



ST. PAUL'S

Est 1855

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship, Love, Live the Message

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
MARCH 15, 2026 **8:45 AM**
Holy Eucharist Rite II Prayer B

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE:

Instrumental

God's Time is Best

Composed by: J. S. Bach

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 143) The Glory of These Forty Days

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 forever.

Amen.

DECALOGUE: BCP p. 350

The Decalogue is said, the People kneeling.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

The celebrant concludes with a sentence of scripture.

CONFESSION OF SIN: BCP p. 359

The 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 allgoodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE:

The following is sung, all standing.

(S 96) Lord, Have Mercy

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The people sit.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass

before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such

people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung

(H 567) Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old

GOSPEL:

John 9:1-41

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed

and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet

he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

POST GOSPEL MUSIC:

Instrumental

Improvisation

Composed by: John Partridge

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

All remain standing

THE PEACE:

BCP p. 360

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ 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:

-2026 Lenten Series: Two more sessions -
Thurs. 3/19 & 3/26 - 7 - 8 pm.

-Easter Lily Dedications – See insert in
today's bulletin.

-Holy Week Schedule

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**

All remain standing

OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

The following is sung by the choir

God's Mercy Endures Forever

Composed by: George Frederick Handel

Arranged by: Hal Hopson

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OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung

(H 664) My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B: BCP p. 367

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. 367

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

(S 129) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might

BCP p. 368

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation...

...Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

BCP p. 369

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine...

...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

(S 161) Lamb of God

COMMUNION SOLO:

Instrumental

Ah Holy Jesus, How Hast thou Offended?

Composed by: Johann Cruger.
Improvisation by: John Partridge

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 339) Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: BCP p. 365

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:

The Priest 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.

(H 493) O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Instrumental

Was Gott Tut

Composed by: Johann Pachelbel



The flowers at today's service are in thanksgiving for:

My sobriety.

Mark Park

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* 2026 Lenten Series: Final 2 sessions
Thurs. 3/19 & 3/26 - 7 - 8 pm.

* Easter Lily Dedications - Dedication forms are available beginning Sun. March 15 & will be due by Friday, March 27. If you have any questions, please contact the office at admin@stpaulsbenicia.org.

* Holy Week Schedule - Now posted online, in the Narthex & Parish Hall.

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

Mark Park
Mike Keefe
Jim Jewell
Sue Hammond
Blanche Hilman
Caroline H.
Donna Marshall
R.C. Whitehead
Jim Turner
Jude Augustus Emery
MaryFrances Kelly-Poh
Ron McGinnis
Nancy Gigliotti
Jack Carr
Vicky Carr
Bonnie Kofsky

PRAYERS FOR OUR SISTER IN HOSPICE

Jennifer Deal

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
Airman 1st Class Nevaeh Jarvis, U.S. Air Force
Captain Greg Arnold, U.S. Navy

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3/16 Ann Lindsay
3/16 Bill Markley
3/16 Rev. Annie Mertz
3/18 Robin Silver
3/18 Donna Lawson
3/21 Christine Stevens & Mark Stafforini

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Music	John Partridge	Cameron DePalma
Lector	Robyn Wall	Barry Cunningham
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Kim Rodekohr
LEM	Robyn Wall & Jim Brown	Cathy Cellini & Marjorie Lowry
Healing Prayers		Kim Rodekohr
Ushers	Laura Peabody-Park & Donna Patey	Jim & Martha Saldana-Wolf
Altar Guild	Robin Silver & Kim Rodekohr	
Flower Guild	Kathy Gojack	
Verger	Fred Railsback	

PARISH LEADERSHIP

CLERGY:

The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest

STAFF:

John Partridge, Traditional Music Director
Cameron DePalma, Contemporary Music Director
Eric Foster, Communications Director
Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator
Tim Markley, Archivist
Kylie Lazarek, Nursery Staff
Heather Pritchard, Nursery Staff

VESTRY:

Ann Lindsay, Senior Warden
Donna Patey, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson,
Brandon Bailey, Kathryn Gojack, Richard Padfield,
Megan Klingensmith, Michelle Fitzgerald

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:

We support our neighbors through service & compassion. We are a safe space & a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.

INCLUSION:

We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds & histories are welcome to find & continue their spiritual journey.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow & strengthen one's faith at St. Paul's.

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 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)
 4 pm + Free Concert: Mandolin World Retreat Ensemble w/
 music reception to follow (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



MONDAY: 3/16

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: 3/17

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (U)

WEDNESDAY: 3/18

7 am 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: 3/19

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe
 Practice
 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Sustainable
 Solano Cooking Class (K) & (P)
 7 - 8 pm +2026 Lenten Series or
 on YouTube

FRIDAY: 3/20

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting (U)
 5:30 pm - Kids Dignity Day
 Packing & Pizza Party (U)
 7- 9 pm NA Meeting (P)

SATURDAY: 3/21

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 7 am Men's Meeting (R)
 10 am - 2 pm - Preparing for
 Holy Week - Polish the Brass

The Fifth 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)

KEY

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

