



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.*

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

**May 7, 2023 at 10:15 a.m.**

Service offered both in-person and online



Online Bulletin

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**Welcome!** Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: [www.StPaulsVentura.org/live](http://www.StPaulsVentura.org/live), [www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura](http://www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura), [www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura](http://www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura).

**Safety Protocols** – In keeping with CDC and county guidelines, masks are not required, but still strongly encouraged. Please carefully consider what is best for you and your family. Because some among us are at higher risk and continue to need some additional distance, we've reserved the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Masks are optional on the Loma Vista side. We hope this will make it possible for everyone find a place in the church where they can feel safe and comfortable. Thank you for your understanding. You are a shining example of what LOVE looks like.

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. We invite you to sing, pray and read along with us through the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together. The best way to keep up with everything that's going on at St. Paul's is to subscribe to our Email Newsletter. If you don't receive it and would like to be added to the list, please come see us at the Welcome Table or contact the office.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Bailey and Miss Wendy to 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.

Once again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshipping with us. Let us know if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.



*The angels are dancing again...*

**Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!**

As things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"

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**Today's flowers were given through the generosity of your pledge.**

*If you'd like to arrange for flowers given in memory or thanksgiving, please contact the church office. Thank you!*

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## Liturgy of the Word

### Prelude

Adagio Espressivo

Joseph Rheinberger  
Adapted by Lani Smith

*Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.*

### Processional

**Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness**

**Hymnal 492**  
Cantor: Daniel Smithson

### Opening Salutation

*Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

*Celebrant*

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People**

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**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.**

**Collect of the Day**

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*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**

Acts 7:55-60

*Please be seated.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

The response appointed for this morning is a portion of Psalm 31. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \*  
**deliver me in your righteousness.**

2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
**make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
**for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
**for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.**

15 My times are in your hand; \*

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*

**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

***People* Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

**We walk by faith, and not by sight**

**Hymnal 209**

*All stand as able to sing.*

## Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

*Remain standing and face the Gospel.*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the

Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

## **The Sermon**

The Reverend Susan Bek

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## **Nicene Creed**

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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<sup>1</sup> and apostolic<sup>2</sup> 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.*

*Server*

Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying: Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed.

God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. Give us hope, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all our brothers and sisters, that death may have no more power over us, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

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<sup>1</sup> universal; all embracing

<sup>2</sup> relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that the Lord God will wipe away all tears, for Christ is risen:  
**Christ is risen indeed.**

May we be one faith with all who have died in Christ, for our life is hid with Christ in God: for Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed.**

*Celebrant*

God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*In keeping with ancient tradition, we do not include the Confession during the season of Easter.*

### **Prayer for the Newly Confirmed**

*The congregation may remain seated. The newly confirmed come forward.*

**Loving God, by whose inspiration this congregation was established over 130 years ago: Bless these newly confirmed members of our church. Send your Holy Spirit to surround and support Annelise and Jordan, and to be among us, knitting us together as one body dedicated to worshipping, loving and serving you. Help us to grow in love and in faith. Stir us to serve and support one another and equip us for our many ministries as we work together to serve as the Light of Christ in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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**

*Please be seated.*

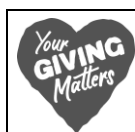
### **Graduation Blessings**

## ***Liturgy of the Table*** ***Holy Communion***

### **Offertory Sentence**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*



*Thank you for your donation, and for your pledge.  
Your generosity is appreciated!  
We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ  
with whatever you are able to give.*

### **Offertory**

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

*Harold Friedell*

### **Presentation Hymn**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Before the Lord's eternal throne**

**Hymnal 391**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Eucharistic Prayer 3

*The people remain standing as they are able.*

*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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

### Sanctus

#### Sanctus from St. Paul's Mass

*Felix Eisenhauer*

Translation: "Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus" - Holy, holy, holy "Benedictus qui venit" - Blessed are those who come

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus,  
sanc - tus. Lord. God of power and might. hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - na in the high - est Be - ne - dic - tus  
qui ve - nit, in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - na in the high - est, Ho -  
sa - na in the high - est!

*Please stand, sit or kneel as you prefer.*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Paul and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

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

**Blessed are you 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.**

### **Spiritual Communion**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

**Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not all together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.**

### **The Invitation**

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.

*For in-person worshipers: 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.*

*Once you have the bread, you may choose any of the following options:*

1. **Return to your seat without receiving the wine.** Be assured that this is a sufficient experience of communion.
2. **Sip the wine, from the common cup,** guiding the chalice gently with your hand. (This meets the current safety standards set by the Diocese of Los Angeles and our bishop because the wine contains alcohol, the chalice is silver or similar metal, and the surface is wiped and turned between communicants.)
3. **Receive by intinction** – the Eucharistic Minister will dip your wafer into the wine for you. We must place it in your hand at this time and cannot place it in your mouth.

*If you'd like to come forward but would prefer not to receive, please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a blessing.*

*Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. Online worshipers can find it at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)*

**Communion Music**      II. Cantabile e lento from Sonata in G Minor, Op.7 No. 3      *Muzio Clementi*

O Way, through Whom our souls draw near      *Searle Wright*

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

*Please stand or kneel as you prefer.*

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

Go in the peace of the Lord Jesus. May Christ's light shine in your hearts so that you may bring the joy and the hope of Easter to others; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**      **Thou art the Way, to thee alone**      **Hymnal 457**

*Please stand as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes by.*

### **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**      Ceremonial March      *Andrew Fletcher*

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Check out next Sunday's readings at [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

***Please join us in thanking those serving this week:***

<b>Server:</b>	Kara Craven	<b>Lector:</b>	Kathy & Tim Helms
<b>Chalice:</b>	Miles Sexton	<b>Ushers:</b>	Dan Wakelee & Sally Weimer
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Sarah Lamola & Tegan Jones
<b>Cantor:</b>	Daniel Smithson	<b>Welcome Greeter:</b>	Marcia Semple
<b>Video Production:</b>	Patrick VanHorn	<b>Lock-up Team:</b>	Miles Sexton



### **5/14 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Mother's Day

African Team Ministries sale after church

### **5/21 Ascension Sunday**

10:15am Sunday Service with Choir Recognition

and packing lunches to help feed the hungry at Family to Family

4pm Kite Flying at Harbor Cove

### **5/28 Pentecost Sunday (Baptism)**

10:15am Sunday Service

11:30am Pentecost Picnic

& Fair Trade Sales

### **5/31 Fundraiser at Topper's Pizza on Front Street**

3:30-9pm

### **6/3 Rummage Sale**

Donations can be dropped off Tuesday – Thursday 9am -3pm

Please call to let us know you're coming. Thanks!



## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of May 7, 2023***

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Dick Swanson
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop	President Joseph Biden, Congress, Federal Courts
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan	Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

### ***HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:***

Bert, Mary Morgan, Michele, Patrick, Connor, Isaac, Ralph, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, poverty, and injustice.

### ***THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:***

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Amelia, Rachel, Dave, Kim, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Carol, Vivian and Ulrich.

### ***IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:***

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

### ***FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:***

- + Twelve step programs of recovery and healing; especially Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at St. Paul's
- + Our local public and private hospitals, and the health care professionals who serve us
- + U.S. Armed services personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home
- + All who work, educate others, and pray to abolish the scourge of present-day slavery.

### ***GIVE THANKS FOR:***

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Deanery One in Ventura County: *St. Columba's*, Camarillo; *Trinity*, Fillmore; *St. Andrew's*, Ojai; *All Saints'*, Oxnard; *St. Paul's/ Emmanuel*, Santa Paula; *St. Francis'*, Simi Valley; *St. Patrick's*, Thousand Oaks
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Temple Beth Torah, the Islamic Center of Oxnard, Ventura Seventh Day Adventist Church*

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

*Bryant Temple, Bob Campion and all those we love but see no longer.*

*Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month but can be renewed if needed. Please contact the church office to add or extend a prayer request and to let us know how things are going.*



## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff**

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting  
Kara Craven, Parish Administrator  
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister  
Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director  
Sara Edwards, Organist  
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter  
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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## St. Paul's Announcements May 7, 2023

Thank you for joining us today! Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

**We invite you to join us again next Sunday.**



### Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Whether you're new, visiting or have been a member for years, we're so glad you joined us today. **A warm welcome to you!** Our Sunday services are available online and in-person. Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey. We're always happy to hear from you!  
We invite you to come back soon.



This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list! You can reach us by emailing [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



**and after church today...**



### Today is the FIFTH SUNDAY IN EASTER, and the celebration continues!

This week's gospel lesson is from John, chapter 14. Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." He is teaching about the afterlife, telling them that he will go to prepare a place for them. When Thomas questions him, asking how can we know the way to follow him, Jesus explains, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Come learn about the life that extends beyond our earthly years. Come hear amazingly beautiful music, inspiring scripture and an uplifting message of hope and love. Come get inspired!



### GRADUATION BLESSING AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Congratulations, graduates! If you, or anyone you know is graduating from something (anything, we're happy to celebrate all accomplishments!), please join us for our annual Graduation Blessing and Ice Cream Social. We'll call graduates forward for a special blessing during the service then celebrate with ice cream during coffee hour. And, for those who can't be with us, please let us know so we can lift them in prayer and send a nice card with a special graduation blessing. Send their information to: [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us?

**A warm welcome to you!** We're so glad you came. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. Please introduce yourself to our clergy, they're looking forward to meeting you. We invite you to come back soon.



### NEW OUTREACH PROJECT – Let's REACH to support Sober Living

This month, we're reaching to support sobriety. Ventura Serenity House is setting up a new location. The Gooden Center will become a place where women who have struggled with sobriety can go to get the support they need to put their lives in order. We are looking for new or gently used items with which to set up this new home and make it comfortable for the women, children and staff who will live there. Want to help? Grab a REACH bag or check out their Amazon wishlist at <https://tinyurl.com/2p89jk3u>

	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i></p> <p><b>Spirituality in Nature Group</b>  <b>SPECIAL EVENT - Sat. May 13<sup>th</sup>, Tickets are Sold Out</b>  Our group will explore part Channel Islands National Park with the Spirituality in Nature Group. Whether you have been to the islands before or have never visited, this is an opportunity to experience and better understand this amazing place. This is a full day trip to Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island. If you need further information, please contact Dan Wakelee <a href="mailto:dan.wakelee@att.net">dan.wakelee@att.net</a></p>
	<p><b>African Team Ministries</b>  <b>On Mother's Day - Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup></b>  Serving the Church in East Africa for the past 20 years through Crafts and Jewelry. Come see the beautiful display and pick up some wonderful items for yourself or to use as gifts for others. The proceeds from the handcrafted items will make it possible to provide Drip Irrigation Kits for the families in the drought and famine areas. This will enable them to grow food all year round instead of only when it rains. More than 250,000 people died during this recent drought and famine. Thank you for your support! Online store: <a href="https://africanteamstore.square.site/">https://africanteamstore.square.site/</a></p>
	<p><b>Memorial Service for Doug Wied on Saturday, May 27 at 10am</b>  <i>O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Doug and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. And may God bless those who mourn with a sense of peace and delight at the wonderful memories they have to treasure. Amen.</i></p>
	<p><b>Choir Recognition</b>  <b>Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup></b>  Please join us as we show our appreciation for the amazingly talented members of our Choir and Music Department. We are so grateful for the inspiration they share with us! Your cards and comments are welcome. This is a great time to say, "Thank You!"</p>
	<p><b>LET'S GO FLY A KITE! – On Ascension Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup></b>  It is a long-standing tradition of St. Paul's Ventura to fly kites as we remember the Ascension. Join us at 4pm at Harbor Cove Beach (across from Ventura Harbor Village). Bring a kite, a friend, sand toys, some food or don't bring a thing. Just come have some fun as we remember and give thanks to God.</p>
	<p><i>Join us as we raise funds for St. Paul's and enjoy a delicious meal...</i></p> <p><b>May Restaurant Fundraiser – Topper's Pizza on Front Street</b>  <b>Wed. 5/31 from 3:30-9pm</b>  Eat at Topper's Pizza at 1076 E. Front Street in Ventura between 3:30 - 9pm and show them the flier at the back of the bulletin or in the Enews, and St. Paul's will receive 20% of food and soft beverage sales. For dine in - simply show the printed flier or display it on your phone at the restaurant. <b>For take out – must order through Topper's and be within their delivery area.</b> We look forward to seeing you there. <b>Thank you for your support!</b></p>
	<p><b>MULTI LINGUAL SPEAKERS NEEDED – Pentecost Sunday – May 28</b> Spanish, Italian, Latin, French, Tagalog, Russian, Greek and more (please let us know if you would like to read a language not listed here) are needed for Pentecost Sunday. See Rev. Susan or call the office for your copy of John 20:19-23 in the language of your choice. All will read together on Pentecost Sunday during the 10:15 service. And if you can, you are invited to wear red on this special day when we'll celebrate the birthday of the church.</p>
	<p><i>All are welcome and invited to become members of St. Paul's...</i></p> <p><b>New Members will be Welcomed</b>  <b>with a Special Blessing on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup></b>  If you have recently become a member of St. Paul's, or if you have not yet participated in a new member blessing (the pandemic made this especially difficult for a while, so we're still catching up), we invite you to join us for this very special occasion. <b><i>New members please RSVP by the Tuesday before this date so we can prepare.</i></b> <a href="mailto:revsusan@saintpaulsventura.org">revsusan@saintpaulsventura.org</a>!</p>





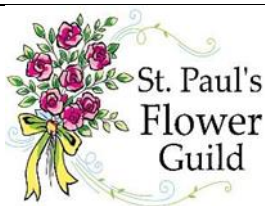
## PENTECOST SUNDAY – May 28th

Celebrate the Birthday of the Church and  
134 years of mission and ministry at St. Paul's, Ventura.

Beautiful Festival Service at 10:15am

Followed by the Pentecost Picnic - a BBQ Lunch with the Men's Group at the grill  
at 11:30am in Kahler Hall and on the Fountain Patio

**Bring your friends and neighbors! Everyone is welcome!**



### Volunteers Needed – Altar Guild and Flower Guild

Were you impressed at how beautiful the sanctuary was for Easter services? Our teams of Altar Guild and Flower Guild members do amazing work! We could really use some additional volunteers to help with Altar Guild and Flower Guild. We serve on teams and are scheduled once a month. Some of our members have learned to do the jobs for both Altar Guild and Flower Guild. No experience is necessary. We are happy to teach you what we know. You'll find it's very rewarding to meet new people and work together to prepare for our beautiful worship services.



*Save the date!*

### Rummage Sale - Sat. June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9am – 1:30pm in Kahler Hall

You can begin dropping off items as of May 1<sup>st</sup> on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday 9am -3pm. Please contact the church office to let us know you're coming – 805 643-5033. Invite your friends to join us and help support the church for this important fundraiser. And if you can volunteer to assist us, please let us know. We really appreciate it!



*Would you like to pick a date to donate for the flowers?*

### Flower Arrangement Donations and Dedications

Donating the flowers for a Sunday service is a lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. It's quick and easy to arrange, and really helps the church too! Use an envelope from the pew rack in front of your seat or email us the information. Enclose a donation, (\$65 is suggested), or go to our website and click "Giving". Be sure to mention that it's a "Flower Donation." Give us the date on which you'd like dedicate the flowers and provide us the information about who they're given in memory of, or what you are thankful for. We look forward to remembering or celebrating with you, and we appreciate your support! If you need assistance with this, please contact the church office 805 643-5033 or [church@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:church@saintpaulsventura.org)



This QR Code  
takes you straight to  
our Giving Page

*"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Thank you for your generosity!

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) or use this QR code. Members give of their time through many ministries and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Generosity involves the giving of time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share. Thank you!

