ST. PAUL'S
Est 1855
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Worship, Love, Live the Message

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 10:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II **Prayer B**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung, all standing.

(H 68) Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Verse 1:
Rejoice! rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
and soon he will draw nigh;
up, watch with expectation!
at midnight comes the cry.

Verse 2:
See that your lamps are burning,
replenish them with oil;
look now for your salvation,
the end of sin and toil.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
the gates wide open stand;
rise up, ye heirs of glory,
the Bridegroom is at hand!

Verse 3:
Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for,
above this darkened sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption,
and ever be with thee!

OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for 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. 357

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

The people sit.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 78:1-7

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 gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For

the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

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.
(Repeat)

Verse:
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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

All stand.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

POST-GOSPEL HYMN:

Please refer to Gospel Hymn.

(A3 131) Open the Eyes of My Heart

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

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 the Lord 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:

-As our stewardship campaign concludes, thank you for the many gifts you share with St. Paul's. We're glad you're here!
-The flowers today are in recognition of Barbara Jewell's ministry & service to the Diocese. Given in thanksgiving by Bishop Megan & staff.
-BINGO is back this Fall - Sat, Nov. 21, 3-5 pm in the Parish Hall. See announcements for details & sign-ups.
-Save the Date - Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Congregation B'nai Israel - Tues., Nov. 24, at 7:30 pm.

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 ANTHEM:

The following is sung by the choir only.

Tallis Anthem with Doxology
Composed by: Thomas Tallis

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 67) How Great Thou Art

Verse 1:
O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my savior God, to thee;
How great thou art, how great thou art!

Verse 2:
When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Verse 3:
And when I think that God, his son not sparing,
Send him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Verse 4:
When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

SURSUM CORDA: BCP p. 367

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

(S 130) Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
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:

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

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.

(S 152) 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:

The following is sung.

(H 711) Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia!

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 175) They'll Know We Are Christians

Verse 1:
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Verse 2:
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Verse 3:
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

Verse 4:
All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

Refrain:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: BCP p. 366

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.

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.

(H 537) Christ For the World We Sing

Verse 1:
Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal;
the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

Verse 2:
Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.

Verse 3:
Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

Verse 4:
Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

People: Thanks be to God.



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!

***BINGO is back this Fall - Sat, Nov. 21, 3-5 pm. See announcements for details & sign-ups.**

***Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Congregation B'nai Israel - Tues., Nov. 24, at 7:30 pm.**

***Wanted: Gift Cards & Pies for Thanksgiving Community Meal – Weds., Nov. 25 – 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
R.C. Whitehead
Jude Augustus Emery
Neal Mulholand
Regina Williams
Michelle Ellett
Marty & Sue Kovach
Mark Stafforini
David Michael
Marta Kinney
Donna Lawson
Jim Jewell
Jim Turner
Jack Carr
Dick Bryan
John
David Gibbs
John Helm
Lolli Hilton
Norma Cook
Mark Park
Cathy W.
Art Patey
Erik C.

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Rick Langford

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

11/8 Gene Ekenstam
11/10 Tim Markley
11/10 Sue Flor
11/11 Dr. Mary Klemm
11/14 Susie Bonstin
11/14 Don Smith
11/14 Mark & Laura Peabody-Park

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz
	10:00 AM
Music	John Partridge & Cameron DePlama
Lector	Christopher Taylor-Payne & Liz Stallings
Intercessor	Kim Rodekohr
LEM	Robyn Wall & Kim Rodekohr
Shared Prayers	Nancy Bryan
Ushers	Todd Mayberry & Frank Walt / Jorge & Lisa Pena
Altar Guild	Jeanne Brown & Elieen Fisk
Flower Guild	Kathy GoJack
Verger	Bob Hall
Coffee Hour	Stewardship Luncheon

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 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Single Service - Stewardship Luncheon



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

MONDAY: 11/9

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
5:30 pm BAFC (U)
8 pm AA Meeting (P)

TUESDAY: 11/10

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

WEDNESDAY: 11/11

Veterans Day
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)

THURSDAY: 11/12

7 am AA Meeting (P)
7:30 am Coffee with Rev. Annie
9 am +Morning Prayer
2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice
6:30- 8:30 pm +Choir Practice

FRIDAY: 11/13

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

SATURDAY: 11/14

7 am AA Meeting (U)

The Twenty-fifth 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)



KEY

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