Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355
(209) 522-3267 www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 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.

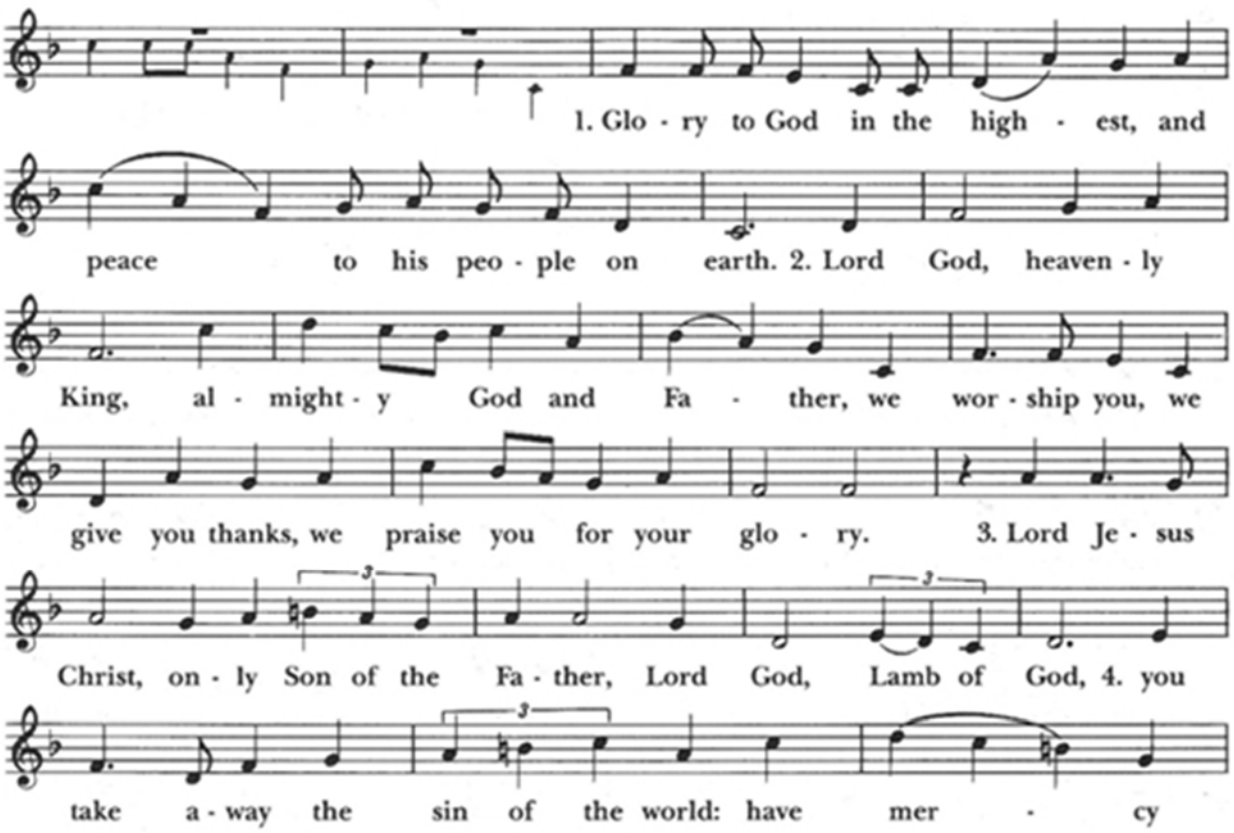
Prelude - Chuck Sheaffer

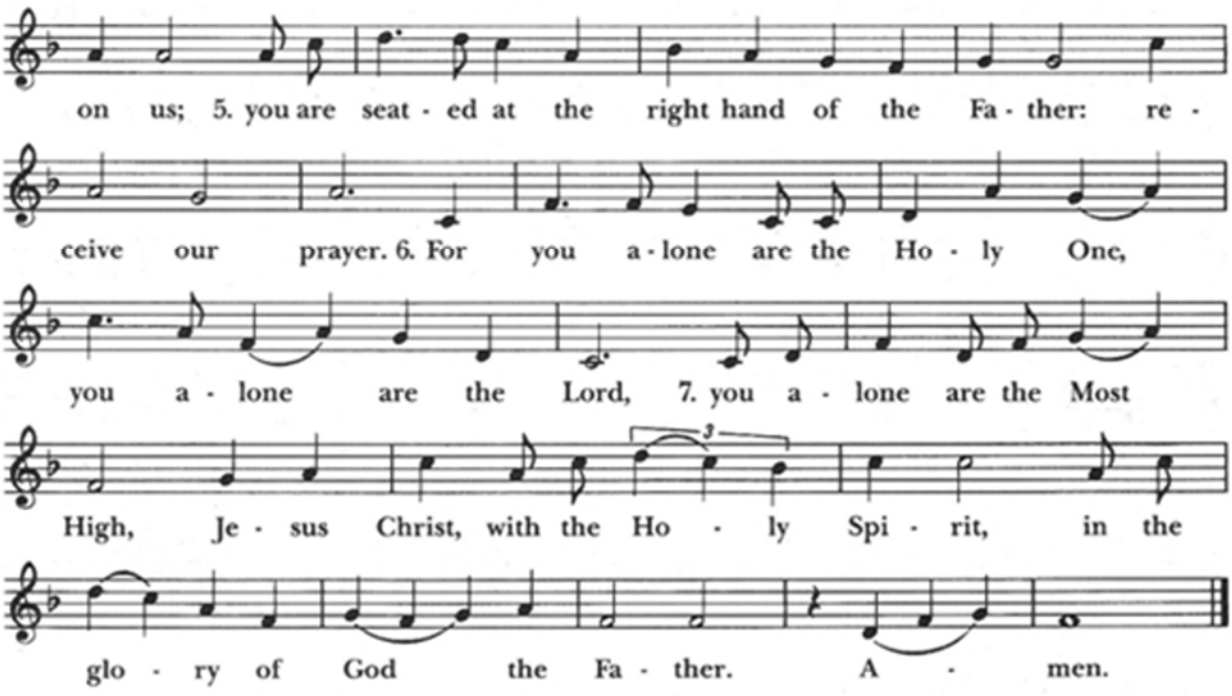
Processional Hymn – #632 O Christ the Word Incarnate

In the name of God: Creator, Christ and Giver of Life.
Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
welcome to this holy table;
welcome to you, for we are Christ's body,
Christ's work in the world.
Welcome to you whose baptism makes you
salt of the earth and light to the world.
Rejoice and be glad.
Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.
Amen.
Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

The Gloria





Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

God be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray

Pause

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***.

We sit for the first readings

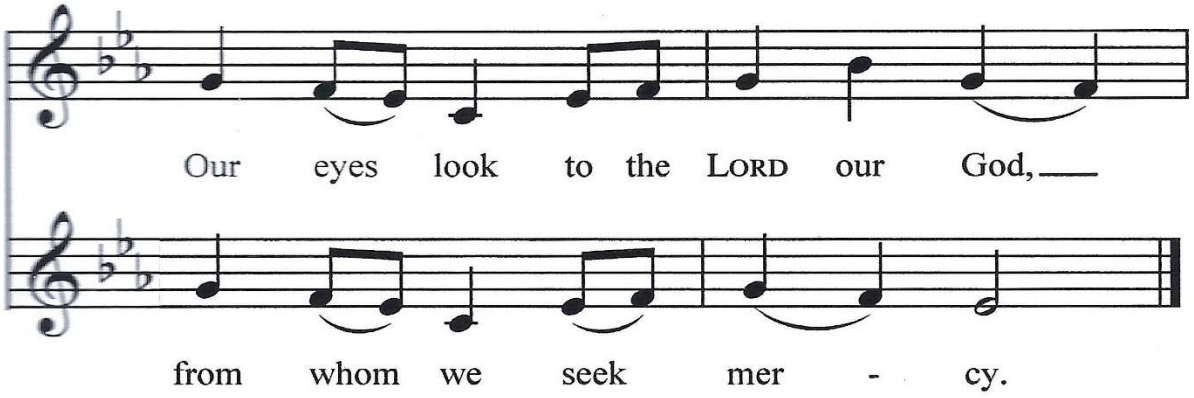
The First Reading-Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123



1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Second Reading –1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn #536 Open your ears, O faithful people

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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.

The Prayers of the People

Reconciliation

We come seeking forgiveness
for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;

and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.

The priest says
God forgives you; be at peace.

Blessings & 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 the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn #598 Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The offerings are collected and prayed over, after which the presider 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.

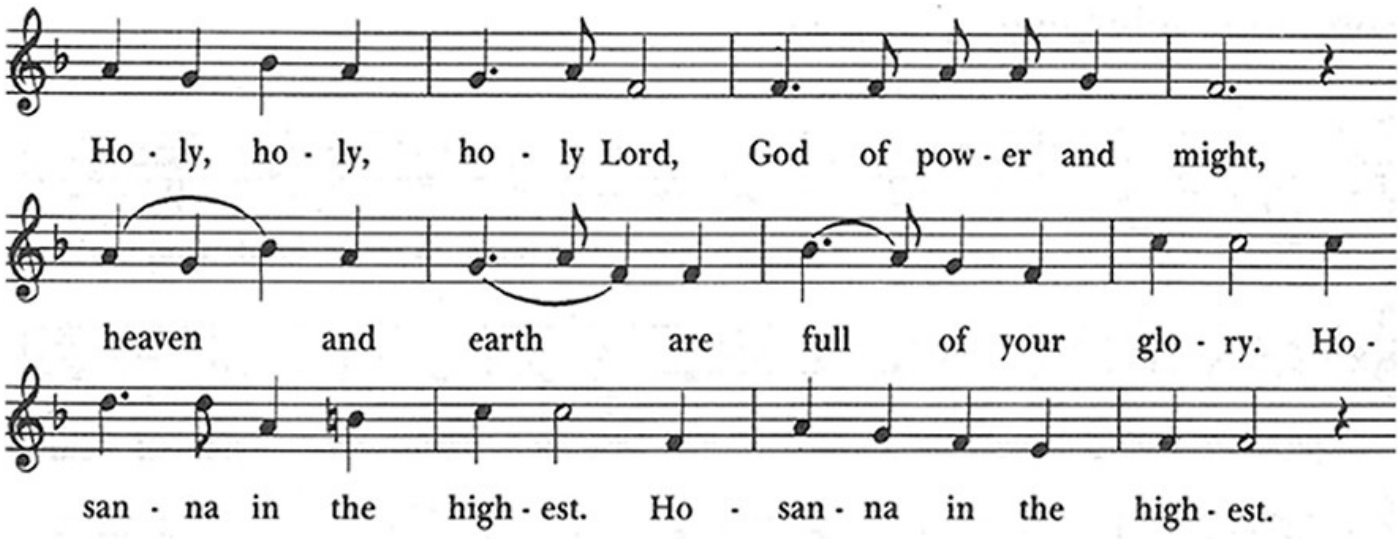
We lift them to the Lord.

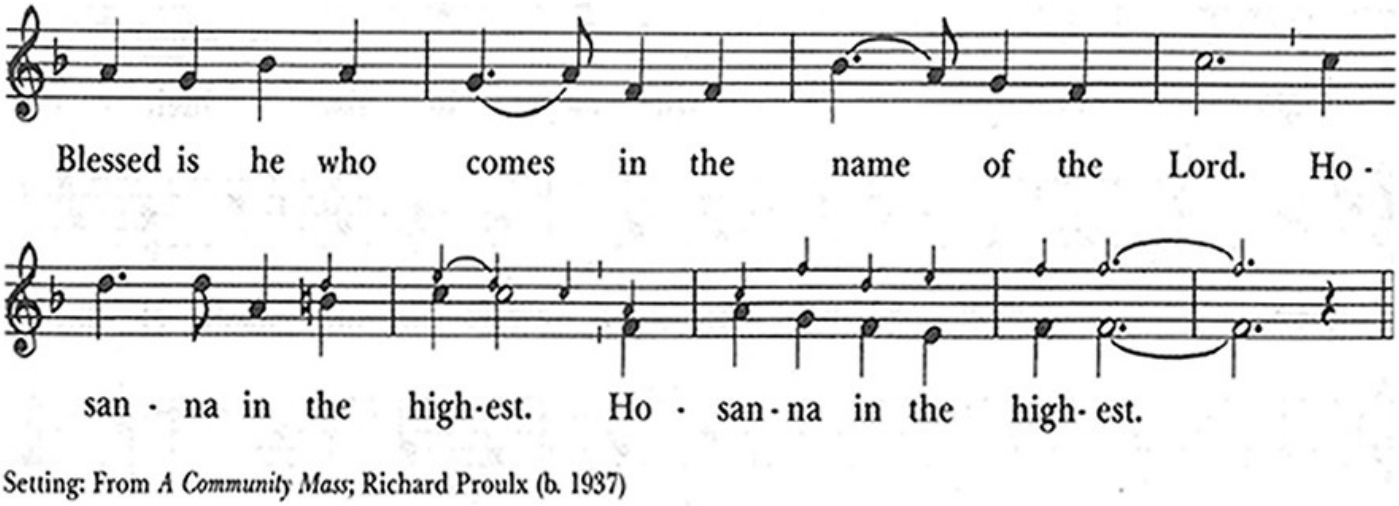
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him 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 forever. 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,





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 remembrance 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.
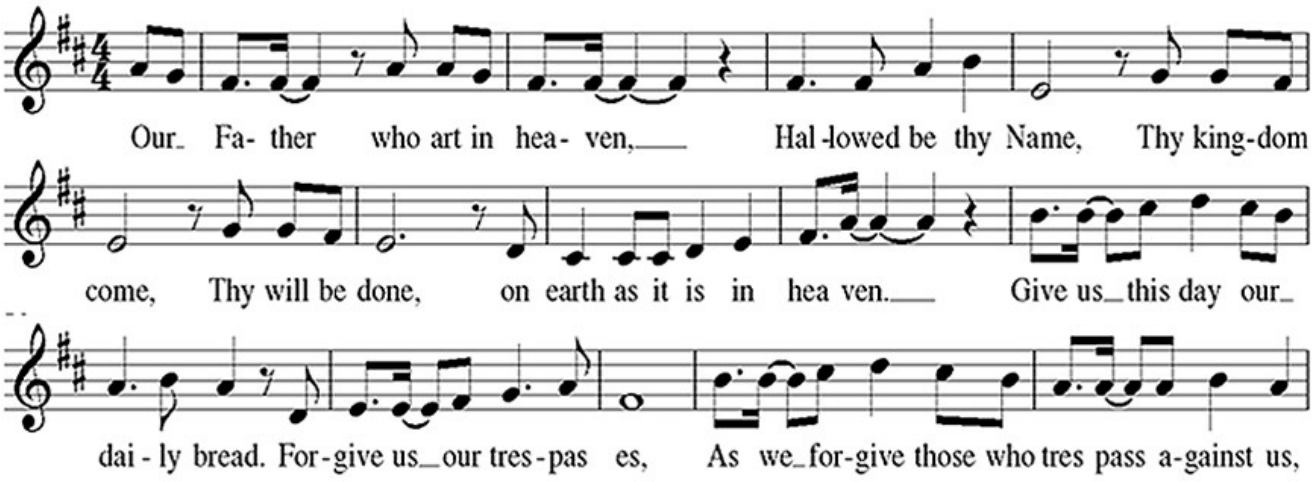
Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

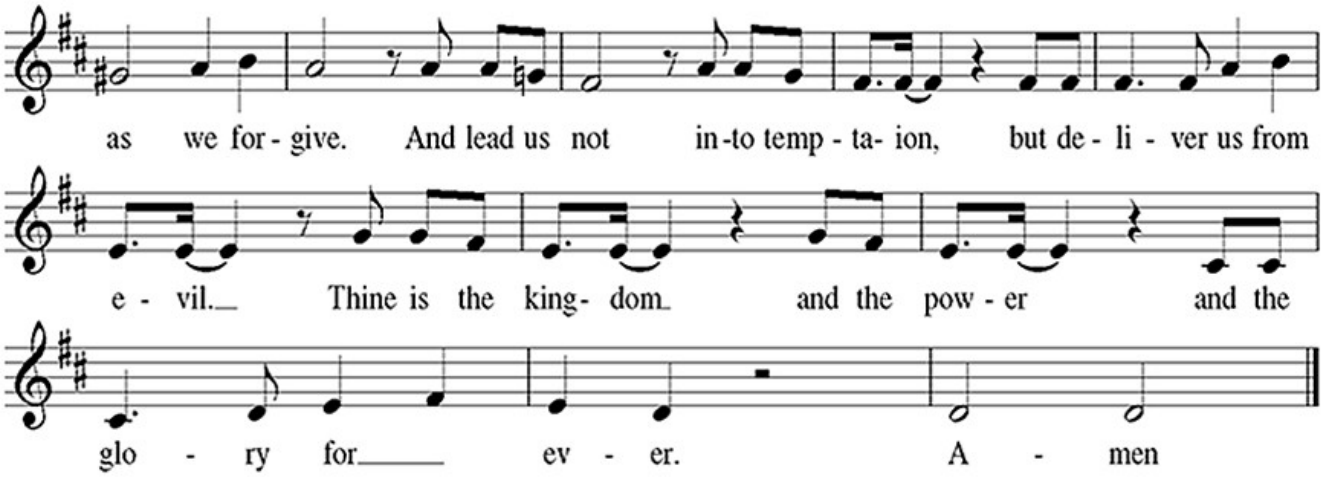
Remember our Presiding Bishop Sean, our Diocesan Bishop Greg and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all 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, 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 Lord.

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.**
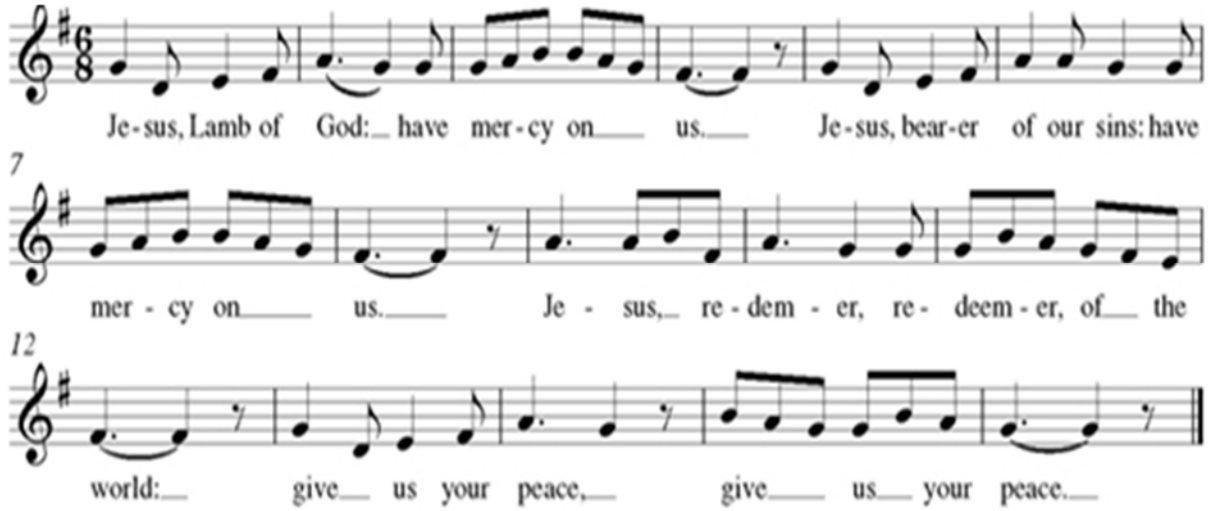
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,





The bread is broken

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



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 #146 Break thou the bread of life

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Silence may be kept

Blessed be God who calls us together.
Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.
Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.
Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.
Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.
Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.
Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

The Blessing

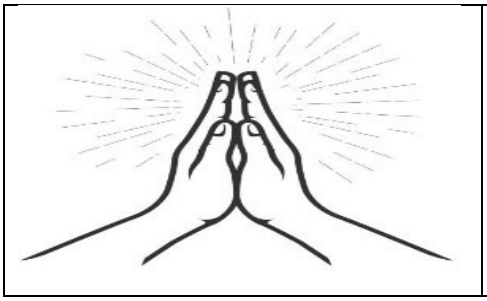
Recessional Hymn #680 O God, our help in ages past

The Dismissal of the Community

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude - Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105



PRAYER & 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, Susie, Marlene, Phil, Sharon, Al, Clare, Michael, Kelly, MaryAnne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Suzanne, Charlie, Debora, Ginny, Marcus, Alison, Darlene, George, Betty, Gabe, Janet, Rick, Bill, Seema, Brooke, Sue, Thomas, Nestor, Bob, Pam, Hugh

Those who have passed away:

All In Our Prayers

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, Salvation Army Shelter Dinner

The flowers at the altar today are given to
The Glory of God by Carolyn List
In Memory of her Grandmother Bernice Howells Knight

NOVEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE					
Dates	**Nov 1st**	**Nov 8th**	**Nov 15th**	**Nov 22nd**	**Nov 29th**
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Joyce C-Nancy	A-Judy C- Carlos	A-Judy C-Evelyn	A-Alex C-Gabe	A-Judy C-Evelyn
Eucharistic Minister	Ann	Linda	Bobbi	Joyce Linda	Ann
Lectors	Claudine Judy	Nancy Peter	Stephanie H-W. Linda	Peter Alex	Judy Claudine
Intercessor	Joyce	Courtney	Peter	Rosanne	Ann
Ushers	Claudine Carolyn	Courtney Carolyn	Linda David	Rosanne David	Ann Claudine
Greeters	Claudine Carolyn	Courtney Carolyn	Linda Lynelle	Rosanne Lynelle	Ann Claudine
Vestry Rep.	Joyce	Courtney	Peter	Rosanne	Ann
Coffee Hour Host	Hennie	Rev. Kathie	Sarah & Joyce	Kathy & Lykele	
Sunday School	Evelyn	Ann	Sarah	Evelyn	Sarah

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

Come one, come all….spouses, partners, friends…all are welcome!

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, Tuesday, *November 17th at 2:30 pm*.

For more information, contact Phil, 209-527-2727.

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Cookie Walk 2026
Saturday, December 5th, 9 am-4 pm

Cookie Walk 2026 is coming up fast! It will be in the Parish Hall, Saturday, December 5th, 9 am-4 pm. There will be opportunities for ***everyone*** to be involved with this annual fundraiser: **cookie bakers**; cookie "platers"; greeters; walkers that help customers pick the right 13 cookies for their box; box "preppers"; set-up crews; clean-up crews; ticket sellers; **cookie bakers and cookie bakers**. Time commitments may be an hour, several hours, or all day-**your choice**!

Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex or contact Linda in the church office, 209-522-3267, to offer your time and talent. **Tickets are available!!! See Linda today or come by the office. They make great gifts for family, friends, and neighbors.**

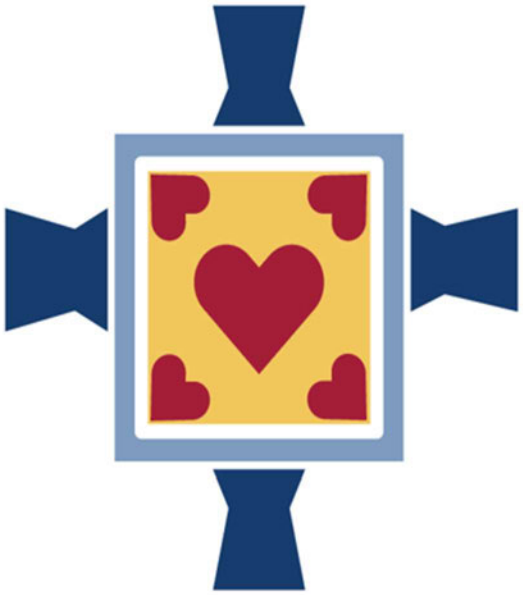
Did I mention that we need **lots of cookies?**

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A Prayer for Those the Sirens Rush To

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.


St. Paul's Episcopal Church
CHRISTMAS
COOKIE
WALK &
CRAFT FAIR
Saturday,
December 5th
9am-4pm
$12 Baker's
Dozen
call 209-522-3267
for info & tickets
Craft vendors contact: jeanandsuzie@yahoo.com
1528 Oakdale Rd | Modesto, CA



Plenty Good Room

This year's theme comes from the old spiritual *Plenty Good Room*, which speaks of abundance and welcome. Thanks to all who have returned pledge forms as we plan for 2027. The Finance Committee is working on the budget, and we are grateful for all the support.

This year we will be encouraged to think about our stewardship of our church plant and property, our pledges and financial resources, our people and those who come to us for help, and our planet as caring for our creation and the realities of a changing climate become ever more pressing.

It's not too late to return your pledge form. Please bring it to church on Sunday or to the office during the week. We have received commitments from 23 parishioners for $100,462 to date.

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)-522-3267 ..... stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer ..... cbshea@pacbell.net

Hand Bells, Judy Teter ..... jlpt@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Chain ..... stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

St. Paul's Epistle, Barbara Vassell .....stpaulsmodestoca@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) 853-3604 ..... pmkjfc@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/