

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 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

Processional Hymn: #191 Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The 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 Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Pause

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the first readings

The First Reading – Acts 2:42-47

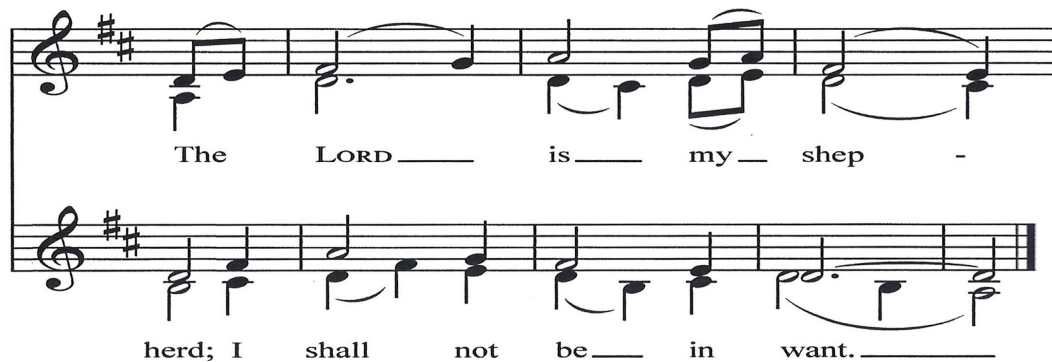
Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 – 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – #209 We walk by faith and not by sight

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

Alleluia

The Gospel Reading – John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The 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.

Nicene Creed

During the Easter Season the creed is led from the font while the priest sprinkles the congregation with water.

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.

The 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

The peace of Christ, crucified and risen, be with you. Alleluia!

And also with you. Alleluia!

We are encouraged to share signs of Christ's peace with those around us

Offertory Hymn - Earth Day Song-see insert

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By Christ's death he has destroyed death,
and by Christ's rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with Angels and Archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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 give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love
 which you have made known to us in creation;
 in the calling of Israel to be your people;
 in your Word spoken through the prophets;
 and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

For in these last days you sent Jesus
 to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In Christ, you have delivered us from evil,
 and made us worthy to stand before you.
 In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth,
 out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us,
our Savior Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, and said,
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

[Deacon] Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember Christ’s death,

We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,

We await Christ’s coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ
and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,
through whom we are acceptable to you,
being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ,
and bring us to that heavenly country where,
with [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of

your children;

through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Risen Savior Christ has taught us, so 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-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, 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 Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
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 Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come for all things are now ready.

All are welcome at God's table. Please indicate if you would prefer a gluten free wafer and/ or grape juice.

If you would prefer a blessing please place your hands behind your back.

Communion Hymn - Levas #151 One bread, one body

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

Let us pray together.

**Loving God,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands
the bread of life.
Strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn - #205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

The Dismissal

Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins.
Go now to love and serve the Risen Lord.
Go in Peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Nifty Needles

Do you knit? Crochet? Sew? Other creative arts? Want an activity with others that will be a blessing to some of our neighbors?

Join the *Nifty Needles* group (formerly Knit One, Pray Too) the first and third Monday evenings, 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Blankets, etc. may be donated to residents in care facilities or another place/ministry that the group chooses.

Questions? Contact Suzanne Antirien, 209-589-8472.

Fellowship and Ministry Events

SWANA-Southwest Asia North Africa Heritage Month

Join Canon Anna for the Wednesday April 29th Zoom meeting at 6 pm to learn how to support our neighbors and dispel stereotypes as we heed Jesus' call to be Peacemakers.

Featured speakers include: Palestinian-American Episcopal Priest and Author, the Rev. Canon Leyla King; Episcopal Church Missioner for Latino Ministries, Karla Sikaffy Duplantier; Haji Reza Nekumanesh of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno.

Registration and the Zoom link available from Canon Anna,
canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org

Café Shalom at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1700 Sherwood Ave, Modesto

Sunday, May 3rd, 9 am-1 pm—Enjoy Delicious Food, Entertainment, Sanctuary
Tours and More!

Tickets-\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, 4-10 years old-\$15, 3 years and under-
FREE

Tickets available through the website, www.cbsmodesto.org, or by calling 209-
571-6060

Please let Linda in the office know if you're going. A group will head over there
following the service on May 3rd.



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Toni Clark in Memory of her
Wedding Anniversary

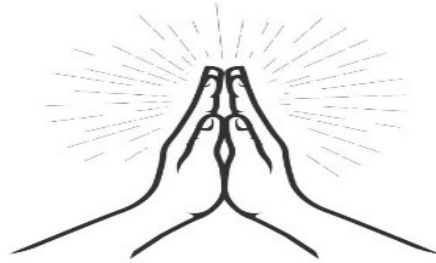
COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S (& BEYOND)

- May 3 Café Shalom @ Congregation Beth Shalom
May 10-15 Fr Brian on leave
May 24 Feast of Pentecost
May 29-30 Diocesan Lay Ministry Conference @ ECCO
May 31 Parish Lunch & Forum

Family Promise Meals – We have been invited to contribute to feeding those being supported by Family Promise whilst living at Church of the Brethren. This will require pre-prepared meals for 20-25 people once per month. If you would like to be part of a team involved in this please add your name to the sheet in the church narthex or let Linda know in the Parish Office.

Diocesan Lay Ministry Conference – This is happening at our Diocesan Conference Centre in Oakhurst at the end of May. It is for anyone involved or interested in lay ministry. If you are interested in attending please let Fr Brian know.

Easter is Fifty Days! A reminder that we remain in the Easter Season until May 24th, so keep bringing your bells, wearing bright colors and being joyful!



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Gayle, Karen, Ellen, Jim, James, Ivy, Lindsay, Susie, Anita, Roy, Linda, Sarah, Fog, Ashy, Marlene, Ralph, Sebastian, Kimmie, Doug, Phil, Whitney, Nancy, Alan, Mudge, Fr. Jorge, Sean, Breonna, Sharon, Laurence, Ava, Suzie, Pam, Don, Lela, Reva, Kaylee

Those who have passed away:

Keith Munroe

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

April 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Apr 5th	Apr 12th	Apr 19th	Apr 26th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Joyce B. Evelyn B.	Nancy S. Gabe T.	Nancy S. Jim P.	Judy T. Alex S.
Eucharistic Minister	Linda L.	Alex S.	Joyce B.	Bobbi B.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W. Judy T.	Alex S. Nancy S.	Theresa G. Ann M.	Judy T. Linda L.
Intercessor	Carolyn L.	Ann M.	Peter K.	Alex S.
Ushers	Carolyn L. David L.	Ann M. Claudine R.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	David L. Linda L.
Greeters	Carolyn L. David L.	Ann M. Claudine R.	Claudine R. Lynelle H.	David L. Linda L.
Vestry Rep.	Carolyn L.	Ann M.	Peter K.	Alex S.
Coffee Hour Host			Joyce/Sarah	Stephanie G.
Sunday School	No Sunday School	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

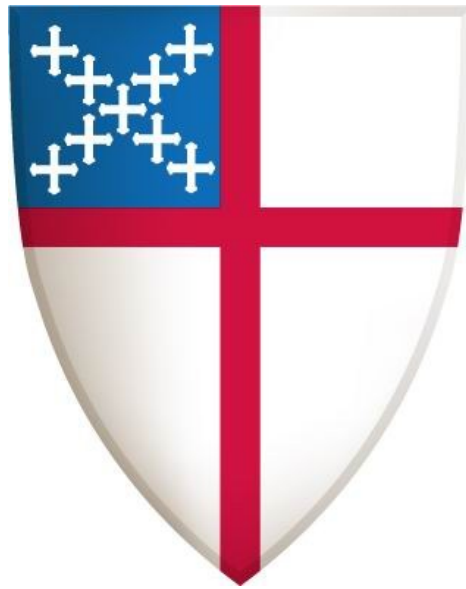
Vestry

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/)

