Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267
www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 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 #493 "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The first lesson is from 1 Samuel 16:1-13

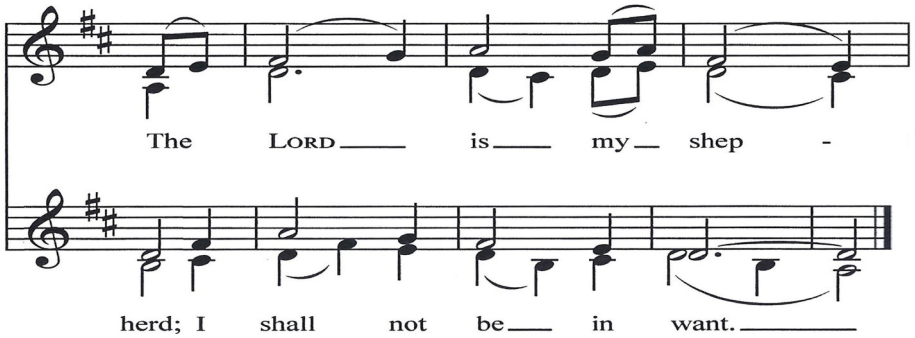
The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jes-

se, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23



1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The second reading is from Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn Levas #119 "Spirit of God, descend upon my heart"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 9:1-41

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on

the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they

said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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 #490 "I want to walk as a child of the light"

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.

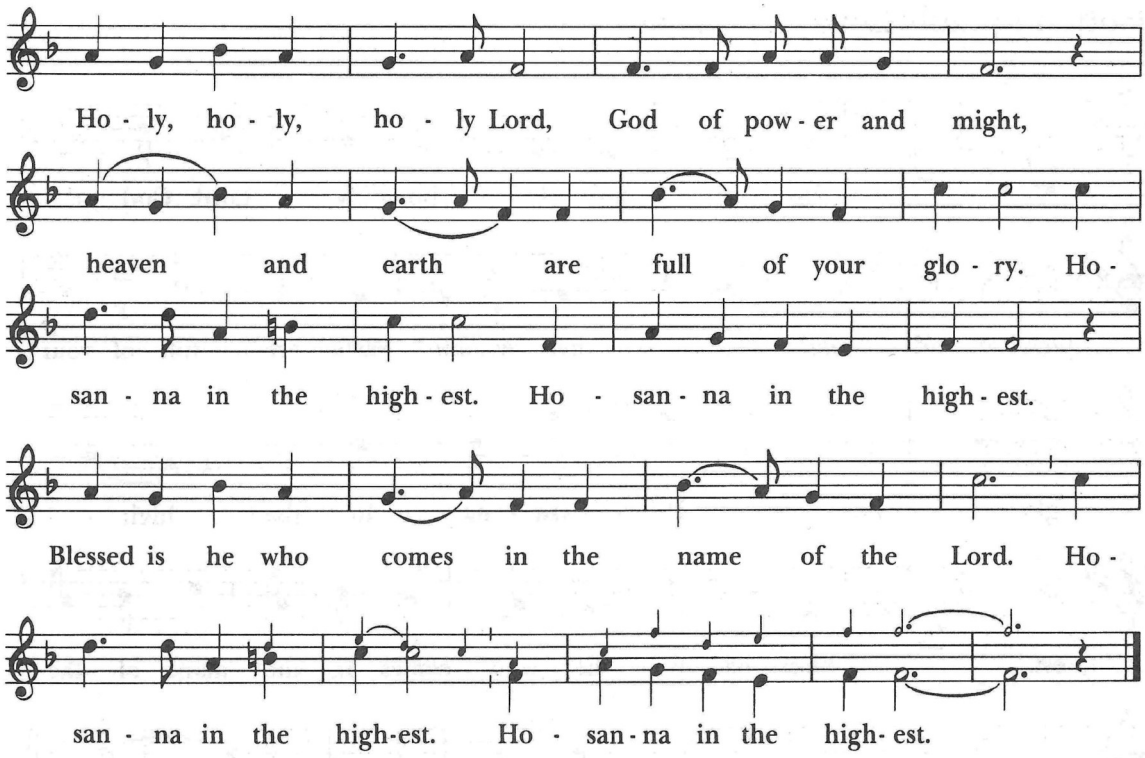
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

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



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."

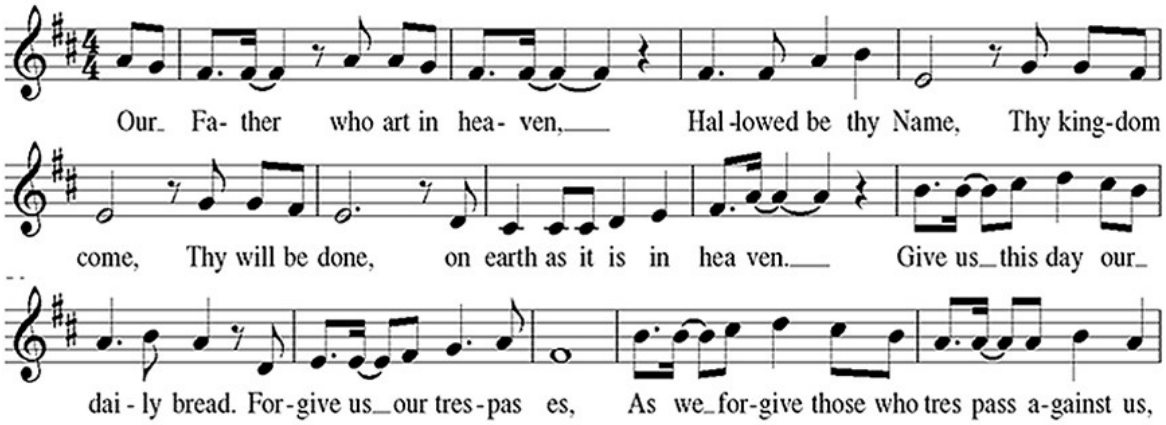
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

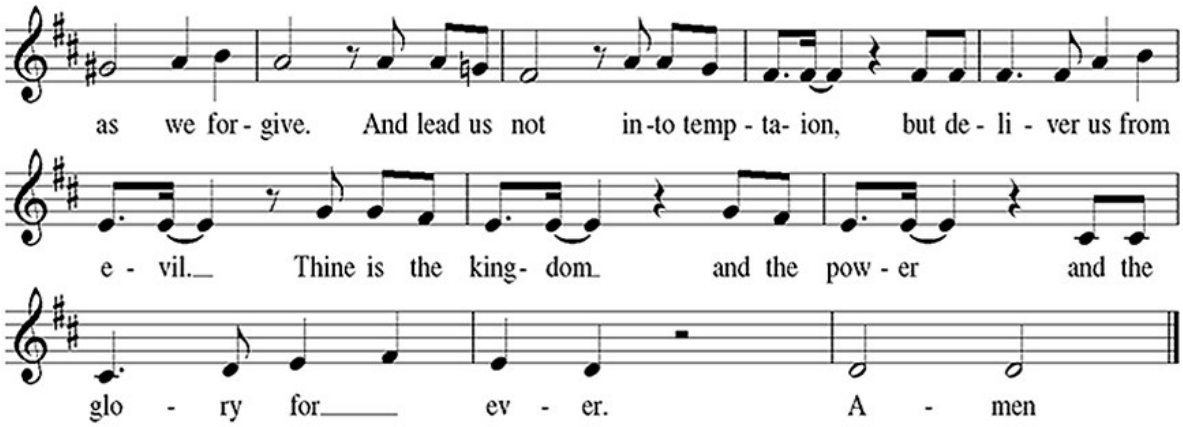
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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,

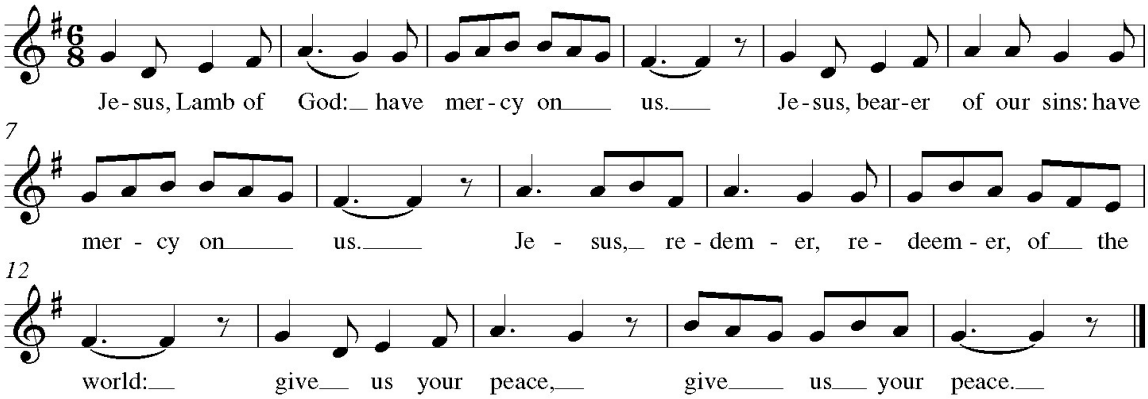




The bread is broken

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.



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 Levas #152 "Let us break bread together"

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

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great good they may be preserved ever-more; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #544 "Jesus shall reign"

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

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, Anita, Rosalie, Mary-Beth, Cynthia, David, Roy, Linda, Sarah, Arnold, Fog, Cami, Jean, Ashy, Marlene, Faith, Ralph, Sebastian, Kimmie, Doug, Phil

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 - 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.

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, (209)484-5710, who will be the Mentor for the program when it starts in Fall.

Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

Come one, come all….spouses, partners, friends…are all welcome!

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, Tuesday, March 17th at 2:30 pm.

The price for seniors is $15, including drinks.

For more information, contact Phil, 209-527-2727.

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 1st	Mar 8th	Mar 15th	Mar 22nd	Mar 29th Palm Sunday
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.
Eucharis-tic Minis-ter		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.
Interces-sor	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: 209-522-3267 ……..stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer ……...cbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teter ……jlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain ……stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle, Barbara Vassell ……stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztal ……..……deacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn List ……...……...carolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith……courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Vestry

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