

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Nineth Sunday After Pentecost
July 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: #594 God of grace and God of glory

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

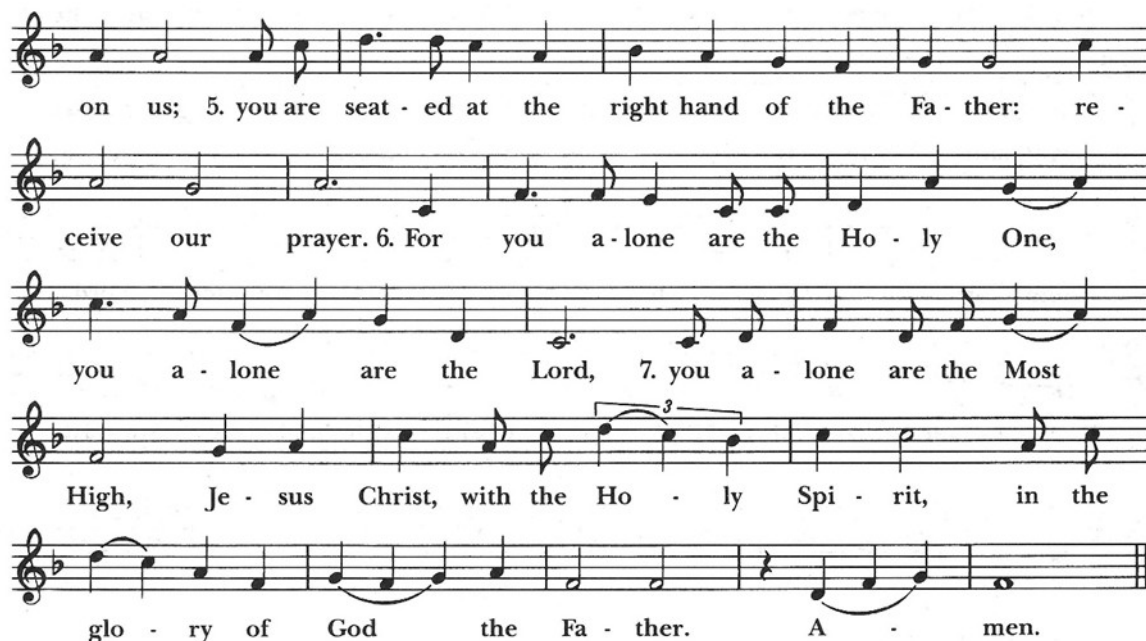
Amen.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The Collect

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Pause

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the first readings

The First Reading – Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b



- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
 - 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
 - 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
 - 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
 - 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
 - 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
 - 7 He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
 - 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
 - 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
 - 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
 - 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45b Hallelujah!

The Second Reading – Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – #711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven

is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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.

Prayers of the People

Confession & Absolution

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

I will confess my sins to the Lord,
I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.

**We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance.**

**Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.**

**Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

The priest says

God forgives you.

Forgive others;

Forgive yourself.

Silence

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:
approach your God in peace.

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 up-

on 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 be always with you.

And also with you.

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

Offertory Hymn - #488 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

The offerings are collected and prayed over, after which Fr Brian prays over the gifts of bread and wine:

Blessed are you, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

They will become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

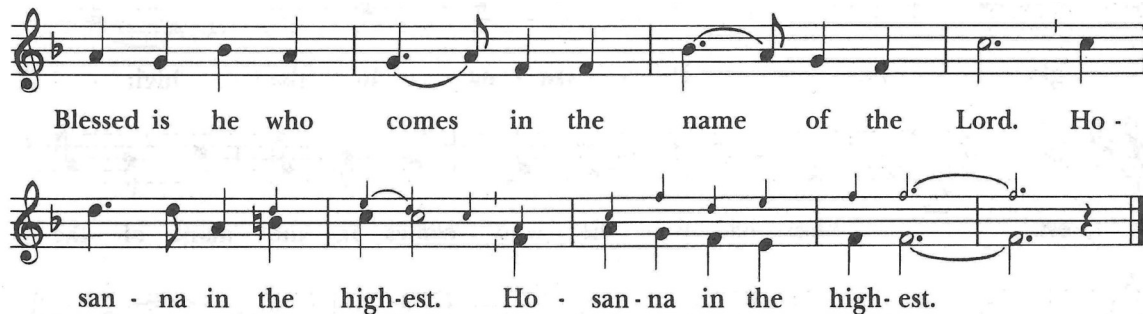
Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice
in the splendor of your radiance.

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,

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,'. The second staff contains 'heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'.

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.



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 heavenly 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 re-
membrance of me.”

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, sanctifying 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, redeemed 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 Greg and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

[Remember _____.]

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, (with _____)

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 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-tion, 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 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

mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the

world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation

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 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: WLP #812 I the Lord of sea and sky

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:

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: #530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Clare Jensen
Celebrating Her 80th Birthday

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

August 8 Memorial Service for Cherie Sheaffer

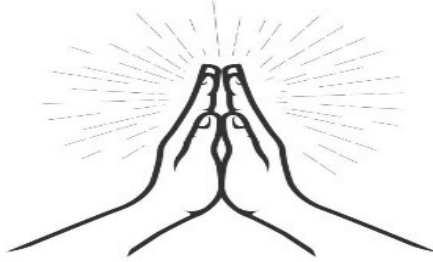
Celebrate and remember Cherie Sheaffer, August 8, 11 am with a lunch reception following the service. Sign up in the narthex or contact the church office to help with salads and cookies for the reception.

August 30 Parish Forum

A Prayer for Those To Whom the Sirens Rush

Dear St Paul's family, for nearly two years now as I've journeyed with you I, like us all, have heard the regular cry of emergency sirens past our doors and every time I pause for a moment and think "someone is having a very bad day." And for a while now I've meant to pen a brief prayer that you and we might like to offer whenever the sirens sound. That prayer is below and while from time to time I may suggest that we pause and pray it together, I invite you as you wish to say it silently when you feel so moved. Fr Brian

Keep watch, O God, over those who face perils and trials this day. Be with our first responders and those to whom they rush. May they for whom the sirens sound know your presence, your constant love and that our prayers are with them. Amen.



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Annamary, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Ellen, Jim, James, Ivy, Lindsay, Susie, Anita, Fog, Marlene, Phil, Nancy, Sharon, Peter, Maureen, Alfred, Clara, Michael, Sally, Kelly, Callium, MaryAnne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Kanyon, Clayton, Kevin, Louisa, Cynthia, Suzanne, Margaret, Clare, Sandy, Charlie, Debora, Ann Marie, Ginny

Those who have passed away:

Cherie Sheaffer

Those in the Military:

CPT Sam Birch, USA

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SGT Carson Repan, USAF

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

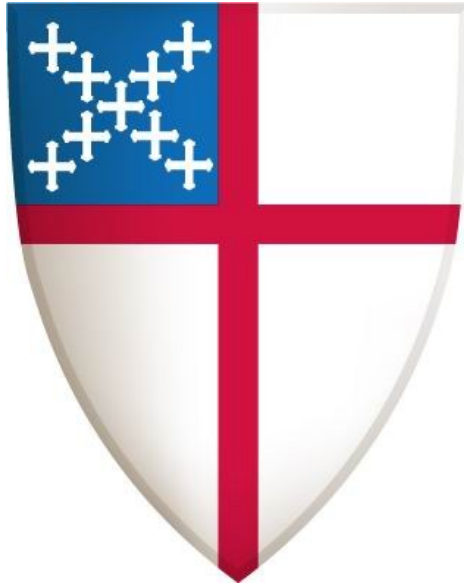
SSG Brandon Wegener, USAF

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Salvation Army Dinners

July Ministry Schedule

Dates	July 5th	July 12th	July 19th	July 26th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.	Joyce B. Gabe T.	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Judy T. Alex S.
Eucharis- tic Minis-	Linda L.	Bobbi B.	Ann M.	Joyce B.
Lectors	Stephanie H- W. Judy T.	Peter K. Linda L.	Nancy S. Ann M.	Theresa G. Claudine R.
Interces- sor	Luis M.	Carolyn L.	Courtney S.	Joyce B.
Ushers	David L. Luis M.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Courtney S. Claudine R.	David L. Linda L.
Greeters	Lynelle H. Luis M.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Courtney S. Claudine R.	Linda L. Lynelle H.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Carolyn L.	Courtney S.	Joyce B.
Coffee Hour Host	Sarah & Joyce	Stephanie G.	Stephanie G.	Peter K. Bolig Family
Sunday School	Linda L.	Evelyn B.	Linda L.	Ann M.



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/>

