

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 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: #544 Jesus shall reign

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

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

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Pause

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’”

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’”

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse

along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:11-18



- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

The Second Reading – Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – Levas #101 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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 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 be always with you.

And also with you.

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

Offertory Hymn - #482 Lord of all hopefulness

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.

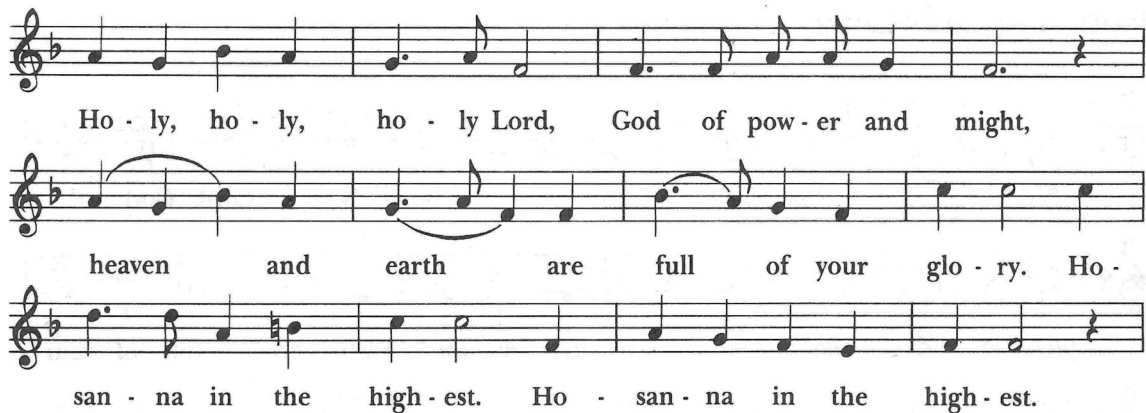
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,



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 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 David 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-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 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 you 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: #317 This is the hour of banquet and of song

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: #719 America the Beautiful

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

St Paul's Summer Retreat - "Introduction to The Enneagram" - on Saturday July 18 Rev. Debra Brady will lead our summer retreat focused on the Enneagram, a powerful tool grounded in ancient wisdom and woven together with principles and insights of modern psychology. The day runs from 9am-3pm and there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Today will be the last day to sign up.



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Stephanie Gilmer
In Memory of Her Beloved Father

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

July 14 Senior Lunch, Golden Corral, 2:30 pm

July 18 Summer Retreat, 9 am-3 pm

Sanctuary Hosts - Fr Brian is seeking volunteers who would be willing to spend a couple of hours weekly, fortnightly or monthly to keep our church doors open. The vision is to have St Paul's front doors open at least two hours each day during the week, with signage inviting anyone looking for a place of peace and calm to come in and spend some time simply being. If this is something you could help with please talk to Fr Brian and/or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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, Whitney, Nancy, Mudge, Sharon, Peter, Maureen, Alfred, Clara, Michael, Sally, Kelly, Callium, Mary Anne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Kanyon, Clayton, Kevin, Andy, Louisa, Theresa, Cynthia, Brandi

Those who have passed away:

Cherie Sheaffer

Those in the Military:

CPT Sam Birch, USA

CPT Fred Campbell, USAF

MAJ Jenavieve Johnston, USAF

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SGT Carson Repan, USAF

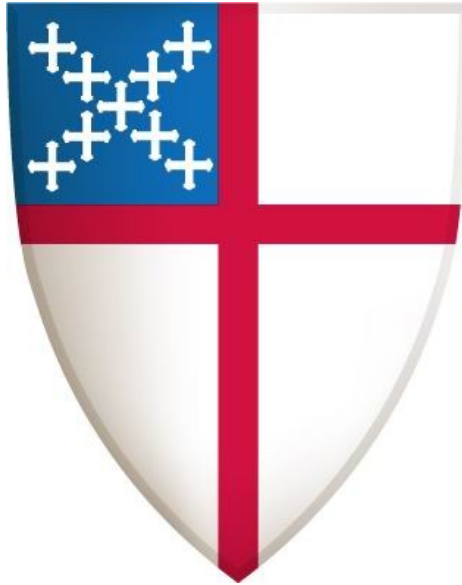
LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Sunday School

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.
Eucharistic 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. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.
Greeters	Lynelle H. Luis M.	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Courtney S. David L.	Claudine R. Lynelle H.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Carolyn L.	Courtney S.	Joyce B.
Coffee Hour Host	Sarah & Joyce			Peter K.
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/](https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/)

