

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026



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 #150 “Forty days and forty nights”

During the season of Lent it is a custom in some places to begin the liturgy with a Litany of Penitence or The Great Litany. The original Great Litany is an ancient prayer and was the first English language prayer incorporated by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer into the liturgy of the Church of England. The version we use today is a more contemporary one. When The Great Litany or similar is used it is customary to omit the Prayers of the People later.

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel or sit before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Sit or kneel

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We confess to you.

Have mercy on us.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. We confess to you. Have mercy on us. All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. Have mercy on us. Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, we confess to you. Have mercy on us. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty. Have mercy on us.

Accept our repentance O God.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for

our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, have mercy on us.

Accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, have mercy on us.

Accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation.

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and compassion of your Son our Lord.

Bring us with your saints to the joy of resurrection.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

*The priest declares the absolution with the people responding **Amen.***

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; 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 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32



- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The second reading is from Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #149 “Eternal Lord of love”

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 4:1-11

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Deacon Greg Masztal

Following the sermon we spend some time in stillness. The beginning and end of this time is marked by the ringing of the prayer bowl.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 #188 "It is well with my soul"

Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

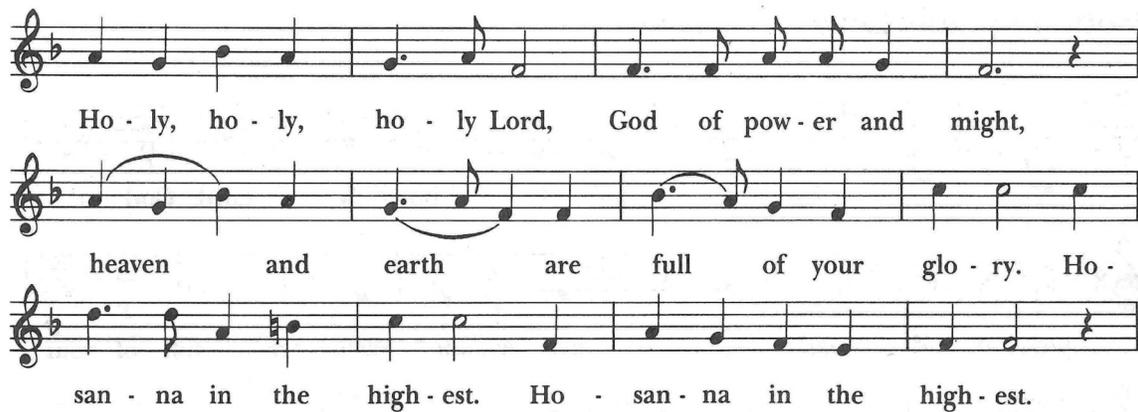
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

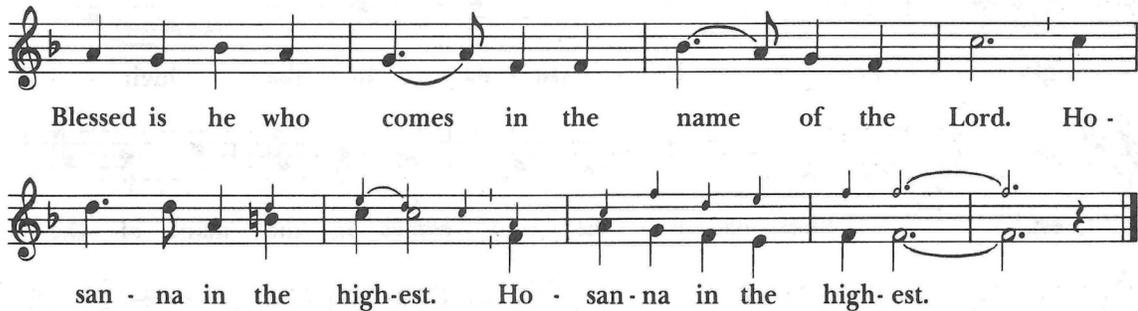
You call your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

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, gracious God,
 creator of the universe and giver of life.
 You formed us in your own image
 and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
 You gave the world into our care
 that we might be your faithful stewards
 and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;
 we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
 and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.
 Yet you never ceased to care for us,
 and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
 You delivered us from slavery,
 sustained us in the wilderness,
 and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
 Then, in the fullness of time,
 you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus.
 Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.
 Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
 opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this to remember 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus
Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons,
that with [_____ and] all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, 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. This is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for-ev-er. A-men

The bread is broken

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

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

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Come, for all things are now ready

All are welcome at God's table. If you would prefer a blessing please place your hands behind your back or arms crossed over your chest.

Communion Hymn #317 "This is the hour of banquet and of song"

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God is with you.

And also with you.

Together, let us pray.

Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

During the Lenten season in place of a blessing the priest offers a prayer over the people

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”-insert

Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Services During Lent

Sunday: 8 am Rite 1, Chapel

Tuesday: Noonday Prayer, Guadalupe Chapel, Parish Hall

Thursday: 10 am Eucharist, Guadalupe Chapel, Parish Hall



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Darlene, Jim, James, Christine, Ivy, Lindsay, Stephen, Tyler, Susie, Fr. Nick, Ann-Marie, Christy, Gail, Matt, Anita, Rosalie, Mary-Beth, Cynthia, Jerry, David, Harry, Roy, Linda, Sarah, Arnold, Fog, Lani, Jean

Those who have passed away:

Brian Carmody

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

February 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Feb 1 st	Feb 8 th	Feb 15 th	Feb 22 nd
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Joyce B. Alex S.	Judy T. Jim P.	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Joyce B. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Alex S.	Sarah H.	Linda L.
Lectors	Stephanie H- W. Judy T.	Ann M. Alex S.	Stephanie G. Nancy S.	Linda L. Theresa G.
Intercessor	Alex S.	Carolyn L.	Luis M.	Rosanne M.
Ushers	Claudine R. David L.	David L. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Luis M.	Claudine R. Rosanne M.
Greeters	Claudine R. Lynelle H.	David L. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Luis M.	Claudine R. Rosanne M.
Vestry Rep.	Alex S.	Carolyn L.	Luis M.	Rosanne M.
Coffee Hour Host	Linda L.	Stephanie G.	Stephanie G.	Lisa B.
Sunday School	Sarah H.	Evelyn B.	Ann M.	Sarah H.

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

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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

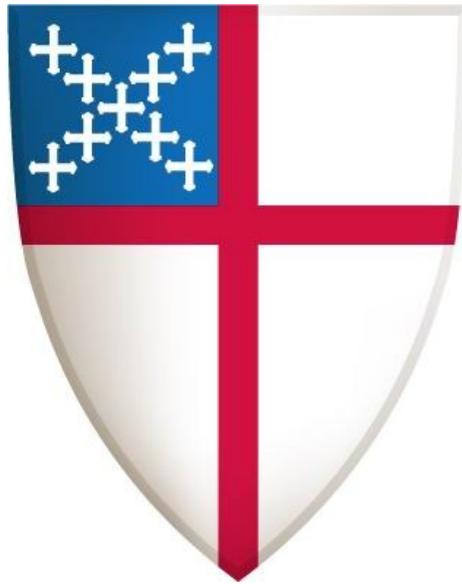
Vestry

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

Joyce Bell, Jose Cruz, Peter Krewko, Carolyn List, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz,
Rosanne Mountain, Alex Sarina, & Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Brandi Anderson

Vestry Clerk: Linda Lowe



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/)

