



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, welcome all, and nurture ministries.

Christmas Day

December 25, 2017 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Whether this is your first visit or you have been a member for years, we're glad you're here! This bulletin is designed to guide you through the service. Hymnals, Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer are in the pews and available for your use as well.

For our Guests

- Our ushers welcome your inquiries. They can provide assisted listening devices, information about our ministries, as well as directions to the restrooms.
- Please take the brochure from the pew and learn more about St. Paul's and our traditional worship, dynamic preaching and a call to serve.

On Sundays

- Services are at 8am and 10:15am. You are invited to join us for coffee and refreshments following each service. Infants and children are welcome here. Nursery care is available in Room 2 from 9:30am-noon and parents may access the nursery for their convenience. Parents are also welcome to keep their children with them. The service can be heard from the narthex (lobby) and activity bags for children can be found there.
 - Our Sunday school program (K-grade 5) begins at 10am on the Labyrinth. After joining the procession in the church, our program continues in room 7 where they participate in Children's Chapel, hear a Bible story, and enjoy fun and engaging activities related to that story. Children return to the church to join their families for Eucharist.
 - Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets in the Youth Center at 10am for the opportunity to explore the Bible, build their faith and discuss important questions. They join us for Eucharist.
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Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Christmas Carol Medley

Russell/Reinhart/Surzyński

Celebrant Alleluia! Unto us a child is born.
People **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!**

Please stand at the sound of the bell

Entrance Hymn

O come, all ye faithful (vs.1-3)

Hymnal 83

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

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.

Hymn of Praise

Hark!, the herald angels sing (v. 1)

Hymnal 87

Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

Psalm 97

- 1 You reign, O God; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about you, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne.
- 3 A fire goes before you *
and burns up your enemies on every side.
- 4 Your lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at your presence O God, *
at your presence, O God of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare your righteousness, *
and all the peoples see your glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Let all gods bow down before you.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O God.
- 9 For you are God,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 You love those who hate evil;
you preserve the lives of his saints
and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in God, you righteous, *
and give thanks to God's holy Name.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

Gradual Hymn **Angels we have heard on high**
All stand to sing.

**Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Richard Swanson

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

All stand and together say

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.

Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

Deacon

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Sisters and brothers, confident in the word made flesh and dwelling among us, let us bring to our loving God the petitions in our hearts this Christmas Day, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader

For the community of believers throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership and authority, that they might direct us toward the service of God's glory and the spread of God's light to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the church gathered here this Christmas Day, that our worship of the word made flesh might take on flesh in our living the gospel message, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all refugees, and for the victims of war, violence, and injustice, that they might know the power of the newborn Savior, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who dwell in the darkness of ignorance and disease, of poverty and homelessness, of division and hate, for the sick, and for who overcome with suffering in body and spirit, *(The people may add their petitions either silently or aloud.)*, that the light of Christ might work its wonders this day and this season, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the dying among us, especially (*The people may add their petitions either silently or aloud.*), and others on our hearts, for all God's own who are suffering, and for those who care for them, that each might behold the salvation of our God and be blessed by the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Deacon

All loving and gracious God, we thank you for taking flesh among us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in a power beyond ourselves, trusting in your enduring love, we have offered our petitions. May you hear and answer them in that same Love, who is Jesus, your Son and our Lord, this Christmas Day and forever. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is observed.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.

Liturgy of the Table

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory

What child is this?

arr. Robert Hobby

Presentation Hymn

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Hymnal 107

Please stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 1

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S-125

Service music can be found in the front of the Hymnal.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are 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.**

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

After supper he 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 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

This is the Banquet of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who fear you have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine made holy. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer. Sip the wine, if you wish it, from the common cup, guiding the chalice gently with your hand or the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread for you. Otherwise, cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish a blessing from the priest.

Communion Anthem

Lo, How a Rose

arr. Evelyn R Larter

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

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.

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**
May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn **Joy to the world! (v. 1,2,4)** **Hymnal 100**

Dismissal

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

Postlude *When Christmas Morn is Dawning* *arr. Dennis Johnson*

Many thanks to the Reverend Dr. Richard Swanson, celebrant, Sara Edwards, organist and guest musician Caitlin Boruch, flute.

Save the Dates 2018

- January 7** **Feast of the Epiphany** celebrated at the 8 & 10:15 am services.
The Christmas Story According to the Four Evangelists skiturgy will be presented.
- January 28** **Annual Meeting** following the 10:15 service.
- February 14** **Ash Wednesday**
- March 25** **Palm Sunday**
- April 1** **Easter Sunday**

You are invited to receive news of our special events.

Sign in to the guest book in the narthex (lobby) and provide your email address or email the office at office@saintpaulsventura.org.

St. Paul's Office will be closed December 26th-January 2nd.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector; The Rev. Ed Steever, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting

Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister; Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister

Sara Edwards, Organist-Music Director; Paula Robertson, Parish Administrator

Hannah Alday, Director of Evangelism & Communication

Cathy Smith, Administrative Assistant; Jim Kneeland, Sexton

Heidi Trevisan, Sunday School Director; Wendy Olivier, Nursery Caregiver

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Christmas Flowers, Greens, & Musicians
Thank you to our donors.

Cornelia Baer: In memory of her wife Rita Marsh.

Marcia Semple: In memory of Charles & Esther Semple.

Lou Matthews: In memory of Mark and Jim at Christmas.

Katherine Steever: In loving memory of her brother, Frank Millard.

Ed Steever: In loving memory of his parents and brother.

Lillian Alfriend: In memory of her beloved husband Bill Alfriend.

Marilyn Beattie: In loving memory of her husband, Louis A. Beattie, their son, Andy Beattie & grandson, Trevor Beattie and other family members she holds in her heart.

Bob Gold: In memory of Jack and Rose Gold.

Roger Crow: In memory of Ernest & Reba Crow, George & Freeda Miller, June Fain, Janet Crow, James Croxen, Joseph & Ruby Crow, Eura & Shirley Broyles and in Thanksgiving of God's Gift to Us.

Paula Robertson: In thanksgiving for Richard, Jim and all of her family. Merry Christmas to all!

Liz Rose: In memory of Mary Louise and Robert Kemp.

Doug Wied: In memory of Christine Wied.

Laury Graves: In memory of Judy Graves, and of Lauren Graves.

Bill Brewer: In memory of Carol Brewer.

Gigi Denniston: In memory of Phil Denniston.