



ST. PAUL'S

Est 1855

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship, Love, Live the Message

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
MARCH 16, 2025

11:00 AM

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Prayer A

Second Sunday in Lent

ENTRANCE HYMN:

All stand.

(LEVAS 1) Lift Every Voice and Sing

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: Bless the Lord who forgives all
our sins.

People: God's mercy endures for ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY: BCP p.355

The Celebrant may say

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:

The following is sung, all standing.

This will be sung 3 times.

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy
Lord have mercy.



COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p.357

Remain seated.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The people sit.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man

shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.



PSALM:**Psalm 27***Remain seated.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *

**the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

When evildoers came upon me to eat up
my flesh, *

**it was they, my foes and my adversaries,
who stumbled and fell.**

Though an army should encamp against
me, *

yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against
me, *

yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;**

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me
safe in his shelter; *

**he shall hide me in the secrecy of his
dwelling**

and set me high upon a rock.

Even now he lifts up my head *

above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an
oblation

with sounds of great gladness; *

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *

have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my
face." *

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, *

**nor turn away your servant in
displeasure.**

You have been my helper; cast me not
away; *

**do not forsake me, O God of my
salvation.**

Though my father and my mother forsake
me, *

the Lord will sustain me.

Show me your way, O Lord; *

**lead me on a level path, because of my
enemies.**

Deliver me not into the hand of my
adversaries, *

**for false witnesses have risen up against
me,**

and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed

that I should see the goodness of the Lord *

in the land of the living!

Oh, tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;

be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;

*

wait patiently for the Lord.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1*The people sit.*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me,
and observe those who live according to
the example you have in us. For many live
as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have
often told you of them, and now I tell you
even with tears. Their end is destruction;
their god is the belly; and their glory is in
their shame; their minds are set on earthly
things. But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a
Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will
transform the body of our humiliation that
it may be conformed to the body of his
glory, by the power that also enables him
to make all things subject to himself.
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I
love and long for, my joy and crown, stand
firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung, all standing.

Congregation chants:

(LEVAS 218) Veni Sancte Spiritus

Veni, Sancte, Spiritus

GOSPEL:

Luke 13:31-35

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



THE SERMON:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

THE CREED:

BCP p. 358

All stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: BCP p.361

CONFESSION OF SIN: (BCP p.359)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Priest 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

The Peace is now exchanged

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 & 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:

The following is sung.

(A3 #146) Softly and Tenderly

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)**

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 God thanks and praise.**PROPER PREFACE:****BCP p.361***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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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***Composed by: Cameron DePalma****Chorus:**

Holy holy holy

Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and Earth are full of your praises

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

BCP p.362*The People stand or kneel.**The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

...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.363***The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving...

...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:

Celebrant and People

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Refrain:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 #201) Eat This Bread

Refrain:

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.



COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 #172) Balm in Gilead

Chorus:

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul

Sometimes I feel discouraged
And think my work's in vain
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again **(Chorus)**

Don't ever feel discouraged
For Jesus is your friend
And if you lack of knowledge
He'll not refuse to lend

If you cannot preach like Peter
If you cannot pray like Paul
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say, "He died for all."

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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

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:

The following is sung.

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Verse 1:

There are loved ones in the glory
Whose dear forms you often miss,
When you close your earthly story
Will you join them in their bliss?

Refrain:

Will the circle be unbroken
by and by, yes, by and by?
In a better home awaiting
in the sky, in the sky?

Verse 2:

In the joyous days of childhood,
Oft they told of wondrous love,
Pointed to the dying Savior,
Now they dwell with Him above. **[Refrain]**

Verse 3:

You remember songs of heaven
Which you sang with childish voice,
Do you love the hymns they taught you,
Or are songs of earth your choice? **[Refrain]**

Verse 4:

You can picture happy gath'ings
Round the fireside long ago,
And you think of tearful partings,
When they left you here below. **[Refrain]**

Verse 5:

One by one their seats were empty,
One by one they went away,
Now the fam'ly is parted,
Will it be complete one day? **[Refrain]**

Title: Will the Circle Be Unbroken Author: [Ada R. Habershon](#)
(1907) Publication Date: 1907. Copyright: Public Domain

DISMISSAL

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

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

People: Thanks be to God.



The Lost Art of Kindness

Civility as a Christian Calling
video course with Bishop Marianne Budde

Zoom Lenten Series



Wednesdays at 7pm
March 12-April 2



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* 2025 Zoom Lenten Series
The Lost Art of Kindness




* The St. Paul's Community Meal
Needs YOUR Help!


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


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 120 E J St. Benicia, CA

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

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert
Virginia & Gary Cady
Georgene Keeler
Kathy Albers
James Carr
Mark Park
Judith Mooney

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL



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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3/16 Rev. Annie Mertz
3/16 Bill Markley
3/16 Ann Lindsay
3/18 Robin Silver
3/18 Donna Lawson

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	Karen Lowe	Marjorie Lowry
Intercessor	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	Jim Wolf
LEM	MaryFrances Kelly-Poh	TBD
Healing Prayers	Judy Furlong	Rev. Nancy Bryan
Ushers	Lisa & Jorge Pena	Donna Patey & Helen Kennedy-Lazar
Altar Guild	Robin Silver & Susie Bonstin	
Flower Guild	Liz Stallings	
Office Angels	Jean Browne & Debbie Varson	
Verger	Jim Peterson	

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:

Lisa Pena, Senior Warden
Ed Curtis, Junior Warden
Jill Morris, 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 Second Sunday in Lent

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: 3/17

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

TUESDAY: 3/18

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
7 pm +GGSOC Practice
7 pm Zoom Vestry Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 3/19

7am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
10 am +Communion
11 am Bible Study (P)
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
7 pm 2025 Zoom Lenten Series

THURSDAY: 3/20

7am AA Meeting (P)
7:30 am Coffee w/
Rev. Annie
9 am +Morning Prayer
6 pm +Music Practice

FRIDAY: 3/21

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
7 pm NA Meeting (P)

SATURDAY: 3/22

7 am AA Meeting (U)
9 am Mandolin World
Retreats Practice (U)

The Third Sunday in Lent

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 +Mandolin World Retreats Concert
8 pm AA (P)



KEY

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