



WORSHIP BULLETIN:
OCTOBER 4, 2026 **11:00 AM**
Holy Eucharist Rite II **EOW III**
The Blessing of the Animals

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung, all standing.

(WLP 810) On Eagle's Wings

Verse 1:

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life,
say to the Lord: My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust! **(Refrain)**

Refrain:

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun
and hold you in the palm of his hand.
(last time only) And hold you, hold you in the
palm of his hand.

Verse 2:

Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear: under God's
wings your refuge, with faithfulness your
shield. **(Refrain)**

Verse 3:

For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
(Refrain)

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.

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. 254

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your
people grace to renounce gladly the vanities
of this world; that, following the way of
blessed Francis, we may, for love of you,
delight in your whole creation with
perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



The people sit.

¹ 'Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the deer?

² Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth,

³ when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,

and are delivered of their young?

⁴ Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;

they go forth, and do not return to them.

⁵ 'Who has let the wild ass go free?

Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,

⁶ to which I have given the steppe for its home,

the salt land for its dwelling-place?

⁷ It scorns the tumult of the city;

it does not hear the shouts of the driver.

⁸ It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing.

⁹ 'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Will it spend the night at your crib?

¹⁰ Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you?

¹¹ Will you depend on it because its strength is great,

and will you hand over your labour to it?

¹² Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?

¹³ 'The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage.

¹⁴ For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground,

¹⁵ forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them.

¹⁶ It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;

though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;

¹⁷ because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding.

¹⁸ When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

² My help comes from the Lord, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴ Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

⁵ The Lord himself watches over you; *

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

⁶ So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *

it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸ The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 131) Open the Eyes of My Heart**Chorus:**

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you. I want to see you.

Verse:

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing
"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Bridge:

Holy, Holy, Holy; Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy, I want to see you.

Luke 12:13-21

All stand.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' ¹⁴ But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' ¹⁵ And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸ Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

POST-GOSPEL HYMN:

Please refer to Gospel Hymn on **pg. 2**

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 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:

Animals are brought forward in a (somewhat) orderly line for individual blessing. The minister blessed them with these or similar words:

May you be blessed in the Name God, the Creator, Redeemer and of the Sustainer. May you and your animals enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.

Amen.

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:

- **Food from the Bar is raising funds for the Food Bank – The deadline to donate has been extended to Friday October 9.** Please see announcements for details.
- **Facilities Committee Meeting** – Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm.
- **“ Plenty Good Room” Stewardship Campaign** begins Sunday, October 11th.
- **Day of the Dead Celebration** – Sunday, October 25 at both services.

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

(A3 167) The Prayer of St. Francis

Verse 1:

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Verse 2:

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Bridge:

Oh master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

Verse 3:

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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

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.

The celebrant continues...

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION & PRAYER
CONCLUSION**

... 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 sung.

We Break This Bread

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

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.

Harvest of Love

Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Verse 1:

Harvest of love in the fullness of time
Jesus is tending the fruit of the Father's vine
Harvest of love, show us the way
To bring the light of your truth to the world today

Chorus:

But the fruits of the spirit are love and peacefulness
The fruits of the spirit are joy and happiness

Verse 2:

Harvest of love, all you can eat
The bread overflowing the baskets in front of me
Harvest of love, fish from the sea.
Bursting our nets as he calls them all in to me

(Chorus)

Verse 3:

Harvest of love in the fullness of time
Jesus is lovingly tending the Father's vine
(Chorus)

Verse 4:

Yes, the fruits of the spirit are love and peacefulness
The fruits of the spirit are joy and happiness
Harvest of Love...

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

Refiner's Fire

Verse 1:

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Chorus:

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Verse 2:

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

CCLI Song # 426298
Brian Doerksen
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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.

All God's Critters

Composed by: Bill Stains

Chorus:

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws or
anything they got, now

Verse 1:

Listen to the bass; he's the one on the
bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the
hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
And the old cow just goes moo
[give a loud MOOOOOOOO!]

Verse 2:

The dogs and the cats, they take up the middle
Where the honeybee hums, and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays, and the pony neighs
And the old gray badger sighs
[take a DEEP sigh. . .]

Verse 3:

Listen to ducks and the little birds singing
On the melody with the high notes ringing
And the hoot owl cries over everything
And the jay bird disagrees
[make disagreeable noises. . .]

Verse 4:

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks, and she's on her way
The otter hasn't got that much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself
[talk to yourself. . .]

Verse 5:

It's a simple song, a living song everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The grumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly old weasel and the turtledove

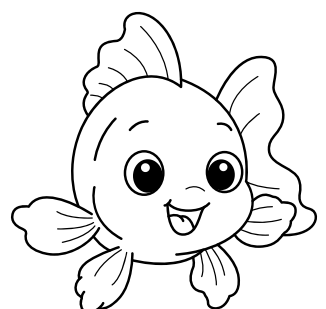
Words and lyrics by Bill Staines. CCLI song #160176. Used with permission.

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

People: Thanks be to God.

Blessed
TO HAVE
You ♥

KIDS COLORING PAGE

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.

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
Marta Kenney
Rev. Dr. Arthur
Holder

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

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Vicky Carr
Susan Clair Vallejos

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

10/7 Wanda Anderson
10/8 Laura Peabody-Park

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	Karen Lowe	Kim Rodekohr
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Donna Patey
LEM	Kim Rodekohr & Maleah Rios	Donna Patey & Maleah Rios
Shared Prayers		
Ushers	Jim Brown & Ann Lindsay	David & Yann Jouvenot-Sells
Altar Guild	Donna Patey & Eileen Fisk	
Flower Guild	Blanche Hilman	
Verger	Jorge Pena	

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 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)



MONDAY: 10/5

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

TUESDAY: 10/6

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

WEDNESDAY: 10/7

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

THURSDAY: 10/8

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

FRIDAY: 10/9

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

SATURDAY: 10/10

7 am AA Meeting (U)
 11 am - 5 pm Tyler Street
 Collective (K)

The Twentieth 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
 4 pm Meditation (P)
 8 pm AA (P)



KEY

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