

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany
February 8, 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

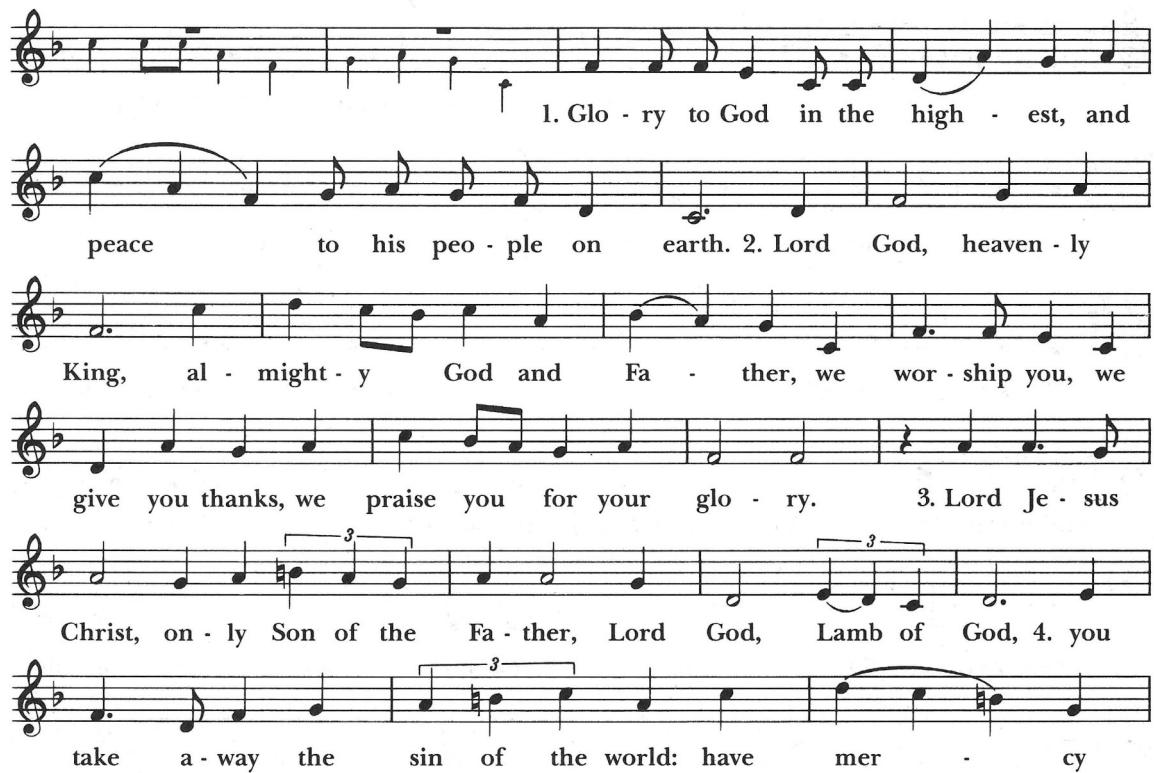
Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn #372 “Praise to the living God”

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
 and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

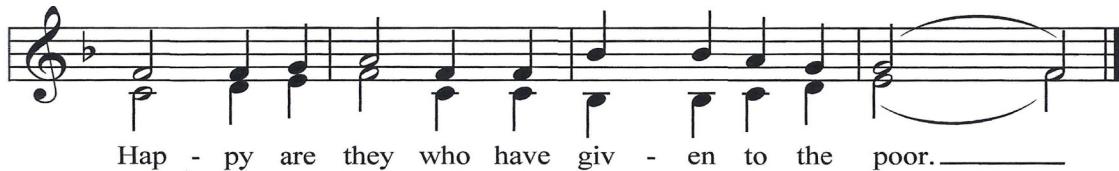
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9



Hap - py are they who have giv - en to the poor.

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn Levas #160 "This little light of mine"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 5:13-20

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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 grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

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 Levas #118 “I will sing with the Spirit”

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.

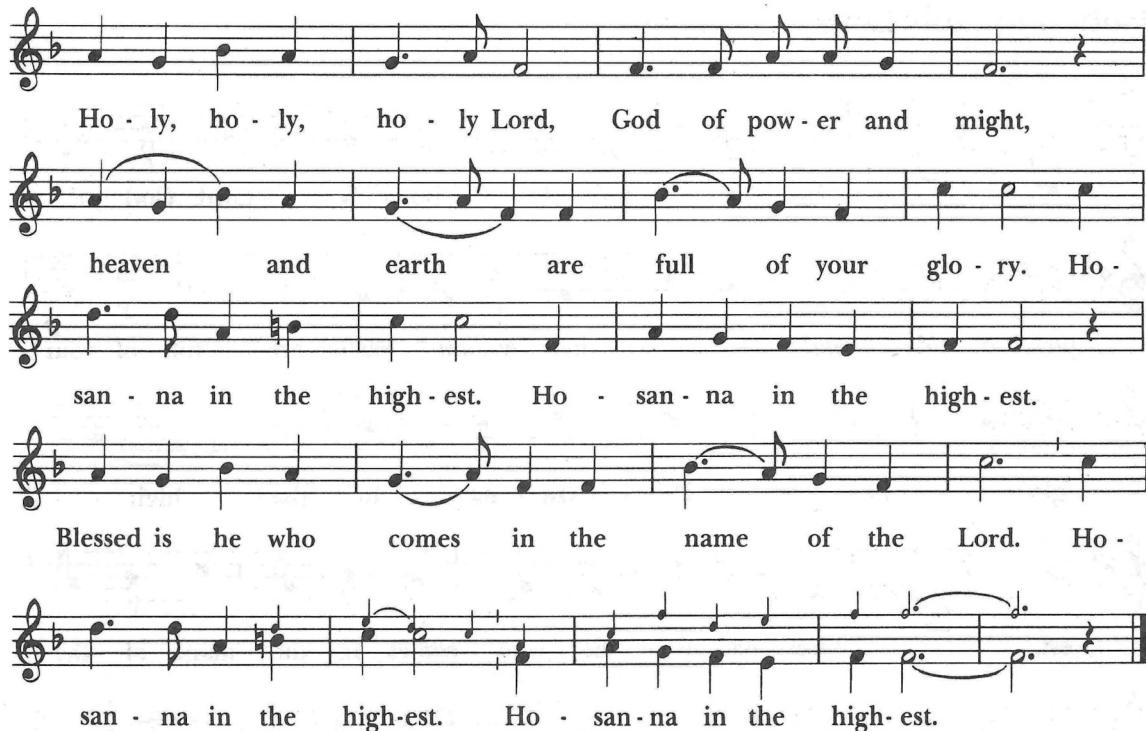
It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

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.**

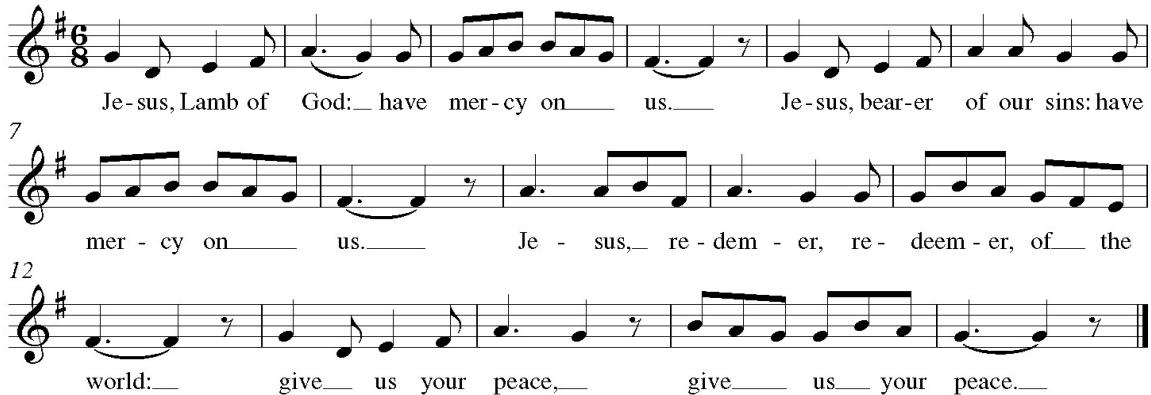
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas es, As we for-give those who tres pass a-against 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.



7
12

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.

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 #436 “Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates”

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Schedule Changes

Tuesday, February 10-Thursday, February 12-Fr.Brian and Deacon Greg will be at ECCO for the Clergy Conference. *In case of an emergency, Fr. Brian may be reached via call or text, 209-897-1612. For pastoral needs, please contact Stephanie Gilmer.*

No Thursday Eucharist this week.

Monday, February 16-Office closed in honor of President's Day.



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annmary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Darlene, Jim, James, Maureen, Christine, Mindy, Ivy, Diane, Lindsay, Robert, Stephen, Peter, Dorothy, Susan, Tyler, Susie, Fr. Nick, Ann-Marie, Christy, Dean, Gail, Matt, Anita, Rosalie, Mary-Beth, Cynthia, Jerry, Rex, David, Harry

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, Altar Guild



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Rosalie Carmody in
Memory of Loved Ones

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Tuesday February 17th – Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! We will prepare for Lent with delicious pancakes and a friendly team competition. The Scouts will be providing pancakes and we'll thank them with a free-will donation. Fr. Brian will be conducting a Lenten Quiz.

Dinner starts at 5:30 pm. Come and be part of the fun!

Wednesday February 18th – Ash Wednesday

There will be Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes services at 10 am and 5 pm, as well as 'Ashes to Go' at the entrance to the church between noon and 1.00 pm.

Lenten Studies 2026

Our main Lenten Studies series will focus on Liturgy and Worship in the Episcopal Tradition. The series will be Sundays, noon-1:30 pm after Coffee Hour. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex or through the church office.

Other Worship and Study Opportunities

Noonday Prayer and Bible Study-Noon-1 pm-Guadalupe Chapel (Parish Hall)

Morning Prayer via Zoom-10 am-Contact the church office for the link

Mid-week Eucharist and worship-10-10:30 am-Guadalupe Chapel

Sunday, February 22nd

Eagle Scout Court of Honor: Jayden Robinson will receive his Eagle Badge for renovating the yard at Sierra Vista Child and Family Services. St. Paul's Family invited to attend. Details to follow.

February 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Feb 1 st	Feb 8 th	Feb 15 th	Feb 22nd
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

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

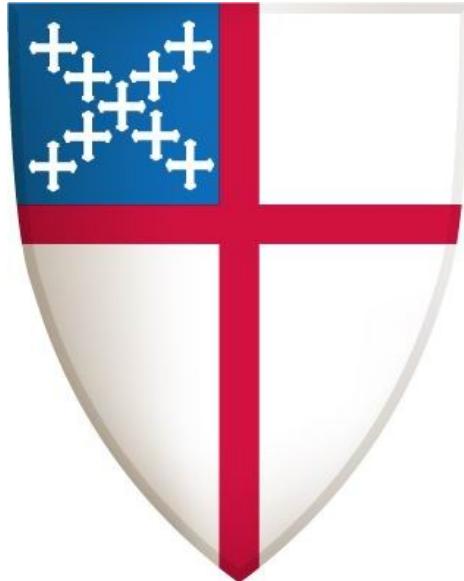
Vestry

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

Joyce Bell, 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/)

