



WORSHIP BULLETIN:
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 11:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II **EOW III**
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 26) Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Chorus:

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

Verse:

One day every tongue will confess you are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now.

(Chorus)

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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.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

The following is sung, all standing.

(S 280) Glory to God

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. 254

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

SONG OF



PRAISE

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:**Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16**

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; *

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, *

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff, *

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

SECOND READING:**Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,

but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN:

Congregation chants

(A3 218) Veni Sancte Spiritus

Refrain:

Veni Sancte Spiritus

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and

went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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: EOW p. 56

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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:

- September is Hunger Awareness Month- Contra Costa County Food from the Bar is raising funds for the Food Bank – see announcements for details.
- Women’s Bible Study – Tues, Sept. 29 - New time - 6:30 pm.
- The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert Memorial Concert - Sat., October 3 at 7:30 pm.
- Sun., Oct. 4, - Feast of St. Francis at both services & Blessing of the Animals at 11 am.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung

Revelation Song

Verse 1:

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus:

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Verse 2:

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Verse 3:

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living
water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah

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Jennie Lee Riddle
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SURSUM CORDA:

BCP p. 361

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*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times
and in all places, our true and loving God. . .
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS:

Celebrant and people

(S 130). Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might

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.

The celebrant continues...

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION & PRAYER CONCLUSION

The Celebrant continues

. . . And so, remembering all that was done for
us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and
ascension, longing for Christ's coming in
glory, and presenting to you these gifts your
earth has formed and human hands have
made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

. . . by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we
worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People

Blessed are you 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.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

The following is spoken in unison.

Christ Our Passover

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:

Celebrant and People

(LEVAS 152) Let Us Break Bread Together

Verse 1:

Let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me (on me)

Verse 2:

Let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me (on me)

Verse 3:

Let us praise God together on our knees (yes, on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees (yes, on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me (on me)

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(WLP 812) I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I am Lord)

Verse 1:

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2:

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

Verse 3:

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them.
 My hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 Till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)**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**

BLESSING:

The Celebrant blesses the people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

The following is sung.

(Gather 707) Guide My Feet**Verse 1:**

Guide my feet while I run this race,
 Guide my feet while I run this race,
 Guide my feet while I run this race,
 for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Verse 2:

Hold my hand while I run this race,
 Hold my hand while I run this race,
 Hold my hand while I run this race,
 for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Verse 3:

Stand by me while I run this race,
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Verse 4:

I'm Your child while I run this race,
 I'm Your child while I run this race,
 I'm Your child while I run this race,
 for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Verse 5:

Search my heart while I run this race,
 Search my heart while I run this race,
 Search my heart while I run this race,
 for I don't want to run this race in vain!

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

People: Thanks be to God.



The banner features a row of cartoon animals (a pug, a cat, a golden retriever, and a Siamese cat) on the left and right sides. In the center is a logo for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which includes a church steeple and the text "ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH" and "Worship. Love. Live the Message." Below the animals and logo is a large, illuminated sign that reads "BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th @ 11 AM". At the bottom of the banner, the text "Gather with us to bless the animals we love..." is written in a cursive font.



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!



* September is Hunger Awareness Month- Contra Costa County Food from the Bar is raising funds for the Food Bank – see announcements for details.

* Women's Bible Study – Tues, Sept. 29 - New time - 6:30 pm.

* The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert Memorial Concert -Sat., Oct. 3 at 7:30 pm.

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

Sue Hammond
Donna Marshall
R.C. Whitehead
Jude Augustus
Emery
Neal Mulholand
Regina Williams
Michelle Ellett
Marty & Sue
Kovach
Gene Ekenstam
Mark Stafforini
David Michael

Jim Jewell
Jim Turner
Jack Carr
Dick Bryan
John
David Gibbs
John Helm
Lolli Hilton
Norma Cook
Mark Park
Cathy W.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Vicky Carr

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

9/30 Carole Johnson

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder	
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM
Music	John Partridge	Todd Peterson
Lector	Debi Hall	Carole Johnson
Intercessor	Ann Lindsay	Donna Patey
LEM	Jim Brown & Robyn Wall	Donna Patey & Cathy Cellini
Shared Prayers		Nancy Bryan
Ushers	Kathy Gojack & Ann Lindsay	Jeff Jarvis & Brenda Moore
Altar Guild	Cathy Cellini & Susie Bonstin	
Flower Guild	Karen Lowe	
Verger	Jim Wolf	

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 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion
 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



MONDAY: 9/28

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

TUESDAY: 9/29

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (U)

WEDNESDAY: 9/30

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

THURSDAY: 10/1

7 am AA Meeting (P)
 7:30 am Coffee with Rev. Annie
 9 am +Morning Prayer
 11 am +Music Practice
 12:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice

FRIDAY: 10/2

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

SATURDAY: 10/3

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 7 am Men's Meeting (R)
 8 am - 5 pm - Scrapbooking Group (P)
 7:30 pm
 +The Rev. Cn. Mary Goshert
 Memorial Concert
 Reception to follow

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Feast of St. Francis

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
 8:45 am +Communion
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)
 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
 11 am +Communion - Blessing of the Animals
 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
 O = OUTDOORS