



**ST. PAUL'S**

Est 1855

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Worship, Love, Live the Message

**WORSHIP BULLETIN:**  
**MAY 3, 2026**  
Holy Eucharist Rite II

**8:45 AM**  
Prayer D

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**PRELUDE:**

*Instrumental*

**Berceuse**

Composed by: Jocelyn Godard

**ENTRANCE HYMN:**

*The following is sung.*

**(H 495) Hail Thou Once Despised Jesus**

**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.

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: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**

**Psalms 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: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN:**

*The following is sung*

**(H 484) Praise the Lord Through Every Nation**

**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 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:**

- **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 May 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 ANTHEM:***The following is sung by the choir***Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**

Composed by: Dale Wood

**OFFERTORY HYMN:***The following is sung*

**(H 243) When Stephen Full of Power and Grace**

**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*

### How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

Music by: J. L Macbeth Bain

improvisation by: John Partridge

## COMMUNION HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### (H 685) Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

## 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 594) God of Grace and God of Glory

## 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*

### Tiento de Sexto Tono

Composed by: Pedro de Soto



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!



- [www.stpaulsbenicia.org](http://www.stpaulsbenicia.org)
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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