will need God’s guidance. As Pastor Benj ends his transitional ministry with us, we are searching for a new pastor. We also have an opportunity to purchase a building, as a permanent location and home for our congregation. Both circumstances will require significant commitments by the congregation. Please pray for:

- God’s leading, as we seek to be faithful disciples and exhibit His Kingdom here in Erie.
- Courage, discernment, and faith to follow that leading.
- The appropriate pastoral candidate to lead Redeemer, and that God will place that call on his or her heart.
- Open or closed doors, as Redeemer considers this current opportunity to purchase a building.
- Pastor Benj, giving thanks for his ministry among us, and asking God to give Pastor Benj a fruitful ministry in his next endeavor and calling.

Women’s Prayer Breakfast

Redeemer Women will meet for fellowship and prayer at 9:30 on Saturday morning, September 26, 2026. We invite women to please join us! The group meets in various homes. For location details, please contact Amy Stearns after the Worship Service, or by calling: (412) 973-9843.

Pastor:Rev. Benjamin D. Giffone, PhD
pastor@rpcerie.org/724-221-2595

Minister of Music and Worship: Thomas Brooks
Accompanist: Shirley Wilson
Ruling Elders:Robert LeSuer, Amy Stearns, Zachary Harvey

- Ways to Give to Redeemer:
- Offering Plate
 - Mail: RPC Treasurer, c/o 115 W Lakeview Blvd., Erie, PA 16508
 - Online: <https://www.rpcerie.org/give>

To contact the church: info@rpcerie.org

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<https://www.rpcerie.org>

Sunday Morning Worship
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

Worship Theme: “The Word of the Cross is Folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

* The Congregation should please stand, if you are able to do so

Welcome, Announcements, and
Introduction to Worship Thomas Brooks

Prelude: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Usarr. Berry*
(in a setting of Bach’s “Sheep May Safely Graze”)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Call to Worship: *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Happy are the people whose God is the Lord.

(...continued over...)

----- (please tear off here) -----

Connection/Request for Prayer

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

I’d like: ☐ Call from the pastor ☐ Prayer for: ☐ Confidential

(...continued on other side...)

Congregation: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Liturgist: Every day I will bless you, Loving God, and praise your name forever and ever.

Congregation: We worship the God who has conquered sin and death, and claims us as brothers and sisters with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***Hymn No. 115:**
All Creatures of Our God and King LASST UNS ERFREUEN
(Verses 1, 4, and 5)

Old Testament Reading:
Isaiah 29:13-14.....Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

A Moment for ChildrenShirley Wilson

Note: The children (0 through 4 years) may go to the nursery classroom.

Hymn of Reflection: *Speak, O Lord*..... *Getty/Townend*

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
to receive the food of your holy word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness:
That the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
all your purposes for your glory.

-----*(please tear off here)*-----
(...continued from other side...)

Prayers of Confession..... Thomas Brooks

We will begin by praying a unison prayer of corporate confession.
Then, we will join in silently, confessing our personal sins.

Almighty God, who are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You; hear us as we come to You humbly confessing our sins and transgressions, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our words, and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; and all our failures and shortcomings toward You and toward our fellow men. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; and of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—adapted from the Book of Common Worship by T. David Gordon

Note: The Congregation should please silently confess their sins.

Assurance of Pardon *(responsively)* Thomas Brooks

Liturgist: Because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—

Congregation: **it is by grace we have been saved, through faith—and this is not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast.** *—Ephesians 2:4-5, 8b-9*

Thanks be to God!

***Response Hymn:** *Gloria Patri*..... *GREATOREX*

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end, Amen, Amen!

***Passing of the Peace** Thomas Brooks

Note: The Congregation will please turn to each other and speak these words of common greeting: “May the peace of Christ be with you.” And the reply: “And, also with you.”

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, and The Lord’s Prayer..... Zachary Harvey

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Gospel Reading:** Luke 8:4-8.....Matthew Steinkirchner

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “A Foolish Message” Rev. T. David Gordon, PhD

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Remembrance · Communion · Hope

Invitation to the Lord’s Table..... Rev. Gordon

Offering: *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*..... *arr. Curry*

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
and hope in him through all thy ways,
He’ll give thee strength, whate’er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days:
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love
Builds on the Rock that naught can move.

***Offertory Hymn:** *Doxology*..... *OLD HUNDREDTH*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Offertory Prayer** *(unison)*Tom Brooks

Dear Father, You have given so many gifts to us. You have held nothing back of Yourself, but rather, You have come among us in Christ Jesus