



ST. PAUL'S

Est 1855

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship, Love, Live the Message

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

Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE:

Instrumental

Fugue in C

Composed by: John Partridge

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 685) Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

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.

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 17:1-7**

The people sit.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Come, let us sing to the Lord;*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness, *

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.

They put me to the test, *

though they had seen my works.

Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *

"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."

So I swore in my wrath, *

"They shall not enter into my rest."

SECOND READING:**Romans 5:1-11**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will

anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung

(H 700) O Love That Casts Out Fear

GOSPEL:

John 4:5-42

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is

that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me

everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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: "2 for 1"- Thursdays 7 - 8 pm - Through March 26. In-person in the Sanctuary & **Now on YouTube.**

- SSP St. Patrick's Day Dinner - Saturday, March 14th from 5:30 – 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

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***Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley**

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley #EXS00342SD Words and Music - ©2022 Stephen DeCesare / Exultet MusicContributors: Traditional, Traditional, Stephen DeCesare Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under OneLicense #EXS00342SD All rights reserved.

OFFERTORY HYMN:*The following is sung***(H 649) O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts****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

As Longs the Deer for Cooling Stream (Improvisation)

Composed by: Hugh Wilson

Improvisation by: John Partridge

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 343) Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless

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 690) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

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

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Instrumental

Good So Loved the World

Composed by John Stainer



The flowers at today's service are
in honor of:

**Phyllis Goldman on her
heavenly birthday.**

She loved God and flowers.

Linda Overton

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* 2026 Lenten Series: "2 for 1"
Thursdays 7 - 8 pm - In-person in Church Sanctuary and on Zoom.

* SSP St. Patrick's Day Dinner - Last day for tickets - Sun. March 8 th. Opportunity drawing tickets are also available for sale. Prizes on display in the Undercroft Robe Room.

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

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST:



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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
John
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

Help us celebrate with you! To be included in our birthday or anniversary announcements, please call 707-745-0307 or email: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org

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	Karen Lowe	Catherine Harrod
Intercessor	Charlie Kilbourne	Kim Rodekohr
LEM	Charlie & Dale Kilbourne	Kim Rodekohr & Nancy Bryan
Healing Prayers		
Ushers	Art & Sandy Schipper	Yann & David Jovenot-Sells
Altar Guild	Jeanne Brown & Sandy Schipper	
Flower Guild	Kathy Gojack & Robyn Boltz	
Verger	Joe Brien	

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
TBD, Junior Warden
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 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 Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



MONDAY: 3/9

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: 3/10

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P)
 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting (R)

WEDNESDAY: 3/11

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: 3/12

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice
 7 - 8 pm +2026 Lenten Series or on Zoom

FRIDAY: 3/13

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting (U)
 7- 9 pm NA Meeting (P)

SATURDAY: 3/14

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 9:30 am - 6 pm Mandolin World Retreat Class (U)
 5:30 - 8:30 pm SSP
 St. Patrick's Day Dinner (P)

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)

KEY

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

