

# **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**Benicia, CA

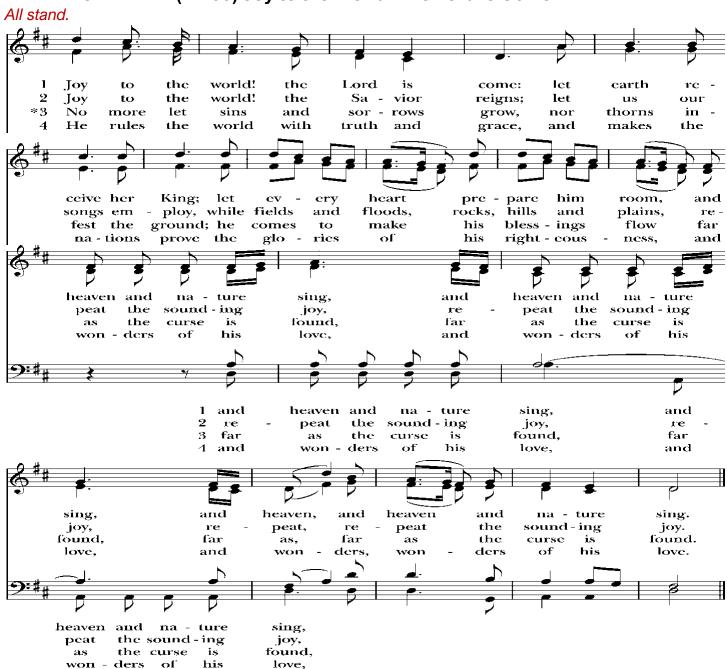
# 10:00 AM Worship for Sunday, December 29, 2024

**Eucharistic Prayer A** 

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas

# ENTRANCE HYMN: (H 100) Joy to the World! The Lord is Come



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

#### **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

BCP p. 355

#### Let us pray in unison

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: (H 96) Angels We Have Heard On High





#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people sit.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness. as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest. until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow

PSALM: Psalm 147

#### Remain seated.

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

<sup>2</sup>The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted \*

and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>He counts the number of the stars \*

and calls them all by their names.

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*

there is no limit to his wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*

but casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*

make music to our God upon the harp.

<sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds \*

and prepares rain for the earth;

<sup>9</sup>He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \* and green plants to serve mankind.

<sup>10</sup>He provides food for flocks and herds \*

and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>11</sup>He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*

he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

<sup>12</sup>But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \* in those who await his gracious favor.

<sup>13</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*

praise your God, O Zion;

<sup>14</sup>For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.

<sup>15</sup>He has established peace on your borders; \*

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*

and his word runs very swiftly.

<sup>17</sup>He gives snow like wool; \*

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

<sup>18</sup>He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*

who can stand against his cold?

<sup>19</sup>He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

<sup>20</sup>He declares his word to Jacob, \*

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

<sup>21</sup>He has not done so to any other nation; \*

to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

#### **SECOND READING:**

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

#### Remain seated.

<sup>23</sup>Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup>But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

<sup>4:4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. People:

Silence may follow.

# GOSPEL HYMN: (H 101) Away In a Manger, No Crib For His Bed

The following is sung, all standing



GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

All stand

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Annie Mertz

THE CREED BCP p. 358

#### All stand.

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.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

CONFESSION OF SIN BCP p. 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Silence may be kept. Celebrant and People

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.

#### The Celebrant stands and says

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 p. 360

All stand.

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

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRANSITIONS**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin anew. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 376

**OFFERTORY CANON: Awake My Soul** 

The following is sung by the chorus only

**Verse:** Awake, my soul, and with the sun

thy daily stage of duty run;

shake off dull sloth, and early rise to pay thy morning sacrifice.

Music by William Billings (1746 - 1800)

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

SURSUM CORDA: BCP p. 361

The People remain standing.

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 our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE BCP p. 370

#### Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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: (S 130) Holy, Holy, Holy





### BCP p. 370

#### The Celebrant continues

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:

#### Celebrant and People

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

### BCP p. 370

#### The Celebrant continues

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.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 363

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

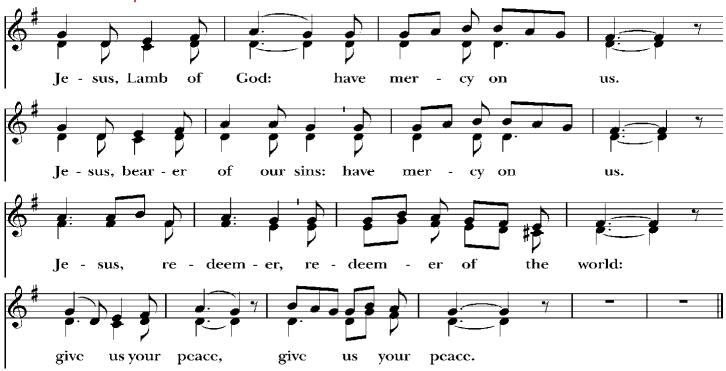
#### People and Celebrant

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.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

# FRACTION ANTHEM: (\$ 164) Jesus, Lamb of God

Celebrant and People



#### INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **COMMUNION**

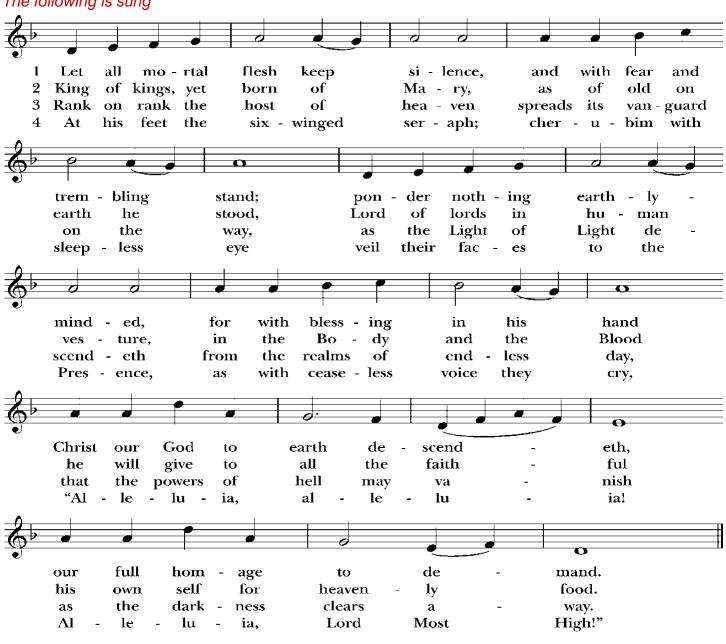
The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

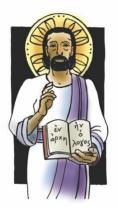
The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.



# **COMMUNION HYMN: (H 324) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

The following is sung





# COMMUNION HYMN: (H 115) What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest (Greensleeves)



#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

#### Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING BCP p. 366

#### The Celebrant blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** 

# RECESSIONAL HYMN: (H 87) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



glo - ry

the

to

new-born King!

#### **DISMISSAL**

Hark!

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

the her - ald

an - gels sing

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

People: Thanks be to God.





# St. Paul's Episcopal Church WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Thank You For Your Pledges!

We are grateful to everyone for your generous annual pledges, which play a vital role in supporting the mission and ministries of St. Paul's.

There's still time to turn in your 2025 pledge! Blank cards are available in the back of the church.



# Let's Welcome Back the Healing Prayer Ministry!

Healing prayer is offered at each service during communion to individuals who wish to have personalized, one-on-one prayer with a healing prayer minister. A healing prayer minister listens carefully and empathetically and prays with individuals about their specific concerns. Healing prayer ministers serve once a month at their preferred service. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, please contact me by email at <a href="mailto:deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org">deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org</a>. I will be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how to pray with others and to

practice this important skill.



# **Community Meal Volunteer Online Signups**

If you would like to volunteer at the Community Meal on Mondays or Wednesdays, check our weekly Friday e-mail for a sign-up sheet - or contact the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org">admin@stpaulsbenicia.org</a>. Need to sign up for e-mails? Please contact the Parish Office. Please note that we need only one volunteer each day.

Thank You!



#### **Coffee Hosts Needed**

It's time to sign up for the New Year! We still need Coffee Hosts in January-

Please remember that beginning There is a sign-up sheet to the left of the coffee pots under the Cross Wall in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about what's required, there is an awesome reference guide in the binder next to the sign-up sheet or feel free to reach out to our Coffee Hour coordinators Barry & Sally Cunningham

at bcunningsb@gmail.com.

Sign up with a friend and kick off your Sunday with caffeine and fellowship.



# Morning Prayer Weekdays at 9 a.m. in Church and on Zoom

Join Zoom meeting (Link in Weekly Announcements online)

Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237

Passcode: 355908

One tap mobile +16699009128,,89062643237#,,,,\*355908# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237

Passcode: 355908

## **Updated Holiday Schedules**

**Family Ministries:** Please see the schedule below regarding changes to our Family Ministries programs through the holiday season

	12/22	12/24	12/25	12/29	1/5
Nursery	8:30-12:30	Closed	Closed	9:00-11:30	8:30-12:30
Godly Play	Short Godly Play, then Pageant Prep in undercroft	No Class	No Class	No Class	10:00- 10:45
Bible Study	Short session, then Pageant Prep in undercroft	No Class	No Class	No Class	10:00- 10:45

#### **Eucharist & Bible Study**

#### Wednesday 12/25 - Christmas Day

10:00 am Eucharist is moved from side chapel to main church No Bible Study

#### Wednesday 1/1

No Eucharist No Bible study

#### **Morning Prayer**

Cancelled for Wednesday 12/25 - Christmas Day

#### Coffee with the Rector:

Cancelled for Thursday, 12/26 and 1/2

#### **Parish Office Hours:**

The parish office closes at NOON on 12/24 and will remain closed through 1/1. *We look forward to seeing you in the new year!* 

#### Community Meal: Cancelled for Wednesday 12/25 & Wednesday 1/1

The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.

Please e-mail information to: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org

Office phone: (707) 745-0307

#### **NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

When you enter a St. Paul's Episcopal Church service or event, you enter an area where photography, audio, live streaming, and video recording may occur.

SERVING THIS WEEK - December 29, 2024 10:00 AM - Single Service				
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz			
Preacher	Rev. Annie Mertz			
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines			
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch			
Lector	Ann Lindsay			
Intercessor	Jim Brown			
LEM	Jim Brown			
Ushers	Robin Silver & Marjorie Lowry			
Altar Guild	Robin Silver			
Flower Guild	Mittie Railsback			
Office Angels	Jeanne Brown & Debbie Varson			
Verger	Fred Railsback			

Parish Leadership						
Clergy	Staff	Vestry				
The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector The Rev. Beth Gaines, Deacon The Rev. Canon Mary Goshert, Associate Priest The Rev. Pamela Higgins, Associate Priest The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest	Dr. Matthew Welch, Traditional Music Director Cameron De Palma, Contemporary Music Director Eric Foster, Communications Director Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator Tim Markley, Archivist	Jeff Jarvis, Senior Warden Chris Preovolos, Junior Warden Donna Marshall, Ed Curtis, Laura Peabody-Park, Jill Morris, Lisa Pena, Ann Lindsay, Gerri MacGregor				