

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 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: #477 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

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 declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
 Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises,
 may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

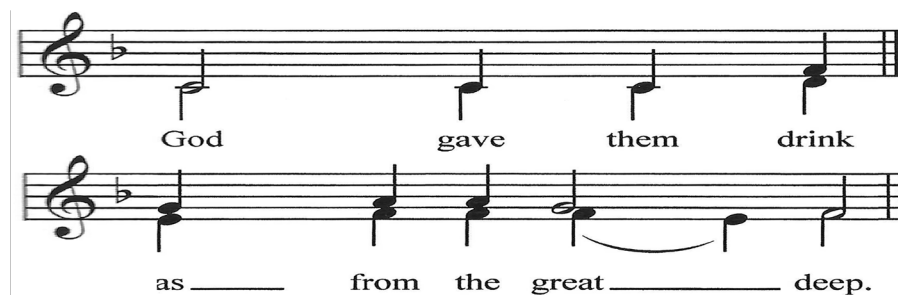
The First Reading – Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16



1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – #685 Rock of ages, cleft for me

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Christ

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the

people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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 Music - "Mozart Sonata in C Major, 1st Movement for Four Hand Piano"-Jennifer Loftus & Chuck Sheaffer

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 forever 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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember Christ’s death,

We proclaim Christ’s resurrection,

We await Christ’s coming in glory;

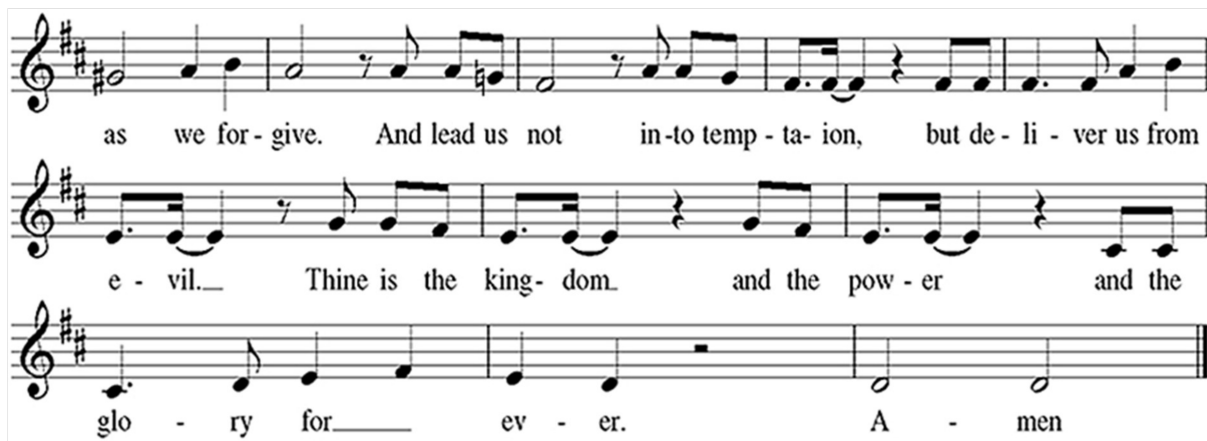
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you,
O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

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.**

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,



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: #339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

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: Levas #205 Trust and Obey

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

September Ministry Schedule

Dates	Sept 6th	Sept 13th	Sept 20th	Sept 27th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Nancy C-Gabe	A-Judy C- Evelyn	A-Joyce C-Nancy	A-Nancy C-Evelyn
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Judy Joyce	Linda Ann	Bobbi	Stephanie G. Linda
Lectors	Stephanie H- W Claudine	Peter Linda	Theresa Ann	Judy Nancy
Interces- sor	Joyce	Courtney	Peter	Rosanne
Ushers	Claudine David	Courtney David	Linda Carolyn	Rosanne Carolyn
Greeters	Claudine David	Courtney Lynelle	Linda Carolyn	Rosanne Lynelle
Vestry Rep.	Joyce	Courtney	Peter	Rosanne
Coffee Hour Host	Bolig Family	Ann	Debra B.	Matt & Jamie
Sunday School	Evelyn	Sarah	Evelyn	Ann



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Bob & Clare Jensen
In Celebration of Their 50th Wedding Anniversary

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Season of Creation Celebration, September 1-October 4, 2026

The theme this year is "Living Water", inspired by Ezekial 47:1-12, which describes water flowing from God's sanctuary, bringing life and restoration to ecosystems and communities. The theme emphasizes ecological healing, hope, and the interdependence of humanity and nature. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Paws in the Pews-October 4, St. Francis Day

Blessing of the Pets service-start primping and preening those prized furry (and non-furry) friends.

MoPride in the Park-Saturday, October 10

We will be sharing an information table with our brothers and sisters from St. Francis, Turlock. Be looking for details about times and how we may be part of this great annual event.

HELP NEEDED

Junior Warden Peter Krewko is looking for someone with a weed wacker and about half an hour of time to handle some weeds in a critical area of the grounds. If you can help please call Peter, 707-853-3604, or Linda in the church office, 209-522-3267.



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, Marlene, Phil, Nancy, Sharon, Alfred, Clara, Michael, Kelly, MaryAnne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Suzanne, Charlie, Debora, Ginny, Marcus, Frank, Trudy, Susan, Alison, Darlene, George, Roy, Betty, Gabe, Janet, Bob

Those who have passed away:

Jaime Cruz

Nedra Voorhees

Donna Stephenson

Those in the Military:

CPT Sam Birch, USA

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

SSG Brandon Wegener, USAF

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Acolytes

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 Masztal deacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn List carolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

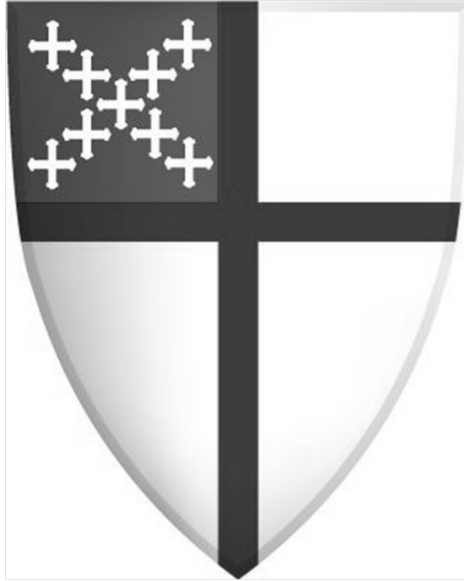
Vestry

Senior Warden: Courtney Smith (323) 652-1443.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com
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/)

