

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
The Reign of Christ

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

Whatever brings you here, and whoever you are,
we are glad you are here!

First Time Worshipping at St. Paul's?

St. Paul's is an Episcopal Church and uses liturgy or language for worship from *The Book of Common Prayer*. While we use a variety of other resources, all the words and music needed for today's service are found in this bulletin. There are helpful tips on when to stand and sit; however, do what feels most comfortable for you throughout the service.

Are you new to St. Paul's or the surrounding area?

Let us know by filling out a Welcome Card located in the pew rack and on the website, and we will connect with you. We also have a Welcome Table you can visit following the service in the Gathering Space of the Parish House. A host will be at the table throughout coffee hour, which is an opportunity immediately following the service to share refreshments with our members and visitors here today.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the Parish House. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity.

Nursery

The nursery is open from 8:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is a child-size restroom and a changing table available as well as the ability to hear service.

Contact the Clergy

The St. Paul's clergy are eager to hear from you and to support you. On most Sundays a member of the clergy is available to pray with you during Communion at the station to the left of the altar railing. If you are going through a life transition, have an emergency, or are in need of pastoral care for any other reason, please call the church at 804.643.3589.

For Families and Children During Worship

Young ones need to be able to see and experience worship. Our ushers are happy to direct you to our **Family Space** at the front of the church where you will find picture books, paper and crayons, and small hand-held toys. We also have **Worship Bags** as you enter the church that contain **Children's Bulletins**, paper and crayons. During the **Gospel Procession**, children and families are encouraged to participate, and Children's Chapel follows. Kids will leave with our staff to participate in their own time of prayer and fellowship. They will return after the sermon during the Peace.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Albert L. Travis (b. 1940)

HYMN



1. Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun
2. To him shall end - less prayer be made,
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
4. Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er he reigns:
5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring



1. doth his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
2. and prais - es thron - to crown his head;
3. dwell on his love with sweet - est song;
4. the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
5. pe - cu - liar hon - ors to our King;



1. his king - dom stretch from shore to shore,
2. his Name like sweet per - fume shall rise
3. and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
4. the wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
5. an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,



1. till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
3. their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
4. and all who suf - fer want are blest.
5. and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (1710-1793)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

Presider We gather in the name of God, the Great Creator and Maker of all. We acknowledge that our worship this day is being held on the traditional lands of the Powhatan People. We pay our respect to elders both past and present, and pray that God will guide us as we seek to be faithful stewards of our call to be neighbor to our planet, and to each other.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

All say together the Collect.

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 IN EXCELSIS

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you,
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on
us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord. You a-lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Text: Mass Ordinary, Fourth century

Music: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 23:1-7

THESE are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

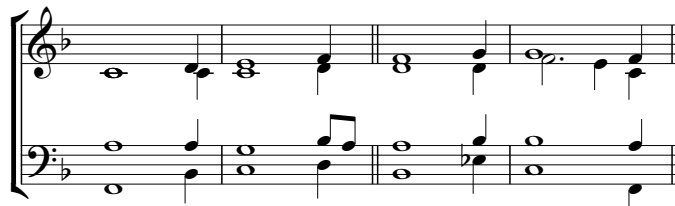
Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL: PSALM 132:1-13 *Memento, Domine*

chant: Charles T. Dupree (b. 1969)

The Psalm is sung by all.



- 1 Lord, remember David, *
and all the hardships he en-dured;
- 2 How he swore an oath to the Lord *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- 3 "I will not come under the roof of my house," *
nor climb up into my bed;
- 4 I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;
- 5 Until I find a place for the Lord, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- 6 "The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
- 7 Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."
- 8 Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.
- 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.
- 10 For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your A-nointed.
- 11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:
- 12 "A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne. (*to second half of the chant*)
- 13 If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for ever-more."

GRACE TO YOU and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

All are invited to participate in the Gospel procession, especially children. Simply follow the Gospel book around the church and stay in place for the Gospel reading. After the reading, the children are invited to attend Children's Chapel. They will return to the church at the Peace.



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 *5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 *6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt.

Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958);
 desc. Paul Halley (b. 1952)

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

PILATE ENTERED the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*

THE NICENE CREED

The people 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

Presider In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor Ever-present God, whom we seek in houses of prayer and praise,
we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be united in your compassionate love.**

Intercessor Enlighten us with your grace that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and pastors;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor Rejecting the power of violence and war, we pray for all who govern
and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor As we continue our Annual Giving Campaign,
give us wisdom and grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may accord with your loving purposes.**

Intercessor We pray for people and places torn by war and natural disasters, and for all in need of healing in body, mind, and spirit, especially *N.*, and those we name now. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble,

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor We remember those who have died and those who mourn, especially *N.*, and those we name now. Give to the departed eternal rest,

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

After the offering of intercessions and thanksgivings, the Presider says

Presider Merciful God, You who are, who were, and who are to come, before whose judgment all fades away that is not love: Save us from the violence that seeks to claim our hearts so that we might hear a different voice and belong to you in truth, through Jesus Christ, the wounded ruler of all.
Amen.

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION

Presider Let us confess our sins against God, self, planet, and neighbor.

The People stand or kneel.

People **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.**

The Presider gives the absolution.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Let all the world in every corner sing,
'My God and King!'

The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.

The church with psalms must shout, No door can keep them out:
But, above all, the heart Must bear the longest part.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)

Music: Ian Higginson (b. 1959)



The vibrant ministries, creative worship, and faithful witness of St. Paul's are made possible by the generous commitment of our congregation. Our community extends beyond our city through our expansive mission programming and inclusive online presence. As our community has grown, we have developed innovative engagement opportunities to extend fellowship and hospitality to meet the needs of our congregation. Regardless of how you join us this morning, all are invited to use the QR to offer a gift to support our vital ministries.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

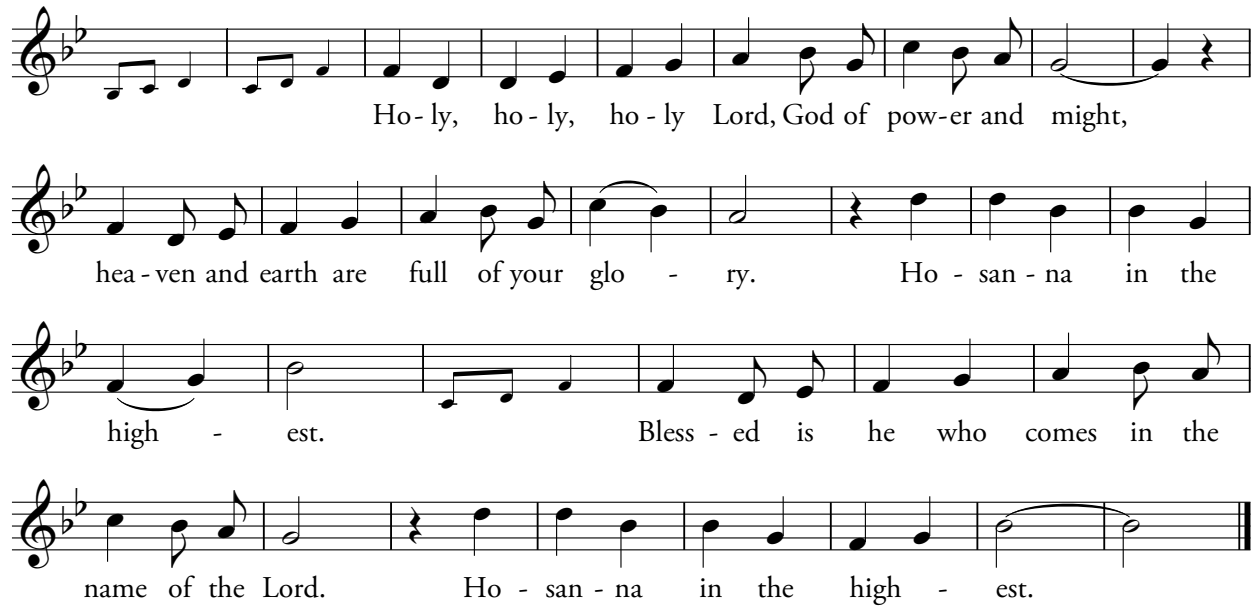
The Presider continues

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: Mass Ordinary, Fifth century

Music: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

The people stand or kneel as the Presider continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people and Presider say together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting

heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Presider continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The people and Presider say together

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the bread followed by silence.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Now the sil - ence, now the peace, now the em - pty hands up -
lift - ed; now the kneel - ing, now the plea, now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come;
Now the hear - ing, now the pow - er, now the vess - sel brimmed for
pour - ing; now the bo - dy, now the blood, now the
joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion now. Now. Now.

Text: Jaroslav Vajda (1919-2008) © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Music: Charles T. Dupree (b. 1969); commissioned by the 2022 Richmond Conference of the
Association of Anglican Musicians

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at God's table. An usher will signal when you may go forward. All are invited to the altar rail to receive the sacraments (bread and wine) or a blessing. Bread will be placed in your hand by the priest. If you choose to receive the wine, the preferred (and most sanitary) way is by drinking from the common cup, guiding it by the base to your lips. While our preference is to keep fingers OUT of the chalice, if you plan to intinct, please use hand sanitizer before coming to the altar rail. Hand sanitizers are located on the tables in the front and back of the church.

ANTHEM AT COMMUNION

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing early minded
for with blessing in his hand.
Christ our Lord to earth descendeth
our full homage to demand.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way
As the light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture
in the Body and the Blood.
He will give to all the faithful,
His own Self for heavenly food.

At his feet the sixwinged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice thy cry,
Alleluya, Alleluyah,
Alleluya Lord most High. Amen.

Text: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)

Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860;
arr. Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

HYMN

Refrain

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

1. Who is the King of glo - ry? What shall we call him?
2. In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
3. He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion.
4. He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en.

He is Im - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
He took up - on him - self the sin of the na - tions.
And he will share with us his heav - en'ly king - dom. *D.C.*

Text: Willard F. Jabusch (1930-2018)

Music: *Promised One*, Israeli folk tune

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

The people stand.

Presider In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth to share communion with *N.*, who cannot be present at this table.

People **We who are many are one because we all share one bread and one cup.
Our prayers are with you. Go in peace.**

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The people say together.

Eternal God, 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.

THE BLESSING

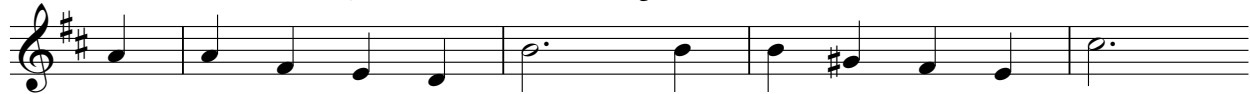
HYMN



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2. Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan,
3. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
4. Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign,
5. Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove;



1. Hark! how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own;
2. and ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man;
3. and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
4. who once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran-somed sin - ners slain,
5. crown him the King, to whom is given, the won-drous name of Love.



1. a - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
2. who ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu - man breast,
3. his glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
4. now lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing
5. Crown him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him fall,



1. and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
2. and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
3. who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4. their songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
5. crown him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

Text: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. John Scott (1956-2015)

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750),
arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

Those interested in the St. Paul's History Tour are invited to gather at the baptismal font immediately following the service.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the needlework ministry of St. Petca's Guild.

—————PARTICIPANTS—————

Clergy

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*
The Rev'd Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Community Engagement*
The Rev'd Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate for Worship and Liturgy*

Musicians

Christopher Reynolds, D.M.A., *Director of Music and Organist*
Crystal Jonkman, *Music Associate*
The Saint Paul's Choir

Lectors

Douglas Callaway
Vivian Cramer

Intercessor

Lydia Mercado

Acolytes

Henry Mann
James Mann
Ryon Sinclair
Stephen Peple, *Mentor*

Eucharistic Ministers

Vivian Cramer
Christopher West

Altar Guild

Lynn Blankman, Chris Lowry, Joyce Smith, Sandra Whitfield;
Louisa Sirles, Deborah Love Yoder, *Co-Chairs*
Sue Davis, *Flower Guild*

EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE AND CREATIVITY

A Few Notes about Worship at St. Paul's

St. Paul's seeks to be a welcoming, open, and inclusive community that values creativity, beauty, and mystery. We try to reflect this mission in our worship so that those from various backgrounds and perspectives will feel at home. We also hope that our worship reflects both a respect and honoring of the traditions of the Anglican church, while also seeking to give voice to how God is speaking in our current contexts. We know that the words we say in worship have a profound effect on our imagination and our experiences of God. Here's a bit of background.

Expansive Language: The Episcopal Church has developed many liturgies that use inclusive and expansive language. Expansive language is a way of incorporating multiple ways of imagining and speaking about God. It refers to the expanded use of metaphorical language for God and humans in new or unexpected and fresh ways. While we continue to value the beauty of our traditions and the importance of language, we recognize that all human language is limited. Expansive language seeks to incorporate as much of the diversity of language as possible to include all persons in the liturgical expressions.

Our Music: Every effort is made at St. Paul's to include music that speaks to the relevance and diversity of the world today. We draw from a variety of resources that include hymns ranging from the traditional, to spirituals, to those written specifically by female composers and poets. In choosing our music, we try to create a balance of music from our sacred traditions with music that reflects the diversity of the church today. In addition to Bach and Howells, we also intentionally seek out music that centers on composers who are writing music today, particularly composers of color and female artists.

A place for prayer, candle-lighting, and contemplation, St. Paul's is a holy space in which we encounter God's presence in many ways.

Candle-lighting: Lighting candles is an ancient practice of the church. The flame has always been considered a sign of God's presence. On the lectern side of the altar rail is a place set aside for you to light candles. Perhaps you'll light a candle in memory of a loved one, or for a particular thanksgiving or hardship in your own life. Your prayers combine with the prayers of the community as we put our trust and hope in God.

Our bulletin and recycling: Since we pull from as many as twenty-five sources, as well as write our own liturgical pieces (prayers, choral works, hymns, etc.) the bulletin serves as a way of capturing those elements and putting them into one place: your hands. Without a bulletin that is printed each week, we would not be able to be as creative. Plus, it would be confusing to those who are new to St. Paul's. This bulletin is an instrument of hospitality that allows us, Sunday by Sunday, to welcome and embrace all who are searching for a church home and an authentic encounter with our awakened and active Lord. In an effort to conserve paper usage, we try to print only enough bulletins as are needed for each individual service. If you'd like to help us be good stewards, you can choose to share a bulletin or download a PDF. Each week, our bulletins are responsibly recycled.

Being in the presence of Jesus: On the pulpit side of the altar rail is a small chapel set aside for quiet contemplation and prayer. An item called a "Tabernacle" is present. It reminds us of the portable tent in which the Hebrews worshiped during their time in the wilderness. This small, wooden cabinet contains the consecrated bread from holy communion, a sign of Christ's presence in our midst. A candle is lit whenever the bread is in place. Even when the church is dark, the light remains, reminding us of the church's role to be a light in the midst of darkness. Here, in Christ's presence, you may spend time in stillness and quiet prayer. On most Sundays during communion, a priest is present to offer prayers for healing for yourself or for someone else.

If you have questions about our worship experience, or to find out how you can be involved in worship, please consult our Ministry Directory or reach out to one of the clergy. To learn more about the guiding beliefs of the Episcopal Church, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/what-we-believe/>

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AT ST. PAUL'S, WE ARE COMMITTED TO...

Racial Justice

St. Paul's is committed to naming and dismantling systemic racism. We foster community healing and support the work of reparative action through local, regional, and international dialogue and action.

Being a Spiritual Center for Downtown

St. Paul's extends a generous, affirming, and inclusive welcome. We are a place for serving, partnering, gathering, learning, growing, and worshiping.

Progressive Christian Thinking

St. Paul's embraces our commitment to nurture a curiosity of spirit and mind. We are a spiritual space in which a diversity of people and perspectives are supported and shaped.

Transformative and Relevant Worship

St. Paul's offers worship and liturgical experiences that are beautiful, thoughtful, grounded in the Episcopal tradition, and reflective of a God who is speaking into current conversations and contexts.

Embracing and Caring for All Ages

St. Paul's builds a multi-generational community. We engage and support people through all of life's journeys and transitions.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH