



ST. PAUL'S

Est 1855

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worship, Love, Live the Message

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
APRIL 26, 2026
Holy Eucharist Rite II

8:45 AM
Prayer D

Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE:

Instrumental

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Composed by: Wilbur Held

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ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H205) Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

GLORIA:

The following is sung, all standing.

(S 278) Glory to God

COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p. 357

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Acts 2:42-47

The people sit.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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: 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung

(H 708) Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his

voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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:

- **Women's Bible Study** - Launching 4/28, 7 pm, Undercroft.
- **Save the Date** - Knife Sharpening Fundraiser - Community Meal – Sat., May 9th.
- **VBS June 15–19** – This year's theme: "Sing to the Lord!" – Registration is now open.

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

Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You

Composed by: Jay Althouse

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OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung

(H 377) All People Who On Earth Do Dwell

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER D: BCP p. 372

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true. . . Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

SANCTUS:

Celebrant and people

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.



BCP p. 373

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. . . Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
We give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us. . . Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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 154) Christ Our Passover

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

All are welcome to come forward for communion. If you're new to the sacrament, please reference the card in the pews with more information. The bread is given with the words, 'The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.' The wine is given with the words, 'The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.'

COMMUNION SOLO:

Instrumental

Listen to the Lambs
(Traditional Spiritual)

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

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING:

The Celebrant blesses the people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 391) Before the Lord's Eternal Throne

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE:

Instrumental

A Mighty Fortress

Compose by: Wilbur Held

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WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* Women's Bible Study –Tues., April 28th 7 pm.

* Save the Date - Knife Sharpening Fundraiser – Community Meal – Sat., May 9th .

* VBS June 15–19 – This year's theme: "Sing to the Lord!" – Registration is now open .

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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(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

Mark Park
Jim Jewell
Sue Hammond
Blanche Hilman
Caroline H.
Donna Marshall
R.C. Whitehead
Jim Turner
Jude Augustus Emery
Ron McGinnis
Jack Carr
Vicky Carr
Dick Bryan
Don Haberkost
Neal Mulholand
John

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Mary Frances Kelly-Poh
Nancy Gigliotti
Christopher John Bogart

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

4/26 Lisa Pena
4/26 Christine Stevens
4/27 Jill Morris
4/28 Pam Chalk
4/28 Rev. Beth & Dennis Gaines

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	Debi Hall	Barry Cunningham
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Ann Lindsay
LEM	Jim Brown & Robyn Wall	Barbara Jewell & Cathy Cellini
Healing Prayers	Karen Payne-Taylor	Donna Patey
Ushers	Art & Sandy Schipper	Debbie Borst & Carole Johnson
Altar Guild	Cathy Cellini & Susie Bonstin	
Flower Guild	Liz Stallings & Kathy Gojack	
Verger	Gene Ekenstam	

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 of Easter

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)



MONDAY: 4/27

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: 4/28

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P)
 7 pm Women's Bible Study (U)

WEDNESDAY: 4/29

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 10 am +Communion
 11 am Bible Study (L)*
 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
 7 pm +GVRD Symph Band

THURSDAY: 4/30

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice

FRIDAY: 5/1

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

SATURDAY: 5/2

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 7 am Men's Meeting (R)

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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
- L** = RECTORY LIBRARY

