



**ST. PAUL'S**

Est 1855

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Worship, Love, Live the Message

**WORSHIP BULLETIN:**  
**MAY 3, 2026.** **11:00 AM**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II **EOW 1**

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**ENTRANCE HYMN:**

*The following is sung.*

**People Get Ready**

**Verse 1:**

People get ready  
There's a train a-coming  
You don't need no baggage  
You just get on board  
All you need is faith  
To hear the diesels humming  
Don't need no ticket  
You just thank the Lord

**Verse 2:**

People get ready  
There's a train to Jordan  
Picking up passengers  
From coast to coast  
Faith is the key  
Open the doors and board them  
There's hope for all  
Among those loved the most

**Verse 3:**

There ain't no room  
For the hopeless sinner  
Who would hurt all mankind  
Just to save his own  
Have pity on those  
Whose chances grow thinner  
So there's no hiding place  
Against the kingdom's throne

**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.*

**Glory to God**

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right  
hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p. 357**

Celebrant: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow

his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

*The people sit.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
**deliver me in your righteousness.**  
Incline your ear to me; \*  
**make haste to deliver me.**  
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**  
Take me out of the net that they have  
secretly set for me, \*  
**for you are my tower of strength.**  
Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
**for you have redeemed me,**  
**O Lord, O God of truth.**  
My times are in your hand; \*  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,**  
**and from those who persecute me.**  
Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN:**

*The choir will sing the verses; please join in on the chorus.*

**(Gather 258) Celtic Alleluia**

**Refrain:**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



**GOSPEL:****John 14:1-14***All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**POST-GOSPEL HYMN:***Please refer to Gospel Hymn. (pg. 2)***THE SERMON:****The Rev. Annie Mertz****THE CREED:****EOW p. 53***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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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:

- **Sharpening Fundraiser** – Community Meal Saturday, May 9, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

- **VBS June 15–19** – This year's theme: "Sing to the Lord!" – Register now - deadline is 5/15.

- **Calendar Update** – No Eucharist or Bible Study on Wednesday May 6 & 13.

- **Summer Hours** – Single Service - 10 am – Begins on Sunday, June 7.

## 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 HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### As I Went Down To The River To Pray

#### Chorus:

As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord show me the way

#### Verse 1:

Oh sisters lets go down  
Lets go down, come on down  
Oh Sisters lets go down  
Down in the river to pray

#### (Chorus)

#### Verse 2:

Oh Brothers Let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh brothers, let go down  
Down in the river to pray.

#### (Chorus)

#### Verse 3:

Oh Fathers lets go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh Fathers lets go down  
Down in the river to pray

#### (Chorus)

#### Verse 4:

Oh Mothers lets go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh Mothers lets go down  
Down in the river to pray

#### (Chorus)

#### Verse 5:

Oh Sinners, lets go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh Sinners, lets go down  
Down in the river to pray  
Down in the river to pray

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: EOW PRAYER 1**

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love. . .

. . .Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## **SANCTUS:**

*Celebrant and people*

### **Americana Hosanna**

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.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: Continued...**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. . .

. . .Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. . .  
. . .Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, 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*

### **Christ Our Passover**

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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 HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### (A3 158) Taste and See

#### Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

#### Verse 1:

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;

My soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me.

#### (Refrain)

#### Verse 2:

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.

I called the Lord who answered me, from all my troubles I was set free.

#### (Refrain)

#### Verse 3:

Worship the Lord all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.

Taste and see that the Lord is good, in God we need put all our trust.

#### (Refrain)



## COMMUNION HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

#### Chorus:

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

#### Verse 1:

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see coming for to carry me home?

A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. **(Chorus)**

#### Verse 2:

If you get there before I do, comin' for to carry me home;

Tell all my friends I'm comin', too, comin' for to carry me home. **(Chorus)**

#### Verse 3:

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, comin' for to carry me home;

But still my soul is glory bound, comin' for to carry me home. **(Chorus)**

Words: Traditional; Music: Negro Spiritual, Public Domain.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: EOW p. 70

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

## SUNG BENEDICTION:

*The following is sung.*

### Life is Short

Words by: Henri Frederic Amiel

Music by: Cameron DePalma

Life is short,  
And we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who  
make the journey with us.  
So... be swift to love,  
and make haste to be kind.  
And the blessing of God,  
who made us,  
who loves us,  
and who travels with us  
be with you now and forever.

**A—MEN**

## BLESSING:

*The Celebrant blesses the people.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### In The Highways

#### Verse 1:

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

#### Chorus:

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

#### Verse 2:

If He calls me, I will answer  
If He calls me, I will answer  
If He calls me, I will answer

#### (Chorus)

#### Verse 3:

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

## 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!**



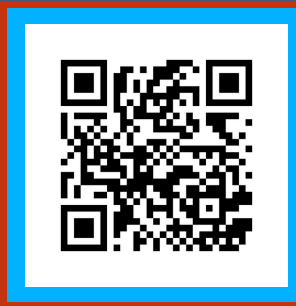
The flowers at today's service are  
in celebration of:

**Our 47th wedding anniversary**

**Catherine & Leo Harrod**

# WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



\* Sharpening Fundraiser – Community Meal – Sat., May 9, 8 am - 4:30 pm @ St. Paul's Church.

\* VBS June 15–19 – This year's theme: "Sing to the Lord!" – Register now - deadline is May 15.

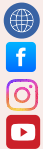
\* Calendar Update – No Eucharist or Bible Study on Wednesday May 6 & 13.

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

## SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST:



## CONNECT WITH US!



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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 Catherine Harrod

## WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

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

5/4 Bob Hall  
5/9 Mark Stafforini  
5/5 Leo & Catherine Harrod

## SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Music	John Partridge	Cameron DePalma
Lector	Karen Lowe	Carole Johnson
Intercessor	Charlie Kilbourne	Jamie Morris
LEM	Charlie Kilbourne & Dale Kilbourne	Cathy Cellini & TBD
Healing Prayers		
Ushers	Mark & Jeanne Brown	Barry Cunningham & Jim Brown
Altar Guild	Donna Patey & Eileen Fisk	
Flower Guild	Megan Klingensmith	
Verger	Bob Hall	

## 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  
Richard Padfield, Junior Warden  
Donna Patey, Treasurer  
Charlie Kilbourne, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson, Brandon Bailey, Kathryn Gojack, 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 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  
 8 pm AA (P)



### MONDAY: 5/4

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: 5/5

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

### WEDNESDAY: 5/6

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

### THURSDAY: 5/7

7 am AA Meeting (P)  
 7:30 am Coffee *without* Rev. Annie  
 9 am +Morning Prayer  
 2 pm Worship Committee Meeting (U)  
 2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice

### FRIDAY: 5/8

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

### SATURDAY: 5/9

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
  
 8 am - 4:30 pm  
*Community Meal  
 Sharpening Fundraiser  
 St. Paul's Church  
 Drop off location East J St.*

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

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  
**L** = RECTORY LIBRARY