

8:45 AM Worship for Sunday, January 5, 2025

Second Sunday after Christmas. The Holy Eucharist Rite II **Eucharistic Prayer A**

ENTRANCE HYMN: (H 83) O Come, All Ye Faithful



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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

The people sit.

⁷Thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.'

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty," says the LORD.

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

Silence may follow

PSALM: Psalm 84

Remain seated.

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

¹¹No good thing will the LORD withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts. *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Remain seated.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ^{19a}and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

GOSPEL HYMN: (H 105) God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (God Rest You Merry)

The following is sung, all standing





GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

All stand

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: Judy Furlong

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: (H 87) Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



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.

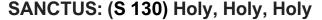
PROPER PREFACE BCP p. 370

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:





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,

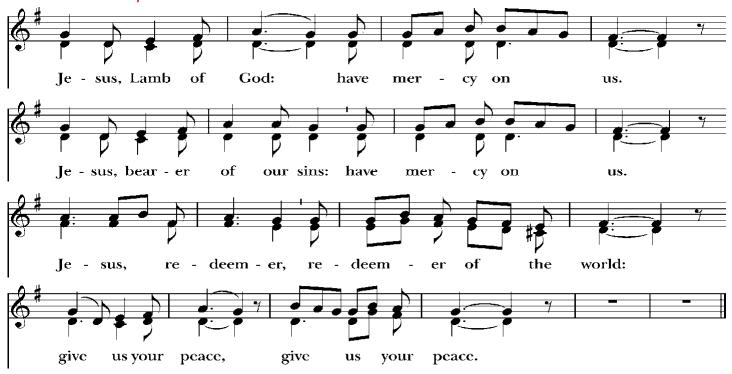
People and Celebrant

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: (S 164) Jesus, Lamb of God

Celebrant and People



INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

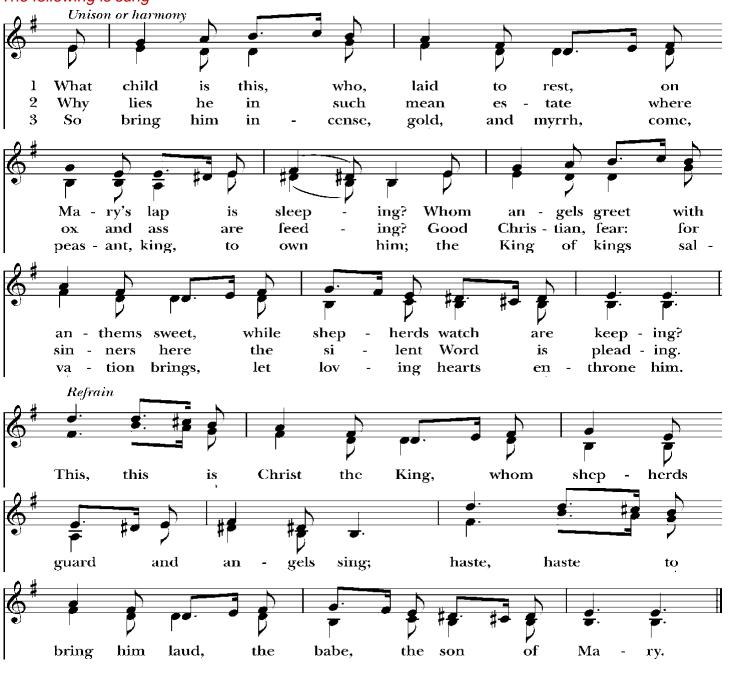
The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

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



COMMUNION HYMN: (H 115) What child is this, who, laid to rest

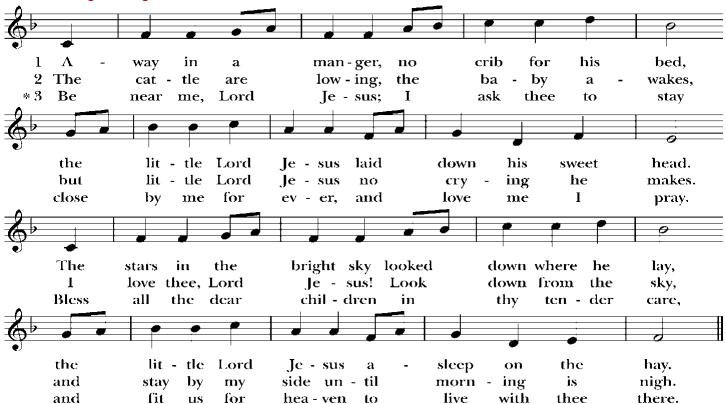






COMMUNION HYMN: (H 101) Away in a Manger, No Crib for His Bed





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 100) Joy to the World! the Lord is Come



DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

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 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.



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 admin@stpaulsbenicia.org. Need to sign up for e-mails? Please contact the Parish Office. Please note that we need only one volunteer each day.

Thank You!

Learn more at: https://stpaulsbenicia.org/community-meal/



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

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

Katie McGovern
Carmen Montoya
James Carr
Mark Park
Judith Mooney

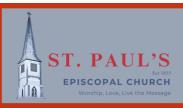
WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/29 Thomas Jouvenot-Sells
12/31 Carol Delacruz
1/4 Bob Whitehead
1/4 Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert
1/7 Wesley Mertz
1/11 Ginny Altice
1/4 Bob & Ellen Whitehead
1/5 Ryan & Jill Morris

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



SUNDAY 1/5: Second Sunday after Christmas

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 1/6	TUESDAY 1/7	WEDNESDAY 1/8	
9 am +Morning Prayer 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 8 pm AA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P)	7am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am +Communion 11 am Bible Study (P) 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)	
THURSDAY 1/9	FRIDAY 1/10	SATURDAY 1/11	
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)	

SUNDAY 1/12: First Sunday after the Epiphany

KEY

+ = Church

P = Parish Hall

R = Rectory

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)

SERVING THIS WEEK - January 5, 2025				
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM		
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz			
Preacher	Judy Furlong			
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines Rev. Beth Gaines			
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma		
Lector	Karen Lowe	Martha Saldana-Wolf		
Intercessor	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	Donna Patey		
LEM	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	Donna Patey		
Ushers	Jeanne & Mark Brown Marth Saldana-Wo Steve Rodekoh			
Altar Guild	Eileen Fisk & Donna Patey			
Flower Guild	No Dedications this Week			
Office Angels	Jennifer Deal & Blaine Deal			
Verger	Mark Park			

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		



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.			