

10:00 AM Worship for Sunday, January 26, 2025

Eucharistic Prayer A The Holy Eucharist Rite II Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

ENTRANCE HYMN: (H 255) We Sing the Glorious Conquest

All stand.



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's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; 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:

The people sit.

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. "With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

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

Silence may follow



Acts 26:9-21

PSALM: Deus Misereatur

Remain seated.

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *

show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *

your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, * for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; *

may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, *

and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

SECOND READING:

Remain seated.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

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

Silence may follow.

Galatians 1:11-24

GOSPEL HYMN: (Gather Comp. #463) Veni Sancte Spiritus

The following is sung, all standing Congregation chants:

People: Veni, Sancte Spiritus

GOSPEL:

Matthew 10:16-22

All standDeacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

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THE CREED

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

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

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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

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Cameron DePalma

OFFERTORY HYMN: You Never Let Me Down 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)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

SURSUM CORDA:

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.

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PROPER PREFACE

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: (S 130) Holy, Holy, Holy



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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.

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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

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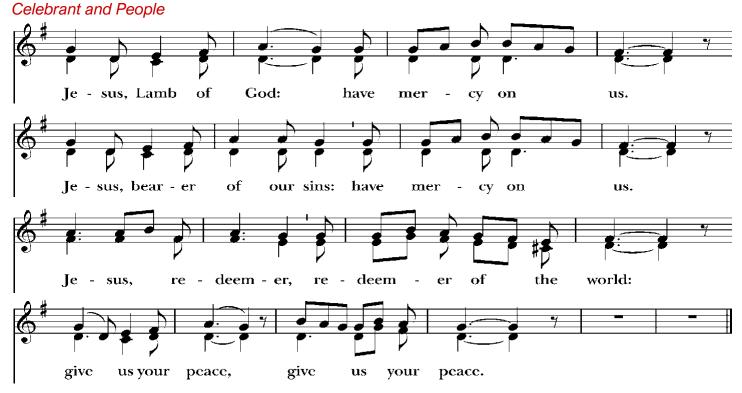
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *People and Celebrant*

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: (S 164) Jesus, Lamb of God



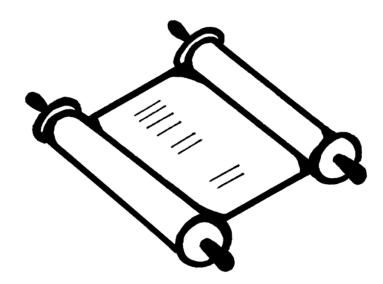
INVITATION

The Celebrant says The Gifts of God for the People of God.

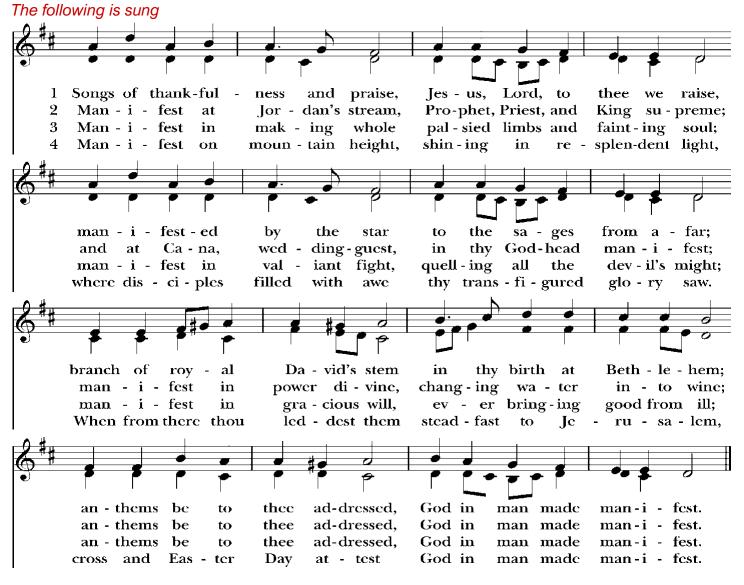
COMMUNION

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 135) Songs of Thankfulness and Praise





COMMUNION HYMN: (Gather 735) They'll Know We Are Christians

The following is sung

Verse 1:	We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
Chorus:	And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
Verse 2:	We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, And together we'II spread the news that God is in our land. (Chorus)
Verse 3:	We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard human's dignity and save human's pride. (Chorus)
Verse 4:	All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son, And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. (Chorus)

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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

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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 671) Amazing Grace

The following is sung, all standing

- Verse 1: Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.
- Verse 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
- Verse 3: The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
- Verse 4: Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- Verse 5: When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **People: Thanks be to God.**



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!



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 <u>admin@stpaulsbenicia.org</u> 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

It's time to sign up for the New Year!

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 <u>bcunningsb@gmail.com</u>.

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.



PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Manuel Pena Nadia James Carr Mark Park Judith Mooney Patrick Bryan

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Pat Paterson Carmen Montoya Robert Deakin

WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1/27 Catherine Harrod 1/31 Barbara Jewell 1/31 Andrew Mertz

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



Calendar

UTH K Worship, Love, Live the Message						
SUNDAY 1/26: Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle Annual Meeting - Single Service 6:30 am AA Meeting (U) 10 am +Communion 11:15 am +Annual Meeting 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U) - Cancelled 10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U) - Cancelled 12 pm Coffee Hour (P) - After Annual Meeting 4 pm Meditation (P) 8 pm AA (P)						
MONDAY 1/27	TUESDAY 1/28	WEDNESDAY 1/29				
9 am +Morning Prayer 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 7 pm +GVRD Jazz Band 8 pm AA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Kiwanis (P)	7am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am +Communion 11 am Bible Study (P) 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 7 pm +GVRD Symph Band				
THURSDAY 1/30	FRIDAY 1/31	SATURDAY 2/1				
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie 9 am +Morning Prayer 5 pm Worship Committee Meeting (U)	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) 10 am Drum Class (P)				
KEY + = Church P = Parish Hall U = Undercroft R = Rectory K = Kitchen6:30 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)						

SERVING THIS WEEK - January 26, 2025 10:00 AM - Single Service					
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz				
Preacher	Rev. Annie Mertz				
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines				
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch & Cameron De Palma				
Lector	Ann Lindsay				
Intercessor	Jim Brown				
LEM	Jim Brown				
Ushers	Laura Peabody Park & Ann Lindsay				
Altar Guild	Steve Rodekohr & Cathy Cellini				
Flower Guild	No Dedications				
Office Angels	Carole Johnson & Sue Flor				
Verger	Jorge Pena				

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				



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.			