

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

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

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

***The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost  
August 17, 2025***



## **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 #596 "Judge eternal, throned in splendor"

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit

Glory to God for ever and ever.

### 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 given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

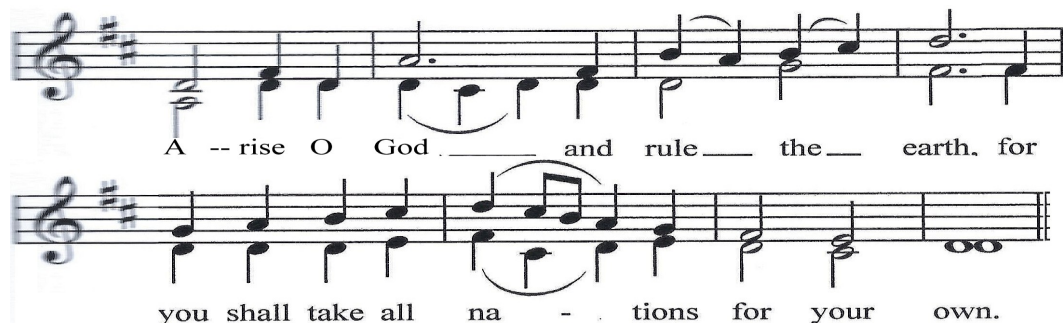
### **The first lesson is from Jeremiah 23:23-29**

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back-- those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 82**



- 1 God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*  
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:
- 2 "How long will you judge unjustly, \*  
and show favor to the wicked?
- 3 Save the weak and the orphan; \*  
defend the humble and needy;
- 4 Rescue the weak and the poor; \*  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- 5 They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they go about in darkness; \*  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 Now I say to you, 'You are gods, \*  
and all of you children of the Most High;
- 7 Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*  
and fall like any prince."
- 8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
for you shall take all nations for your own.

*The second reading is from Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in

order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #552 "Fight the good fight"**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 12:49-56*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be di-

vided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson**

*Stillness - the prayer bowl rings to take us in and out of a time of stillness and reflection.*

**The Prayers of the People**

**Reconciliation**

*The Deacon calls us to confession.*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence.*

**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 Priest proclaims God's forgiveness.*

### **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 con-  
sole;  
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**

God of joy and celebration, we thank you for the precious gift of life and for the unique journey that each day brings. As this(ese) your servant(s) celebrate(s) another year of life, we pray for your abundant blessings to be upon them. May your grace continue to guide and shape their paths, filling their days with love, purpose, and joy. Amen

### **Anniversary Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our sides.  
Bless those whose anniversaries we acknowledge this day.  
May they remain faithful and loving so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with us all. Amen.

### **Prayer for Those We Love**

Gracious God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you want for us all better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn #536 “Open your ears, O faithful people”**

**Doxology**

### **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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

### Proper Preface

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)

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 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 shed for you and for many 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 Christ's death,  
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
We await Christ's coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 [ \_\_\_\_\_and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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-tion, 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 baptized persons 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 Levas #154 “Taste and see”**

**Extending Our Eucharistic Gathering**

*A representative of the parish’s Eucharistic Visitors comes forward to receive the bread and wine reserved for those who are sick or otherwise unable to join us in person.*

In the name of us all at St Paul’s Episcopal Church, we send our Eucharistic Visitors forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom they go may share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ’s body and blood. May they with whom these gifts are shared remain bound to us, and we to them.

**We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

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**

### **Closing Hymn #546 “Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve”**

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

*All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105*

## **Nominees for the 6th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin**

Details about each candidate can be found here: [www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search)

The following have been nominated to be our next Bishop:

Rev'd Canon Anna Carmichael, Rev'd Robert Keim, Rev'd Dr Greg Kimura, Rev'd Canon Shawn Walmsley.

Please hold them and the electoral process in your prayers.

There will be an opportunity to meet and hear the nominees at a gathering at St Paul's on Saturday September 13th. Details including the time will be confirmed soon.



## **Prayer and Praise**

### **Remember those who have asked for our prayers**

Paige, Priscella, Loretta, Bonnie, Clare, Michael, Susan, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, JoHanna, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Brett, Bill, Marissas, Judy, Mike, Kathy, Jose, Rex S., Lora, Caelie, Hennie, Joey, Erin, Kevin, Dorothy, Jeremy, Ronda, Murray, Suzanna, Liz, Jaclyn, Ann, Tommy, Juanita, Jonathan, Nellie, Nancy, Jeannie, Jamie, Gina, Jesus, Erin, Karen, Sean, Karen

### **Those who have passed away:**

The Rev'd Archdeacon George Cano

### **Those in the Military:**

CPT Sam Birch, USA

CPT Fred Campbell, USAF

CPT Jenavieve Campbell, USAF

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SGT Carson Repan, USAF

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

### **Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:**

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Eucharistic Visitors

### **Discernment in the Search Process for the New Bishop**





The flowers at the altar today  
are given to  
The Glory of God and  
Thankful for God's Love and Many Blessings

**Special Parish Meeting Outcome** - thank you to all who attended the Special Meeting on August 10. It was a good meeting with excellent questions and discussion. In the end the meeting agreed with Vestry's recommendation that we begin the process of looking to sell the vacant lot behind the church.

The Diocesan Chancellor was at the meeting and will now be looking into clearing up all the paperwork surrounding the property. Vestry has committed to keeping the wider parish informed as things progress.

Fr. Brian

### *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.

## August 2025 Ministry Schedule

Dates	August 3rd	August 10 <sup>th</sup>	August 17 <sup>th</sup>	August 24th	August 31st
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Nancy S. Carlos M.	Jim P. Joyce B.	Nancy S. Alex S.	Nancy S. Alex S. Gabe T.
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Rex A. Linda L.	Sarah H. Joyce B.	Rex A.	Linda L.	Joyce B.
Lectors	Barbara V. Rex A.	Stephanie H- W. Ann M.	Linda L. Theresa G.	Alex S. Ann M.	Stephanie H- W. Joyce B.
Intercessor	Luis M.	Jose C.	Lora B.	Peter K.	Nancy S.
Ushers	Luis M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Greg B. David L.	Peter K. Carolyn L.	David L. Claudine R.
Greeters	Luis M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Lynelle H. Greg B.	Peter K. Carolyn L.	Claudine R. Lynelle H.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Jose C.	Lora B.	Peter K.	Nancy S.
Coffee Hour Host	Ann M.	Joyce B. Sarah H.	Linda L.		Jose C. Peter K.

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

### **Pastoral Team**

Fr. Brian Dawson.....209-897-1612.....FrBrianDawson@gmail.com  
Deacon Greg Masztal.....deacongreg66@outlook.com  
Stephanie Gilmer, Pastoral Care Coordinator.....mzgilmer@gmail.com

### **Parish Administrator**

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

### **Other Important Contacts**

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer .....cbshea@pacbell.net  
Hand Bells, Judy Teter .....jlpt@sbcglobal.net  
Prayer Chain .....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com  
St. Paul's Epistle, Barbara Vassell .....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com  
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztal .....deacongreg66@outlook.com  
Finance Committee, Carolyn List .....carolynlist@sbcglobal.net  
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

### **Vestry**

Senior Warden: Joyce Bell -(215) 275-6502 .....bellj1@charter.net  
Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604 .....pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Jose Cruz, Sarah Hartmann, Peter Krewko, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



Livestreamed Sundays @ 10am

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-of-Modesto-CA-106952012668211/>

Then click on videos.

Please note that today's service is being livestreamed on Facebook. If you prefer not to appear on camera, we kindly ask that you sit on the side of the church behind the camera.



Visit St. Paul's website to give online

[www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/](https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/)

