

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 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 #522 "Glorious things of Thee are spoken"

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, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever . **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;
he is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community
gathered here before you.

Bless us (+) and our Advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey
towards Christmas;
may the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in
hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rev Matthew Kozlowski (adapted)

First Sunday of Advent

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of
HOPE.

The candle is lit.

“We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.”

Let us pray:

**Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the
courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption
for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus
Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.”**

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122



- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

The second reading is from Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn Levas #7 “I want to be ready”

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 24:36-44

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Deacon Greg Masztal

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 against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

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.

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 #66 “Come thou long expected Jesus”

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.

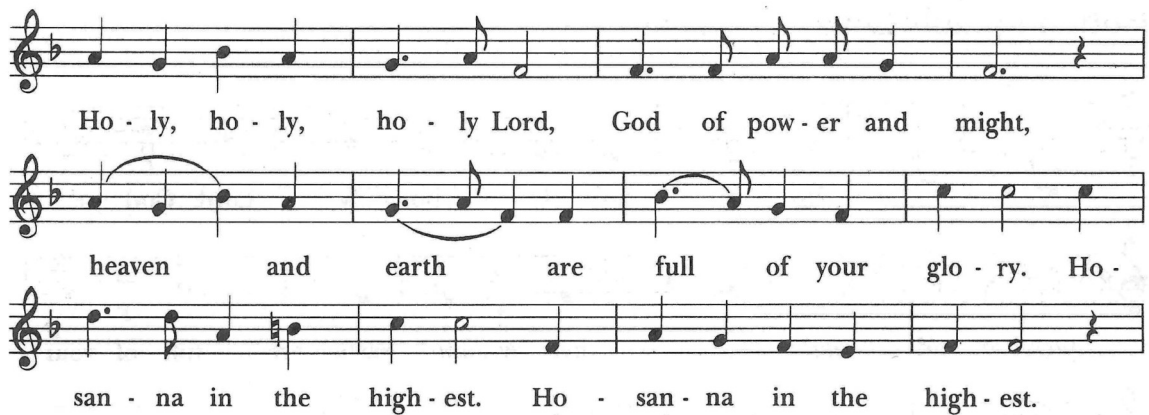
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

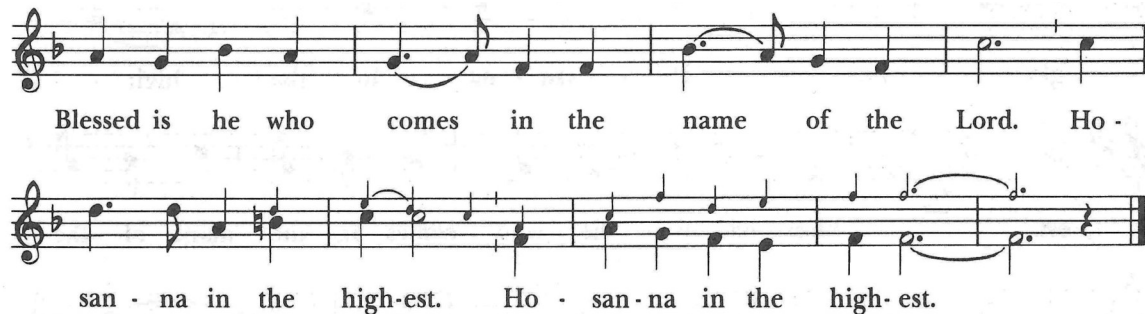
Proper Preface

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.



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 #150 “Jesus the Bread of Life”

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.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn #68 “Rejoice! Rejoice! Believers”

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

Cookie Walk 2025

Cookie Walk 2025 is planned for Saturday, December 6th, and will include more than the yummy cookies. The day will include pictures with Santa, music by various artists, multiple vendors, raffle prizes, craft time, and much more!

The sign up sheets are in the narthex, offering multiple opportunities to help make this day successful. Of course, we need LOTS of cookies!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far. We especially need help “walking” and helping everyone pick out their favorite cookies. This is your opportunity to interact with our members and guests as they discover the delightful, delicious cookies. The sign-up sheets offer specific time slots to fit your schedule.

Let’s get BAKING!!!

See Linda Lowe at church or in the office for tickets-\$12 per baker’s dozen of our best sweets!



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Paige, Priscella, Bonnie, Susan, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Mike, Jose, Rex S., Lora, Hennie, Kevin, Dorothy, Murray, Gina, James, Brandi, Darlene, Louise, Theresa, Tony, Ellen, Sandy, Claudine, Tony, Mindy, Ivy, Diane, Christine, Karen, Clare, Jim

Those who have passed away:

Donna Lawler

Donnie Lawler

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



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

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, December 2nd 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.

Deacon Greg's Pantry

Many thanks for all the generous donations to the pantry that Deacon Greg is building. The cart will continue to be available in the narthex to receive any non-perishable items, or stop by the office, Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30.

Questions? Contact Deacon Greg at deacongreg66@outlook.com.

November 2025 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Nov 2 nd	Nov 9 th	Nov 16 th	Nov 23 rd	Nov 30 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Bp. David Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Alex S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Jim P. Judy T. Evelyn B.	Nancy S. Carlos I.	Joyce B. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister	Linda L.	Joyce B.		Alex S. Sarah H.	Judy T.
Lectors	Alex S. Stephanie H-W.	Ann M. Nancy S.	Judy T. Joyce B.	Linda L. Ann M.	Stephanie H-W. Judy T.
Intercessor	Peter K.	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Peter K.
Ushers	Peter K. Claudine R.	Ann M. Carolyn L.	Claudine R. David L.	Courtney S. Claudine R.	David L. Carolyn L.
Greeters	Peter K. Lynelle H.	Ann M. Carolyn L.	Sarah H. Lynelle H.	Courtney S. Claudine R.	David L. Carolyn L.
Vestry Rep.	Peter K.	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Peter K.
Coffee Hour Host	Matthew, Jamie & Atlas	Sarah and Joyce	Lunch w/Bishop David	Linda L.	Jose C. Peter K.
Sunday School	Evelyn B.	Sarah H.	Confirmations	Ann M.	Evelyn B.

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, 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/)

