



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Benicia, California

11:00 AM Worship for Sunday, February 2, 2025

Eucharistic Prayer A The Holy Eucharist Rite II
The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

ENTRANCE HYMN: (LEVAS 1) Lift Every Voice and Sing

All stand.

Verse 1: Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
 Till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise
 High as the list'ning skies,
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
 Facing the rising sun
 Of our new day begun,
 Let us march on till victory is won.

Verse 2: Stony the road we trod,
 Bitter the chast'ning rod,
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
 Yet with a steady beat,
 Have not our weary feet
 Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
 We have come over away that with tears has been watered;
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
 Out from the gloomy past,
 Till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Verse 3: God of our weary years,
 God of our silent tears,
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by thy might,
 Led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
 May we forever stand,
 True to our God, true to our native land.

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) This selection is in the public domain

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: (A3 #113) Majesty

The following is sung, all standing

Verse: Majesty, worship his majesty,
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flow from his throne unto his own;
His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the king.
Majesty, worship his majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, king of all kings.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING:

Malachi 3:1-4

The people sit.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Remain seated.

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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 2:22-40

All stand

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

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

THE CREED

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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

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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

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OFFERTORY HYMN: Refiner's Fire

The following is sung

Verse 1: Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Chorus: Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Verse 2: Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

SURSUM CORDA:

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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:

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.

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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

A period of silence is kept

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Celebrant and People (Spoken)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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: (A3 #18) Bind Us Together

The following is sung

Chorus: Bind us together Lord,
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together Lord, bind us together
Lord, bind us together with love.

Verse 1: There is only one God. There is only one king.
There is only one body that is why we sing.

Verse 2: We are the family of God. We are the promise divine.
We are the chosen design. We are the glorious new wine.

COMMUNION HYMN: (A3 #146) Softly & Tenderly

The following is sung

Verse 1: Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home.
Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home! **(Refrain)**

Verse 2: Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? **(Refrain)**

Verse 3: Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing for you and for me.
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
Coming, coming for you and for me.

Verse 4: Oh! For the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. **(Refrain)**

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: This Little Light

The following is sung, all standing

Chorus: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

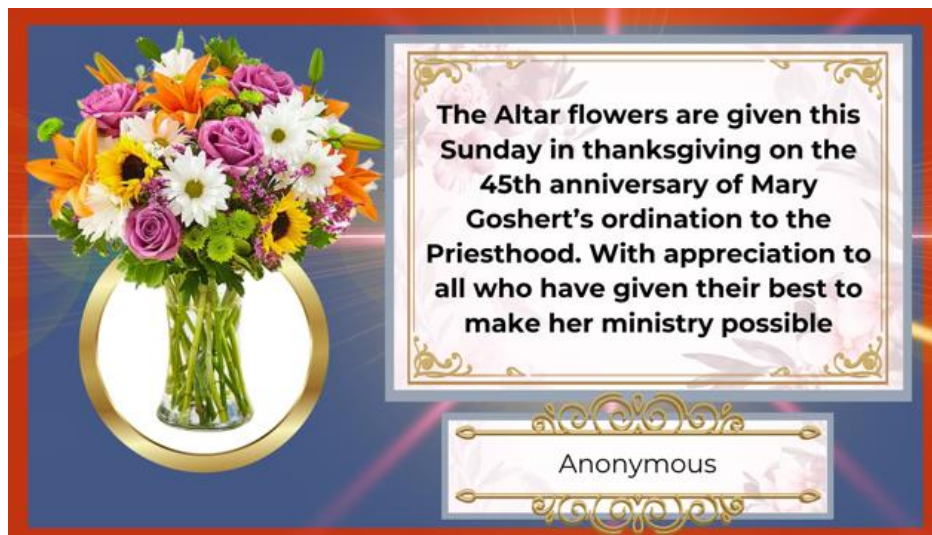
Hide it under a bushel? No! . . . All around the room. . . Up and down the street. . . Everyone I meet. . .

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



Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!
 * Prayer shawls ministry
 * Coffee Hour volunteers needed
 * Updated directory

The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.
 E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org Phone: (707) 745-0307

CONNECT WITH US!

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MAILING LIST SIGN UP



(707) 745-0307 120 E J St. Benicia, CA

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

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Manuel Pena
 Neal Mulholand
 James Carr
 Mark Park
 Judith Mooney
 Patrick Bryan
 Lolli Hilton
 Anna Heltsley
 Emily Peterson

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2/3 A.J. Mertz
 2/3 Diana Dowling
 2/2 Don & Betsy Zampa

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Pat Paterson
 Carmen Montoya
 Robert Deakin

WE PRAY 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

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.

OUR 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.

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Deacon	The Rev. Beth Gaines	
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma
Lector	Debi Hall	Marjorie Lowry
Intercessor	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	Kim Rodekohr
LEM	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	Kim Rodekohr
Healing Prayers		Donna Patey
Ushers	Fred & Mittie Railsback	Jeff Jarvis & Steve Rodekohr
Altar Guild	Eileen Fisk & Donna Patey	
Flowers Guild	Blanch Hilman	
Office Angels	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh & Bev Livesay	
Verger	Gilbert Zabala	

PARISH LEADERSHIP

CLERGY:

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

STAFF:

Dr. Matthew Welch, Traditional Music Director
 Cameron De Palma, Contemporary Music Director
 Eric Foster, Communications Director
 Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator
 Tim Markley, Archivist

VESTRY:

TBA, Senior Warden
 TBA, Junior Warden
 Jill Morris, Ed Curtis, Lisa Pena, Ann Lindsay, Donna Marshall, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson, Robert Vallejos,
 Kathryn Gojack



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.

CALENDAR



The Presentation of Our Lord

- 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 (P)
- 4 pm Meditation (P)
- 8 pm AA (P)

MONDAY: 2/3

- 7 am AA Meeting (P)
- 9 am +Morning Prayer
- 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
- 7 pm +GVRD Jazz Band
- 8 pm AA Meeting (P)

TUESDAY: 2/4

- 7 am AA Meeting (P)
- 9 am +Morning Prayer
- 3:30 pm Sustainable Solano (P)

WEDNESDAY: 2/5

- 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: 2/6

- 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

FRIDAY: 2/7

- 7am AA Meeting (P)
- 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie
- 9 am +Morning Prayer

SATURDAY: 2/8

- 7 am AA Meeting (U)



The Fifth Sunday After 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 (P)
- 4 pm Meditation (P)
- 8 pm AA (P)

KEY

- + = CHURCH
- P = PARISH HALL
- U = UNDERCROFT
- R = RECTORY
- K = KITCHEN