

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024



Mission Statement

We are a worshipping, inquiring and inclusive community united in Jesus' name to change the world.

Welcoming Statement

We invite everyone to join in the communal life of the body of Christ, through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the life and sacraments of this church. We affirm that each person is a child of God, and that those of every race, ethnicity, creed, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation and gender identity are called to be one with us.

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn #83 O come all ye faithful

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
 Amen.

The Lessons

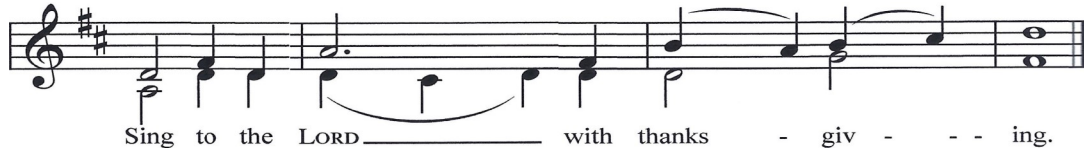
The first lesson is from Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147



1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The second reading is from Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #497 How bright appears the morning star

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-18

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson

The Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Blessings and Celebrations

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide *them*

wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when they stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if they fall; and in *their* hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wedding Anniversary Prayer

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send, therefore, your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Anniversary of Baptism

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit through the teaching of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was first baptized by John in the Jordan River. Bless this *child* of yours on the anniversary of Baptism, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may ever remain with *them*, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Sick

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn #96 Angels we have heard on high

Doxology

The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

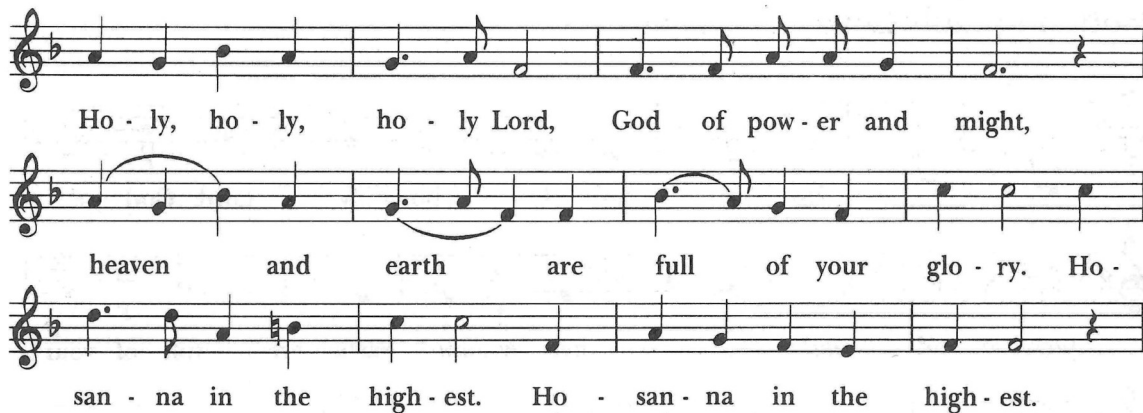
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 Human 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high- est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 sing,

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal-lowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea ven. Give us this day our
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas-es, As we for-give those who tres pass a-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. Thine is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for-ev-er. A-men

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

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the
 world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Gluten free wafers are available. If you want just a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your body.

Communion Hymn #82 Of the Father's love begotten

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Bod 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.

Blessing

Closing Hymn #93 Angels from the realms of glory

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia. Grace be with you.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace.

We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

Coffee Hour-Parish Hall following Worship

Enjoy coffee or tea and something delicious each week in the Parish Hall. Spend a little time getting to know your Christian brothers and sisters before heading out to enjoy your Sunday.

December Ministry Schedule

Dates	Dec 1 st	Dec 8 th	Dec 15 th	Dec 22 nd	Dec 29 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dc. Greg	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Nancy S.	Jim P. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Judy T.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Nancy S.	Judy	Rex	Nancy S.
Lectors	Stephanie G. Alex S.	Joyce B. Linda L.	Nancy S. Stephanie	Barbara V. Judy T.	Linda L. Stephanie H-W.
Intercessor	Luis M.	Nancy S.	Judy T.	Ann M.	Sarah H.
Ushers	Phil M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Phil M.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Phil M.
Greeters	Phil M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Phil M.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Phil M.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Nancy S.	Judy T.	Ann M.	Sarah H.



For Health, Peace and Comfort:

Cherie Sheaffer; Claudine Romegialli; Pam & Mike Cox; Suzy Cano; Elaine Paradise; Deacon George; Paige; Denise; Ryan Anderson; Ann Mootz's sister-in-law; Mary Kinnaman; Michael Thorington; Ismael Huggins; Ken & Trish Hart; Mary Griffin; Joshua Trautmann; Christine Judd; Joel; Fr. Bob and Alexis Woods; Lennyn; Bob Jensen; Rev. Karen; Nell; Clare; Susan Sell; Christine Jayne; Howard; Cheryl; Thomas; Keith and Ginny; Brett; Colleen; Priscilla; the Pew Family; Dennis; Rocky; Loretta; Ed and Roberta; Craig and Marti; Carol; Anthony; Joy; Roxy and Kristina; Marlene; Steven.

Praise God:

Meaningful Advent and Christmas Celebrations

The many ways that God heals and comforts his children.

Please Pray For:

Kristina Frias, for success in her job search.

Gabe Trautmann for success in his job search.

Ally Young for success in her job search.

Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere: Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.

Please pray for the American people to listen to God's will in their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.

Please pray for all travelers as they journey to and from their destinations.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

If you have any prayers, praises or updates you would like added to the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office phone number 209-522-3267.



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God and
By Bob and Clare Jensen in Memory
of their Parents and Bridget and Elsie

Epiphany and Beyond

Sunday, January 5, 2025-Feast of Epiphany

*Sunday, January 19-Annual Parish Meeting after 10 am Worship
Service-Election of Vestry Members and Delegates to Diocesan
Convention*

March 4-Shrove Tuesday

March 5-Ash Wednesday

April 13-Palm Sunday & Visit by Bishop David

April 20-Easter Sunday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Giving Tree– Bring a can (or two) of food to add to the collection in the library, under the Christmas tree at the side of the church. Check out the sign on the tree for suggestions of items to donate. All items will be given to the Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus (formerly Interfaith Ministries) after Christmas.

Annual Meeting-

Sunday, January 19th, our Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the worship service. Mark your calendars to be part of this important meeting. We will elect new Vestry members and delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Come to hear about plans for our future.

Sunday School-

No Sunday School today or January 5th. Sunday School will resume January 12th. Please contact Chuck Sheaffer or the church office with any questions.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pastoral Team

Fr. Brian Dawson.....209-897-1612.....FrBrianDawson@gmail.com
Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano
Deacon Greg Maszta.....deacongreg66@outlook.com

Parish Administrator

Linda Lowe: 209-522-3267stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chainstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer.....cbshea@pacbell.net
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztadeacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmannshartmann1@charter.net
Praesidium AcademyStephanie Gilmer

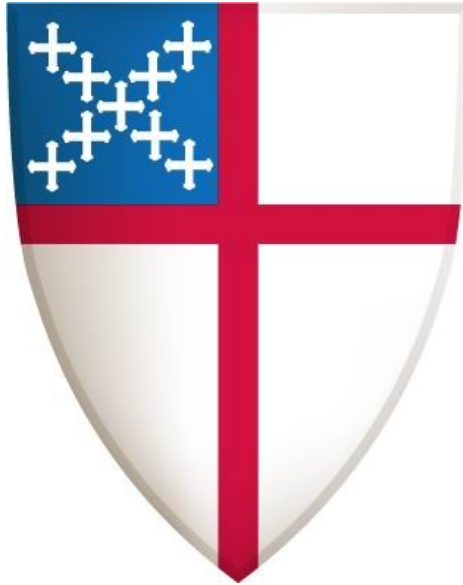
Vestry

Senior Warden: Linda Lowe: 209-496-3937lwlowe@outlook.com
Junior Warden: Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net

Lora Burnett, Sarah Hartmann, Linda Lowe, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz,
Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Judy Teter.

Treasurer: Stephanie Gilmer

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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