



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



11:00 AM Worship for Sunday, January 12, 2025

Eucharistic Prayer A The Holy Eucharist Rite II

First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts

The proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts on Epiphany dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.

Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Sweet Sweet Spirit

All stand.

Verse 1: There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place
 And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord
 There are sweet expressions on each face
 And I know they feel the presence of the Lord

Chorus: Sweet Holy Spirit
 Sweet heavenly Dove
 Stay right here with us
 Filling us with Your love
 And for these blessings
 We lift our hearts in praise
 Without a doubt we'll know
 That we have been revived
 When we shall leave this place

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.

KYRIE: Mass Of Advent

Celebrant and People

Chorus: Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.
Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.

CCLI Song # 7212661. Dave Moore | ICEL | Lauren Moore. © 2020 Catholic Music Initiative, Inc.; ICEL
For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2426521

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS



FIRST READING:

Isaiah 43:1-7

The people sit.

¹Now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow

PSALM:

Psalm 29

Remain seated.

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; *

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *

and strips the forests bare.

⁹And in the temple of the LORD *

all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *

the LORD sits enthroned as King forevermore.

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people; *

the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING:**Acts 8:14-17***Remain seated.*

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.***Silence may follow.***GOSPEL HYMN: (A3 #218) Veni Sancte Spiritus***The following is sung, all standing**Congregation chants:*People: **Veni, Sancte Spiritus****GOSPEL:****Luke 3:15-17, 21-22***All stand*

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

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

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.****The Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts****The Rev. Beth Gaines****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 HYMN: You Never Let Me Down

Cameron DePalma

The following is sung

Verse 1: Lately you've been reaching out to me
I can feel you from across the sea
All the songs I sang and tears I cried
Trying to make it to the other side

Chorus: You never let me down
You never let me go
You're always on my side
My savior and my Lord

Verse 2: I'm the kind of sheep who goes astray
Jesus came to save me anyway
Now he's touched my eyes so I can see
Like a blind man back from Galilee **(Chorus)**

Verse 3: And out of the darkness and into the light
Heavenly angels in glorious flight
He said "I am the way and the truth and the light"

Verse 4: Lately you've been calling out to me
I can hear you from across the sea
Something sweetly passing through the strings
It's the music that the spirit brings **(Chorus)**



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...

...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: Mass Of Advent

Celebrant and People

Chorus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

CCLI Song # 7212661. Dave Moore | ICEL | Lauren Moore. © 2020 Catholic Music Initiative, Inc.; ICEL
For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](https://www.ccli.com). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 2426521



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...

...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...

...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

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 30) Let Us Break Bread Together

The following is sung

Verse 1: Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Verse 2: Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Verse 3: Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

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: Down By the Riverside

The following is sung, all standing

Verse 1: Goin' to lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside,
Goin' to lay down my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside,
To study war no more.

Refrain: I ain't goin't study war no more,
Ain't goin't study war no more,
Ain't goin't study war no more.

Verse 2: Goin' to lay down my war shoes,
Down by the riverside
Goin' to lay down my war shoes,
Down by the riverside,
To study war no more. **(Refrain)**

Verse 3: Goin' to put on my long white robe,
Down by the riverside
Goin' to put on my long white robe,
Down by the riverside,
To study war no more.

Verse 4: Goin' to meet my loving savior,
Down by the riverside
Goin' to meet my loving savior,
Down by the riverside,
To study war no more.

DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

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

People: Thanks be to God.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledge Update
as of 12/30/2024

	2025	2024
# Pledges	58	70
Amount Pledged	\$286,450	\$303,374



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.

Sunday, January 26th- Combined 10 AM Service Followed by the Annual Meeting:



On Sunday January 26, 2025, St. Paul's will conduct our Annual Meeting in the sanctuary directly following a single 10am service. This means a few things:

1. The Nursery will be open from 9:00am-12:30pm
2. Godly Play and Youth Bible Study are cancelled for that Sunday and will resume the following Sunday February 2, 2025.
3. At the conclusion of service, prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, Family Warden Jill Morris will escort any and all children/youth who are interested to the undercroft to hang out and play games, Legos, color, and eat snacks!

Our kind childcare attendants will be present to supervise the children/youth for the duration of the Annual Meeting. Childcare is FREE! All children/youth will be checked in upon entering the undercroft and must be signed out by a parent or guardian in order to be safely released. We ask that you please pick up your child/youth promptly after the Annual Meeting. Thank you!



MLK DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, January 20, 2025

7 pm • 1305 West 2nd St.

Honoring Dr. King in story, recollection, song, and commitment. All are welcome.

“In these turbulent days, when fear and doubt are mounting high, give us broad visions, penetrating eyes and power of endurance.”

On Monday, January 20, 2025 Benicia’s 6th public observance of Martin Luther King Day will be held at **7 p.m. at Community Congregational UCC**, 1305 West 2nd St. All who attend will be encouraged to reflect, sing together, and share their particular reasons for honoring Dr. King “in these turbulent days.” In this way we will sustain one another with the “power of endurance.”

A pick-up choir will get together at 6 p.m. to rehearse “The Storm Is Passing Over.”



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 deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org. I will be happy to meet with you

individually to discuss how to pray with others and to practice this important skill.

Flower Dedications



Our 2025 Flower Dedication Online Sign-Up Sheet is available in the **Link Section** of our Weekly Friday Online Bulletin. If you sign up less than one week in advance of your dedication, please call the church office to let them know: **707-745-0307**.

You can also contact the office to request a dedication by E-Mail at admin@stpaulsbenicia.org or call 707-745-0307.

The suggested minimum donation is **\$75**. You can mail your donation to *St. Paul's Church, 120 East J St. Benicia, CA 94510* or drop it by the office. Thank You!



Coffee Hosts Needed

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

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.



The flowers at today's service
are dedicated in memory of:

Rosalie Leydic

Jorge & Lisa Pena



PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Manuel Pena
Pat Paterson
Nadia
Carmen Montoya
James Carr
Mark Park
Judith Mooney

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**

1/12 Neal Mulholand
1/15 Blanche Hilman
1/17 Evan Healy
1/18 Andrew Urban

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR
ARMED FORCES**

Major Russ Morris, U.S. Air Force Reserves
SFC Mike Moverley, 1st Battalion 143rd Field Artillery, U.S. Army
Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann, U.S. Army
Airman Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force
SA Michelle Severa, PA, Air National Guard
Staff SGT Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force
Major Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army

E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions



SUNDAY 1/12: First Sunday after the Epiphany

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)
 10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion
 12 pm Coffee Hour
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)

MONDAY 1/13	TUESDAY 1/14	WEDNESDAY 1/15
9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am +Music Practice 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 8 pm AA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 5 pm Worship Committee Mtg. (U)	7am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am +Communion 11 am Bible Study (P) 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
THURSDAY 1/16	FRIDAY 1/17	SATURDAY 1/18
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie 9 am +Morning Prayer	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 7 pm NA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (U) 7 am Men's Meeting (R) 9 am SSP Meeting (U) 10 am Sustainable Landscaping Class (P)

SUNDAY 1/19: Second Sunday after the Epiphany

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)
 10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion
 12 pm Coffee Hour
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)

KEY

+ = Church
 P = Parish Hall
 U = Undercroft
 R = Rectory
 K = Kitchen

SERVING THIS WEEK - January 12, 2025		
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	Rev. Annie Mertz	
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines	Rev. Beth Gaines
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma
Lector	Chris Ayles	Kim Rodekohr
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Steve Rodekohr
LEM	Jim Brown	Steve Rodekohr
Ushers	Lisa & Jorge Pena	Donna Patey & Cathy Cellini
Altar Guild	Jeanne Brown & Sandy Schipper	
Flower Guild	Blanche Hilman	
Office Angels	Jeanne Brown & Debbie Varson	
Verger	Jim Peterson	

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



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Benicia, California

MISSION

St. Paul's welcomes all people at any stage of their spiritual journey to worship together, care for the community, and live the message of Jesus Christ.

VISION

We strive to be an active, diverse, and welcoming community where people come together to worship and deepen their faith.

VALUES

Community	Inclusion	The Message of Jesus Christ	Spiritual Growth
We support our neighbors through service and compassion. We are a safe space and a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.	We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds, and histories are welcome to find and continue their spiritual journey.	We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.	At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen one's faith at St. Paul's.