



**ST. PAUL'S**

Est 1855

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Worship, Love, Live the Message

**WORSHIP BULLETIN:**  
**MARCH 23, 2025**

Holy Eucharist Rite II

**11:00 AM**

Prayer A

*Third Sunday in Lent*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:**

*All stand.*

**(A3 #60) Here I Am to Worship**

**Verse 1:**

Light of the world, you stepped down into  
darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore you,  
Hope of a life spent with you.

**Chorus:**

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow  
down,  
Here I am to say that you're my God.  
And you're altogether lovely altogether  
worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.

**Verse 2:**

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created,  
All for love's sake became poor.

**Bridge:**

And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross **(repeat)**

**(Chorus)**

**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.



*Remain seated.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:**

**Exodus 3:1-15**

*The people sit.*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their

sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*



**PSALM:****Psalm 63:1-8***Remain seated.*

God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,**  
**as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
**that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
**my lips shall give you praise.**

So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
**and lift up my hands in your Name.**  
 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*

**and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
**and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, \*  
**and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

My soul clings to you; \*  
**your right hand holds me fast.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13***Remain seated.*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for

us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9***All stand.*

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

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Celebrant: 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.**

**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.***Down to the River to Pray****Chorus:**

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studyin' about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way

**Verse 1:**

O, sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O, sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray **(Chorus)**

**Verse 2:**

O, brothers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on, brothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray **(Chorus)**

**Verse 3:**

O, fathers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O fathers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray **(Chorus)**

**Verse 4:**

O, mothers, let's go down  
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?  
Come on, mothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray **(Chorus)**

**Verse 5:**

O, sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O, sinners, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

**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 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 Gifts of God for the People of God.

## COMMUNION HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### O Sacred Head Surrounded

#### Verse 1:

O sacred Head surrounded  
By crown of piercing thorn!  
O bleeding Head, so wounded,  
Reviled and put to scorn!  
The pow'r of death comes o'er you,  
The glow of life decays,  
Yet angel hosts adore you  
And tremble as they gaze.

#### Verse 2:

I see your strength and vigor  
All fading in the strife,  
And death with cruel rigor,  
Bereaving you of life;  
O agony and dying!  
O love to sinners free!  
Jesus, all grace supplying,  
O turn your face on me.

### Verse 3:

In this, your bitter passion,  
Good Shepherd, think of me  
With your most sweet compassion,  
Unworthy though I be:  
Beneath your cross abiding  
For ever would I rest,  
In your dear love confiding,  
And with your presence blest.



## COMMUNION HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### (A3 #215) Stay with Me, Remain with Me

Stay with me,  
Remain here with me,  
Watch and pray  
Watch and pray



## 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.*

### In the Highways

In the highways in the hedges  
In the highways in the hedges  
In the highways in the hedges  
I'll be somewhere a workin for my Lord

I'll be somewhere a workin  
I'll be somewhere a workin  
I'll be somewhere a workin  
I'll be somewhere a workin for my Lord

When he calls me I will answer  
When he calls me I will answer  
When he calls me I will answer  
I'll be somewhere a workin for my Lord

In the highways in the hedges  
In the highways in the hedges  
In the highways in the hedges  
I'll be somewhere a workin for my Lord

## DISMISSAL

*The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people*

Celebrant: 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](mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org) Phone: (707) 745-0307

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 (707) 745-0307

 120 E J St. Benicia, CA

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## WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

**Virginia & Gary Cady**  
**Georgene Keeler**  
**Kathy Albers**  
**James Carr**  
**Mark Park**  
**Judith Mooney**

### **Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert**

Mary has received a diagnosis of cancer, possibly ovarian, and probably Stage 3. She is scheduled to begin chemotherapy in early April. Meanwhile, she is resting comfortably at home. Visitors are not encouraged so as to avoid possible infection. Short telephone calls or e-mails are welcomed at 707-731-9592 or [xtisrisen@gmail.com](mailto:xtisrisen@gmail.com). Gene's number is 707-731-9798 if a message needs to be forwarded. Mary and Gene's family in town is doing a good job of meal and visits backup. Please, no flowers during chemo, and limited in-person visits.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

**3/22 Eric Foster**  
**3/23 Anne Seed**  
**3/25 Sandra Clark**

## 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**

## SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	Judy Furlong	
Deacon		
	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma
Lector	Ann Lindsay	Robin Silver
Intercessor	Charlie Kilbourne	Steve Rodekohr
LEM	Dale & Charlie Kilbourne	Steve Rodekohr & Martha Saldaña-Wolf
Healing Prayers		Kim Rodekohr
Ushers	Mark & Jeanne Brown	Barry & Sally Cunningham
Altar Guild	Steve Rodekohr, Cathy Cellini & Brandon Bailey	
Flower Guild	Karen Lowe	
Office Angels	Dale Kilbourne	
Verger	Brandon Bailey	

## 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 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)



### MONDAY: 3/24

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

### TUESDAY: 3/25

7 am AA Meeting (P)  
 9 am +Morning Prayer  
 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P)  
 7 pm +GGSOC Practice

### WEDNESDAY: 3/26

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

### THURSDAY: 3/27

7am AA Meeting (P)  
 7:30 am Coffee w/  
 Rev. Annie  
 9 am +Morning Prayer  
 6 pm +Memorial Service &  
 Reception (P)

### FRIDAY: 3/28

7 am AA Meeting (P)  
 9 am +Morning Prayer  
 5:30 pm TGIFF Social (U)  
 7 pm NA Meeting (P)

### SATURDAY: 3/29

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
 1 pm Benicia Literary Arts  
 Class (U)

## The Fourth 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)  
 8 pm AA (P)



### KEY

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