

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***The Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 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 #401 “The God of Abraham praise”

During Lent we begin our liturgy with prayers of penitence and confession

In the name of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

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 offers an absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Pause

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Genesis 12:1-4 a

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121



- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The second reading is from Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly,

such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn Levas #206 “We walk by faith”

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3:1-17

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the

sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson

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.**

Prayers of the People

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 #448 "O love, how deep, how broad, how high"

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.

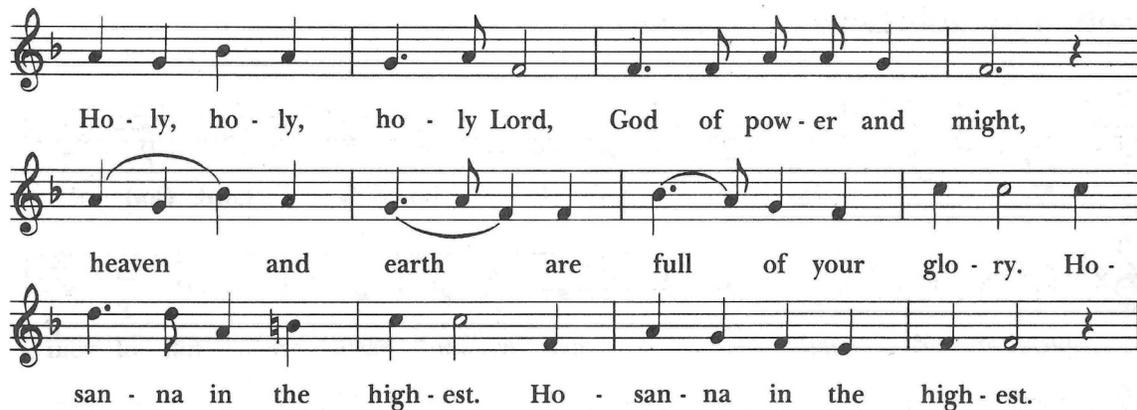
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

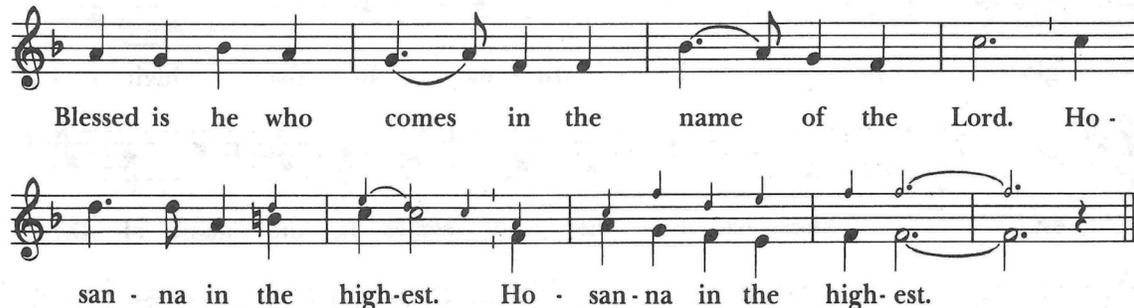
You call your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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-owed 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-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

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 WLP "As we gather at your table"-insert

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, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #473 “Lift high the cross”

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, Chapel



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, Susie, Fr. Nick, Ann-Marie, Christy, Matt, Anita, Rosalie, Mary-Beth, Cynthia, David, Roy, Linda, Sarah, Arnold, Fog, Cami, Jean, Casey, Ashy, Marlene, Faith, Ralph, Sebastian

Those who have passed away:

Noelle Strain

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

Spring Announcements

Lenten Studies - begin today (March 1st) at noon following Coffee Hour. Our theme is **Liturgy & Worship in the Episcopal Tradition**. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes and all are welcome.

8am Services during Lent - Fr Brian will be holding a Rite 1 Eucharist service at 8.00am each Sunday during Lent. Note this service will not have music or homily. All are welcome.

Daylight Saving - a reminder that Daylight Saving begins next Saturday night when the clocks go forward!

Prayers for Bishop David and Bishop-Elect Greg - Bishop David officially ends his time as our Diocesan Bishop on March 31st. Bishop-Elect Greg will be ordained and installed as our new bishop on Saturday April 18th. Please keep both in your prayers during this time of transition and change.

Sunday School Helpers and Eucharistic Ministers - if you are interested in exploring either of these vital ministries at St Paul's please talk to Fr Brian.

Education for Ministry - Later in the year we will be re-launching this amazing program focused on education for lay people in the Church. EFM is a 4 year program covering areas such as Church History, Biblical Studies, Theology and much more. If you would like to find out more, talk with Nancy Silva who will be the Mentor for the program when it starts in Fall.

Knit One, Pray Too, Revisited

Beginning tomorrow, March 2 at 6 pm, Suzanne Antirien will coordinate a group to knit, crochet, or do other creative arts.

The group will meet the first Monday of each month in the Parish Hall, 6 pm-? **Contact Suzanne at 209-589-8472 with questions.**
Come join this fellowship time with a purpose!

Chrism Mass & Renewal of Vows

March 31, 2026

11am

St James Cathedral, Fresno

During this liturgy, the priests, deacons and representatives of both the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin and the Sierra Pacific Synod gather around the Bishop, who bless the Holy Oils for use in the coming year.

This liturgy is also a key moment in which the unity of the bishop with their priests and deacons is manifested and renewed. During the liturgy, the priests and deacons of the diocese and synod renew their vow of obedience to the Bishop and their commitment to serve all Gods' people.

At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to congregations of the diocese for use in the coming year.

Presider: The Rt. Rev. Jeff Johnson, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Gregory W. Kimura, Bishop-elect, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

RSVP to: canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org

All laity are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

You are invited to bring a sack lunch for fellowship following the service.

Clergy: alb & red stoles

March 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Mar 1 st	Mar 8 th	Mar 15 th	Mar 22 nd	Mar 29 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Nancy S. Joyce B.	Joyce B. Evelyn B.	Judy T. Jim P.	Nancy S. Alex S.	Judy T. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister		Linda L.		Linda L.	Joyce B.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W. Ann M.	Alex S. Nancy S.	Alex S. Theresa G.	Judy T. Linda L.	Stephanie H-W. Theresa G.
Intercessor	Peter K.	Joyce B.	Rosanne M.	Courtney S.	Alex S.
Ushers	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Carolyn L. David L.	Rosanne M. Carolyn L.	Courtney S. David L.	Alex S. Claudine R.
Greeters	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Lynelle H. David L.	Rosanne M. Carolyn L.	Courtney S. David L.	Alex S. Claudine R.
Vestry Rep.	Peter K.	Joyce B.	Rosanne M.	Courtney S.	Alex S.
Coffee Hour Host	Joyce/Sarah	Linda L.	Ann M.		Stephanie G.
Sunday School	Evelyn B.	Ann M.	Linda L.	Evelyn B.	Ann M.

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

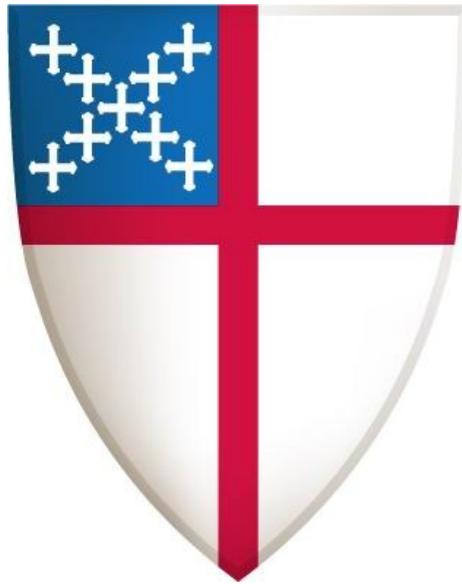
Vestry

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/)

