

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 7, 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 #518 "Christ is made the sure foundation"

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ 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 Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said to all Israel the words which the LORD commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1



- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The second reading is from Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to
Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.
For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you

to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #675 "Take up your cross"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 14:25-33

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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 Levas #484 “Praise the Lord through every nation”

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.

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be:
shining light and enfolding dark;
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You
made us the stewards of your creation.
But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust;
and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return.
Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And
in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word,
born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law,
opening for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.
And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with
prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all those in every generation
who have looked to you in hope,
to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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)

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for sending us Jesus, the Christ,
who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread,
and gave it to his friends, and said,
"Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

[Deacon] Remembering now his work of redemption,
and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection
as we await the day of his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and made a new people by water and the Spirit,
now bring before you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit

to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion
make us one body, one spirit in Christ,
that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel;

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table
for solace only and not for strength;
for pardon only and not for renewal.

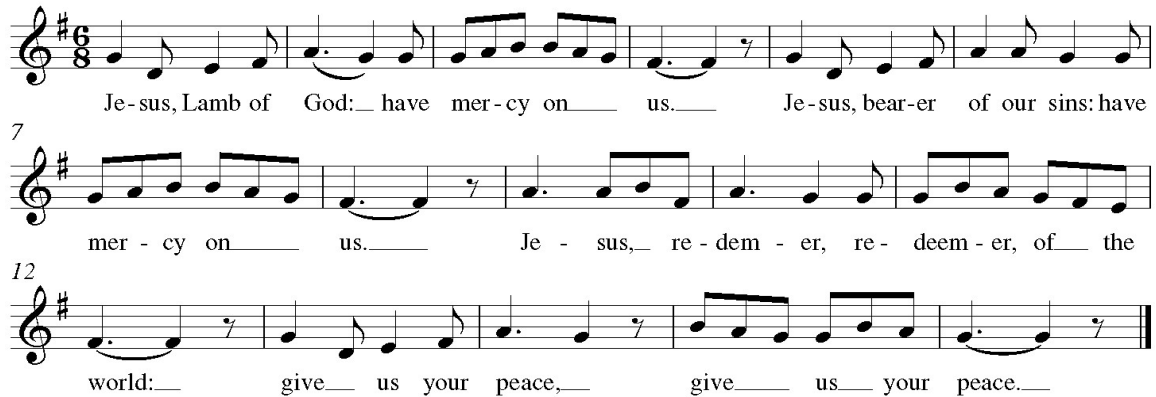
Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God,
through Jesus Christ our great High Priest,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

The bread is broken

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



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.

Come, for all things are now ready.

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 Levas #136 “I have decided to follow Jesus”

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

Memorial Service for Deacon George Cano

Saturday, September 20, 11 am we will remember Deacon George Cano with a worship service, thankful for his time and ministry with us, followed by a luncheon reception. Salads and cookies will be needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Paige, Priscella, Loretta, Bonnie, Clare, Susan, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Judy, Mike, Jose, Rex S., Lora, Caelie, Hennie, Erin, Kevin, Dorothy, Ronda, Murray, Suzanna, Liz, Ann, Juanita, Jonathan, Nellie, Nancy, Gina, Jesus, Erin, Karen, Sean, Karen, Lela, Pam, Debra

Those who have passed away:

The Rev'd Archdeacon George Cano

Michael Thorington

Steve Veglia

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, Greeters/Ushers

Discernment in the Search Process for the New Bishop



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Rosanne Mountain in
Thanksgiving for Her Sons

Meet the Nominees to be the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin

We will be welcoming the candidates, those travelling with them and Episcopalians from the northern part of our diocese at our (St Paul's) hall on **Saturday September 13 at 11.30am**. We will be providing refreshments for those who gather so please think about making (or buying) some cookies to share—see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Details about each candidate can be found here: www.diosanjoaquin.org/bishop-search

Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors

If you would like to know more about assisting with our Holy Communion Ministries, Fr. Brian would love to hear from you. Contact him via the church office, 209-522-3267 or email, FrBrianDawson@gmail.com.

Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

Come one, come all....spouses, partners, friends...are all welcome-
the more the merrier!

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, Tuesday, September 16th at 2:30 pm.

No reservation required.

The price for seniors is \$15, including drinks. Find Phil and Anita around the corner from the dessert station, ready to enjoy good company and good food.

For more information, contact Phil, 209-527-2727.

September 2025 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Sept 7th	Sept 14th	Sept 21st	Sept 28th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Rev. Kathie Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Nancy S. Alex S.	Nancy S. Carlos M.	Jim P. Joyce B.	Nancy S. Evelyn B.
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Sarah H.	Joyce B. Linda L.	Sarah H.	Linda L. Joyce B.
Lectors	Alex S. Ann M.	Stephanie H- W. Nancy S.	Linda L. Theresa G.	Joyce B. Stephanie H-W.
Intercessor	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Joyce B.
Ushers	Claudine R. David L.	Linda L. Greg B.	Claudine R. Courtney S.	David L. Carolyn L.
Greeters	Ann M. Claudine R.	Sarah H. Greg B.	Lynelle H. Courtney S.	David L. Carolyn L.
Vestry Rep.	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Joyce B.
Coffee Hour Host	Rosanne M.	Sarah & Joyce	Clare & Bob	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: 209-522-3267stpaulsmodestoca@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, Barbara Vassellstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztaldeacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Vestry

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

Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Jose Cruz, Sarah Hartmann, Peter Krewko, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Alex Sarina, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, & 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/)

