

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
August 16, 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: #537 Christ for the world we sing

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

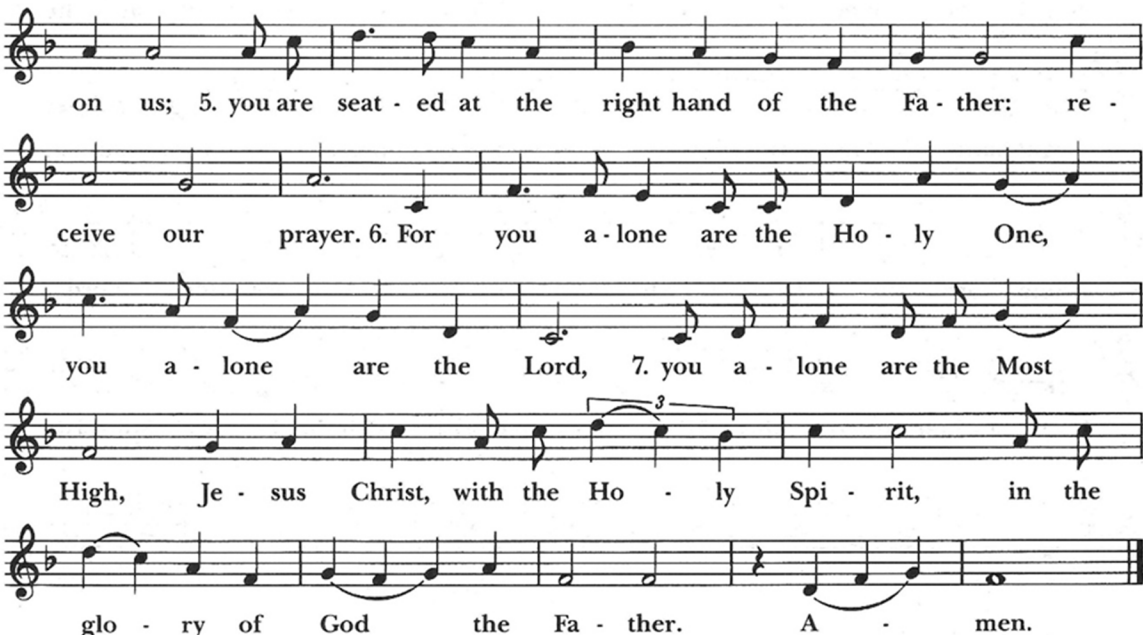
Amen.

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the first readings

The First Reading – Genesis 45:1-15

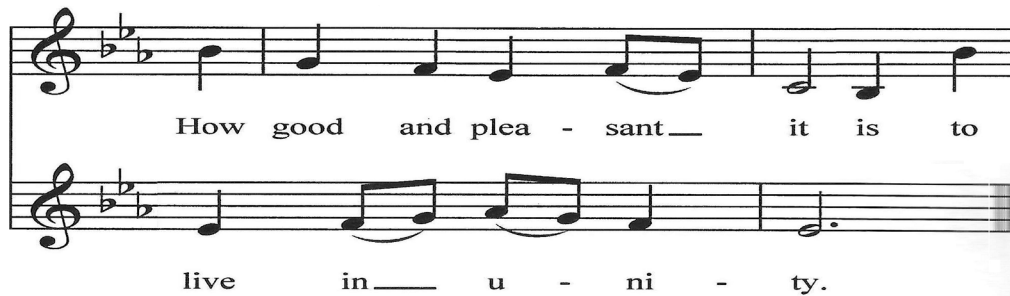
Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133



- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Reading – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy

shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – #533 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 15:10-28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disci-

ples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 - #709 O God of Bethel

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

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)

Holy and gracious God:

In your infinite love you made us for yourself;
 and, when we had fallen into sin
 and become subject to evil and death,
 you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ,
 your only and eternal Son,
 to share our human nature,
 to live and die as one of us,
 to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross,
 and offered himself in obedience to your will,
 a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God,
in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension,
we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit
to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son,
the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also
that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament,
and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace;
and at the last day bring us with all your saints
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior.
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.**

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-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
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.

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: #321 My God, thy table now is spread

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: #371 Thou, whose almighty 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

August 26 — Women's Equality Day: Our Work of Love and Justice

Each year on August 26, we observe Women's Equality Day, commemorating the long struggle for women's right to vote and reflecting on the continuing work of equality. For Christians, this day is more than a historical observance. It invites us to consider what our faith calls us to do when the dignity, voice, and God-given gifts of any person are diminished or denied.

The story of women's equality is also a story of faithful people who believed that society could more fully reflect God's justice. Women and men of faith organized, advocated, challenged unjust systems, and persisted when change seemed impossible. Among these early leaders were Quaker women and their communities, whose belief in the spiritual equality of women and men helped provide an important foundation for the American women's suffrage movement.

Faithful Women Who Changed the Church

The Episcopal Church has its own powerful history of women who challenged barriers and expanded our understanding of God's call to ministry and leadership.

In 1974, eleven women—later known as the **Philadelphia Eleven**—were ordained to the priesthood in an historic service at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. At the time, the ordination of women to the priesthood was not authorized by the canons of The Episcopal Church. Three retired or resigned Episcopal bishops participated in the ordinations, which resulted in condemnation and significant opposition within the Church. Yet their courageous action helped force the Church to confront the question of whether God's call to ordained ministry could truly be limited by gender. In 1976, General Convention approved changes allowing women to be ordained to all three orders of ministry, with the changes taking effect in 1977.

Their witness stands alongside that of other remarkable Episcopal women, including **the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray**, a pioneering attorney, civil rights advocate, and the first Black woman ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church, and **the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris**, the first woman ordained a bishop in The Episcopal Church and the wider Anglican Communion. These women remind us that faithful change often begins when someone is willing to stand where others have not yet been willing to stand.

August Ministry Schedule

Dates	August 2nd	August 9th	August 16th	August 23rd	August 30th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Joyce C-Evelyn	A-Nancy C- Gabe	A-Judy C-Joyce	A-Nancy C-Alex	A-Joyce C-Evelyn
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Bobbi Ann		Linda	Ann	Judy Linda
Lectors	Stephanie H- W. Judy	Peter Linda	Theresa Ann	Claudine Nancy	Stephanie H- W Judy
Interces- sor	Ann	Peter	Luis	Alex	Carolyn
Ushers	Ann David	Claudine Linda	Luis David	Claudine Carolyn	Carolyn Linda
Greeters	Ann Lynelle	Claudine Linda	Luis Lynelle	Claudine Carolyn	Carolyn Linda
Vestry Rep.	Ann	Peter	Luis	Alex	Carolyn
Coffee Hour Host			Joyce and Sarah	Peter and Jose	Parish Forum
Sunday School	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God With Thanksgiving

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

August 16 Pride Prom Movie Fundraiser-TODAY

To help raise funds to support the annual Pride Prom hosted here at St. Paul's we are having a special screening of the movie "Priscilla Queen of the Desert". The movie will show after Coffee Hour at approximately noon. Entry is by donation and all are welcome (although the movie may not be so suitable for children).

August 30 Parish Forum

Hear the latest news from your Vestry. Bring your favorite summer entrée or dessert. Get to know your fellow parishioners.

Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers

Fr. Brian is keen to recruit 2 or 3 more people for these important ministries that support our worship life. If you would like to know more, please speak to him.

A Prayer for Those To Whom the Sirens Rush

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, Fog, Marlene, Phil, Nancy, Sharon, Peter, Maureen, Alfred, Clara, Michael, Kelly, MaryAnne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Kanyon, Clayton, Kevin, Suzanne, Margaret, Sandy, Charlie, Debora, Ginny, Rosanne, Marcus, Carol, Frank, Trudy, Susan, Ann-Marie

Those who have passed away:

Cherie Sheaffer

The Rt. Rev. Jerry Lamb

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, Eucharistic Ministers

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

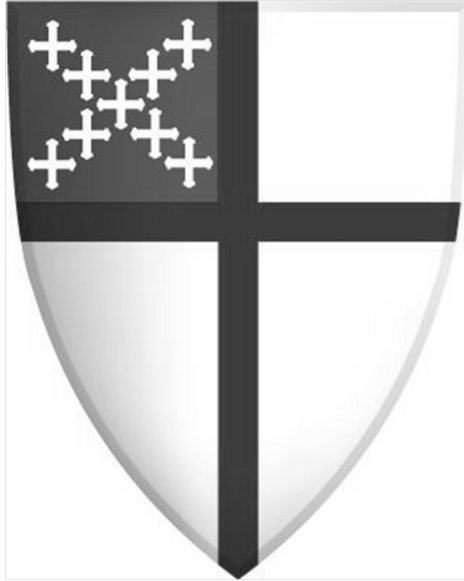
Vestry

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/)

