

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 26, 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

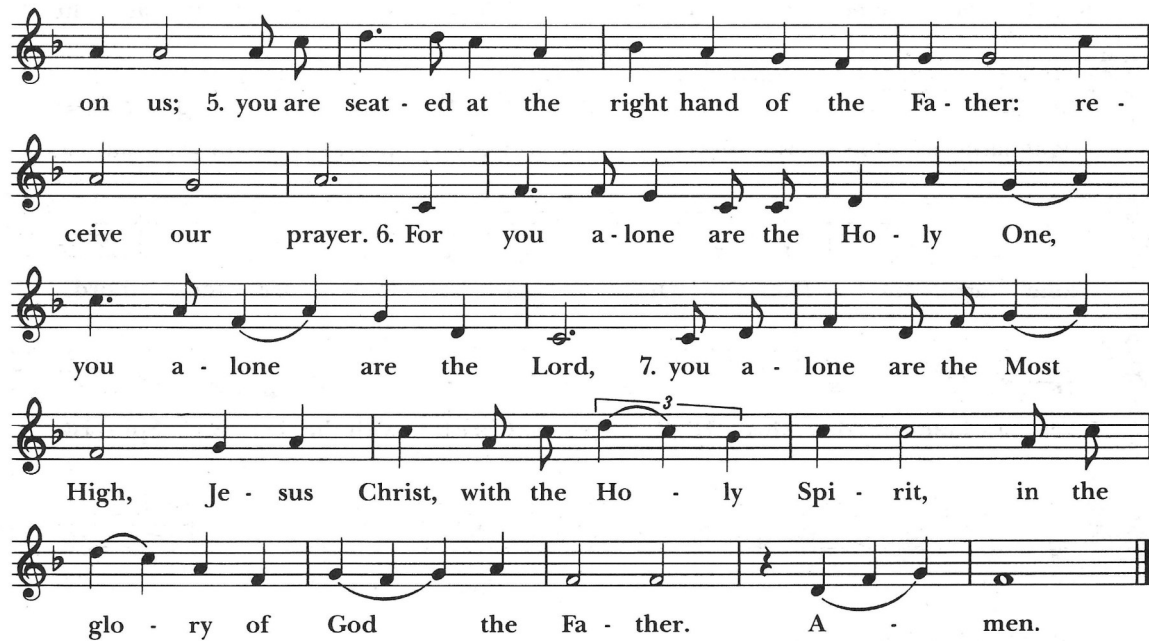
Opening Hymn #362 "Holy, holy, holy!"

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



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Sirach 35:12-17

Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.

For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.

Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it
 and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
 for the Lord is the judge,
 and with him there is no partiality.
 He will not show partiality to the poor;
 but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
 He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
 or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84:1-6



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
 my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of
springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

The second reading is from 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #438 "Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 18:9-14

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went

up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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 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

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 #656 “Blest are the pure in heart”

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 truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise.

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

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 acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power.
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all
your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us
to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might
find you.

Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.

Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as
one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising
from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who
died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for
those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring
to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heav-
enly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved
them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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.”

[Deacon]

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

Recalling Christ’s death and descent among the dead, proclaiming
Christ’s resurrection and ascension to your right hand,
awaiting Christ’s coming in glory;

and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,
this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctify-
ing them and showing them to be holy gifts
for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body
and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, re-
deemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember our Presiding Bishop Sean,
our Diocesan Bishop David and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to you alone;

bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin
Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past.

We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus
Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

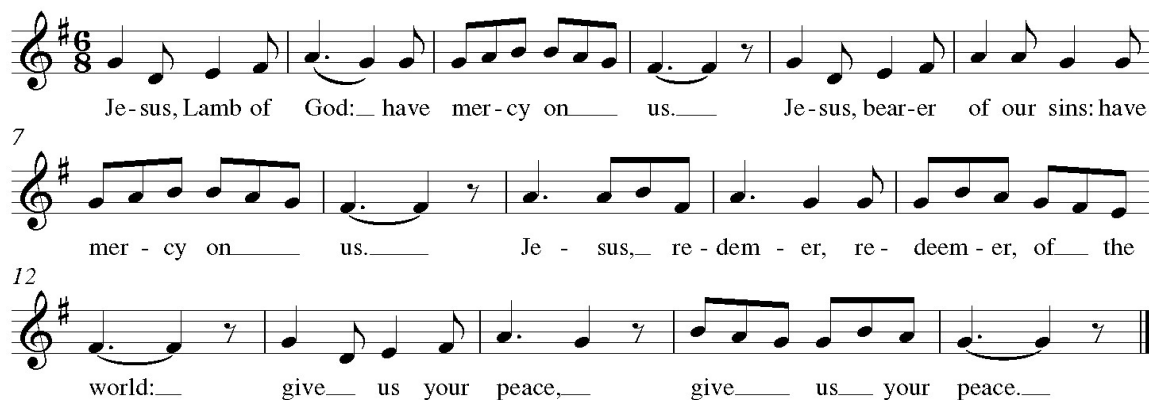
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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

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 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 #314 “Humbly I adore thee”

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 WLP “We are marching in the light of God”-insert

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

Coming Events

Thursday, November 6, 6:30-8 pm-Commemoration of the Council of Nicea-A meeting to discuss how the Nicene Creed is relevant today, seeking Christian unity in today's world. Fr. Brian will be one of the featured speakers. *Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave, Modesto*

Thursday, November 13, Celebrating Gratitude in our Community, 6 pm-Mixer, 7 pm-Presentations. Bring a donation of non-perishable food for the Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus (FIGS). *Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave, Modesto.* Organized by the Stanislaus County Interfaith Council.

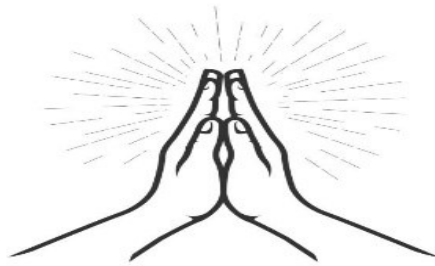
Sunday, November 16, Visit from Bishop David Rice-10 am Worship Service with Confirmations, Lunch Reception to follow. Watch for details in the coming weeks.

Saturday, December 6, 9 am-4 pm-Cookie Walk. Look for the sign-up sheets soon. We will need help in a variety of ways for short and longer periods of time, before, during and after this major fundraiser. Also, we need your favorite recipes for the first St. Paul's Cookie Walk Cookbook. Of course, bake..bake..bake!

Advent Candles

ADVENT CANDLES! 5 candles – 3 purple, 1 pink, and 1 white. Order a set of 5 candles for \$20 by calling the church office, (209) 522-3267. Order no later than Monday, November 10th.

They will be available to pick up before Advent begins, November 30



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Paige, Priscella, Loretta, Bonnie, Susan, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Mike, Jose, Rex S., Lora, Hennie, Kevin, Dorothy, Murray, Nellie, Gina, Lela, Pam, Debra, Ralph, Jim, Julie, Gary, Adrienne, Linda, Paul, Willie, Beth, Suzanne, Ralph, Roberta, James, Brandi, Darlene, Louise, Theresa, Rossana, Donna, Tony

Those who have passed away:

John Mickelson

Alex Piercy

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, Sunday School



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Bob and Clare Jensen
In Memory of Clare's Parents

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.

Sunday School

*The summer break is over and Sunday School has started! Special thanks to Chuck Sheaffer and Ann-Marie Lorenz for their leadership for several years. Ann-Marie will be continuing to teach the class as Chuck steps back, participating with music only. *We need to have two adults in the classroom during the class to assist Ann-Marie.* Please contact Fr. Brian if you are able to help. Let's welcome the youngest of our members together!*

Coffee Hour Help Needed

Can you help with Coffee Hour? Our weekly Coffee Hour after church has steadily grown over the past year. It's a great way to get to know each other better and welcome newcomers among us. Many people are needed to assist with providing snacks on a semi-regular basis. If you can help, please add your details to the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour.

October 2025 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Oct 5th	Oct 12th	Oct 19 th	Oct 26th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Gabe T. Alex S.	Nancy S. Carlos M.	Nancy S. Joyce B.	Judy T. Evelyn B.
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Rex A.	Alex S.	Linda L.	Linda L. Joyce B.
Lectors	Alex S. Theresa G.	Ann M. Nancy S.	Judy T. Joyce B.	Stephanie H-W. Barbara V.
Intercessor	Luis M.	Alex S.	Jose C.	Nancy S.
Ushers	Luis M. Claudine R.	Alex S. David L.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	David L. Carolyn L.
Greeters	Luis M. Claudine R.	Alex S. Lynelle H.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Lynelle H. David L.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Alex S.	Jose C.	Nancy S.
Coffee Hour Host	Linda L.	Bobbi B.	Sarah & Joyce	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

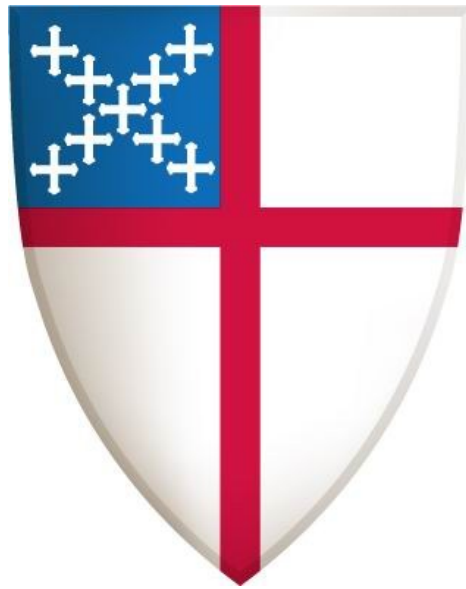
Vestry

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/)

