



**WORSHIP BULLETIN:**  
**JULY 26, 2026**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Prayer A**  
***Ninth Sunday after Pentecost***

**ENTRANCE HYMN:**

*The following is sung.*

**(LEVAS 136) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus**

**Verse 1:**

I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
No turning back, no turning back!

**Verse 2:**

Though none go with me,  
Still I will follow.  
Though none go with me,  
Still I will follow.  
Though none go with me,  
Still I will follow.  
No turning back, no turning back!

**Verse 3:**

The world behind me.  
The cross before me,  
The world behind me.  
The cross before me,  
The world behind me.  
No turning back, no turning back!

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**OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**People: Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**SONG OF PRAISE:**

*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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is  
holy: Increase and multiply upon us your  
mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal,  
that we lose not the things eternal; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever  
and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28***The people sit.*

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b**

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*

**make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*

**and speak of all his marvelous works.**

Glory in his holy Name; \*

**let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Search for the Lord and his strength; \*

**continually seek his face.**

Remember the marvels he has done, \*

**his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,**

O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*

**O children of Jacob his chosen.**

He is the Lord our God; \*

**his judgments prevail in all the world.**

He has always been mindful of his covenant, \*

**the promise he made for a thousand generations:**

The covenant he made with Abraham, \*

**the oath that he swore to Isaac,**

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \*

**an everlasting covenant for Israel,**

Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan \*

**to be your allotted inheritance."**

Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right

hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN:**

*Congregation chants*

**(WLP 756) Lead Me, Guide Me**

**Refrain:**

Lead me, guide me along the way;  
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

*All stand.*

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour

until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**POST-GOSPEL HYMN:**

*Please refer to Gospel Hymn.*

**THE SERMON: The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder**

**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*

**CONFESSION OF SIN: BCP p. 360**

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.

**ABSOLUTION:**

**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:**

- Sunday, August 2 - SSP Sunday – Indoor Worship Resumes in the Sanctuary.  
- Sunday, August 9 – Peddlers Fair Sunday & Sanctuary Restoration Celebration -  
Join us on Sunday as we celebrate another successful Peddlers Fair & our return to our beautifully restored Sanctuary! **Volunteers are still needed for the Peddlers Fair, so please see the announcements for details.**

**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.

**BLESSING OF THE LUMINARIAS:**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION:**

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE: BCP p. 376**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

*The following is sung by the choir only.*

### The Mustard Seed

Lyrics by Ross Neir

Music: Traditional

## OFFERTORY HYMN:

*The following is sung.*

### (LEVAS 177) Standin' in the Need of Prayer

#### Refrain:

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

#### Verse 1:

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, oh Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer,  
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

#### Verse 2:

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. **(Refrain)**

#### Verse 3:

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. **(Refrain)**

#### Verse 4:

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer,  
Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer. **(Refrain)**

## SURSUM CORDA:

BCP p. 369

*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 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## 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.

## BCP p. 362

*The Celebrant continues. . .*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself . . . Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**BCP p. 363**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father. . . 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*

**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.*

**Kumbaya**

Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya  
Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya  
Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya  
O Lord, Kumbaya

Someone's singing Lord, Kumbaya (etc.)  
Someone's crying Lord, Kumbaya (etc.)  
Someone's praying Lord, Kumbaya (etc.)  
Kumbaya my Lord, Kumbaya (etc.)

**COMMUNION HYMN:**

*The following is sung.*

**(H 488) Be Thou My Vision**

**Verse 1:**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

**Verse 2:**

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

**Verse 3:**

High King of heaven, when victory is won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## 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.**

## 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.*

**(LEVAS 161) Go Preach My Gospel, Saith the Lord**

### Verse 1:

“Go preach my gospel,” saith the Lord,  
“Bid the whole earth my grace receive,  
Explain to them my sacred word,  
Bid them believe, obey, and live.”

### Verse 2:

“I’ll make my great commission known,  
And ye shall prove my gospel true  
By all the works that I have done,  
And all the wonders ye shall do.”

### Verse 3:

“Go heal the sick, go raise the dead,  
Go cast out devils in my name.  
Nor let my prophets be afraid,  
Though man reproach, and will blaspheme.”

### Verse 4:

“While thus ye follow my commands,  
I’m with you till the world shall end.  
All pow’r is trusted in my hands;  
I can destroy, and can defend.”

### Verse 5:

He spake and light shone round His head,  
On a bright cloud to heav’n He rode.  
They to the farthest nation spread  
The grace of their ascended God.

## DISMISSAL:

*The Celebrant will dismiss the people*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



\* Sunday, August 2 - SSP Sunday & Indoor Worship resumes in the Sanctuary.

\* Sunday, August 9 – Peddlers Fair Sunday & Sanctuary Restoration Celebration.

\* Women's Bible Study  
Tues., July 28, 7:00 pm - (U)  
Lectio Divina w/ Rev. Beth

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

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(707) 745-0307

120 E J St. Benicia, CA

Please e-mail: [admin@stpaulsbenicia.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org) for updates or additions

### WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Mark Park  
Sue Hammond  
Donna Marshall  
R.C. Whitehead  
Jude Augustus  
Emery  
Neal Mulholand  
Deb Mulholand  
Regina Williams  
Donna  
Sanderson  
Michelle Ellett  
Alexis Hardhart

Jim Jewell  
Jim Turner  
Jack Carr  
Vicky Carr  
Dick Bryan  
John  
David Gibbs  
Mary Gibbs  
John Helm  
Lolli Hilton

### WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Donald Deakin  
Caroline H.

### 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

7/28 Jim Jewell  
7/28 Ellen Whitehead

## SERVING THIS WEEK:

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Celebrant | The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder |
| Preacher  | The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder |

10:00 AM

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Music           | John Partridge                |
| Lector          | Barry Cunningham              |
| Intercessor     | Kim Rodekohr                  |
| LEM             | Robyn Wall & Cathy Cellini    |
| Healing Prayers |                               |
| Ushers          | Ann Lindsay & Kathy Gojack    |
| Altar Guild     | Cathy Cellini & Susie Bonstin |
| Flower Guild    |                               |
| Verger          | Gilbert Zabala                |

## 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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Relay for Life - Blessing of the Luminarias**

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)  
 10 am +Communion - Outdoor Service  
 11 am Coffee Hour (P)  
 11 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)  
 11 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)  
 8 pm AA (U)



## MONDAY: 7/27

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
 9 am Morning Prayer (L)  
 4:30 pm Community Meal (P)  
 8 pm AA Meeting (U)

## TUESDAY: 7/28

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
 9 am Morning Prayer (L)  
 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P)  
 7 pm Women's Bible Study (U)

## WEDNESDAY: 7/29

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

## THURSDAY: 7/30

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
 7:30 am Coffee w/out Rev. Annie  
 9 am Morning Prayer (L)

## FRIDAY: 7/31

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
 9 am Morning Prayer (L)  
 10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting (U)  
 4 pm +Wedding Rehearsal  
 7- 9 pm NA Meeting (U)

## SATURDAY: 8/1

7 am AA Meeting (U)  
  
**4 pm +Wedding**  
**Jim Peterson & Robyn Boltz**

**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - SSP Sunday - Indoor Worship Resumes**

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)  
 10 am +Communion  
 11 am Coffee Hour (P)  
 11 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U)  
 11 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)  
 4 pm Meditation (U)  
 8 pm AA (U)



### KEY

- +** = CHURCH
- P** = PARISH HALL
- U** = UNDERCROFT
- R** = RECTORY
- K** = KITCHEN
- L** = RECTORY LIBRARY
- O** = OUTDOORS