Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 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 – Jennifer Loftus

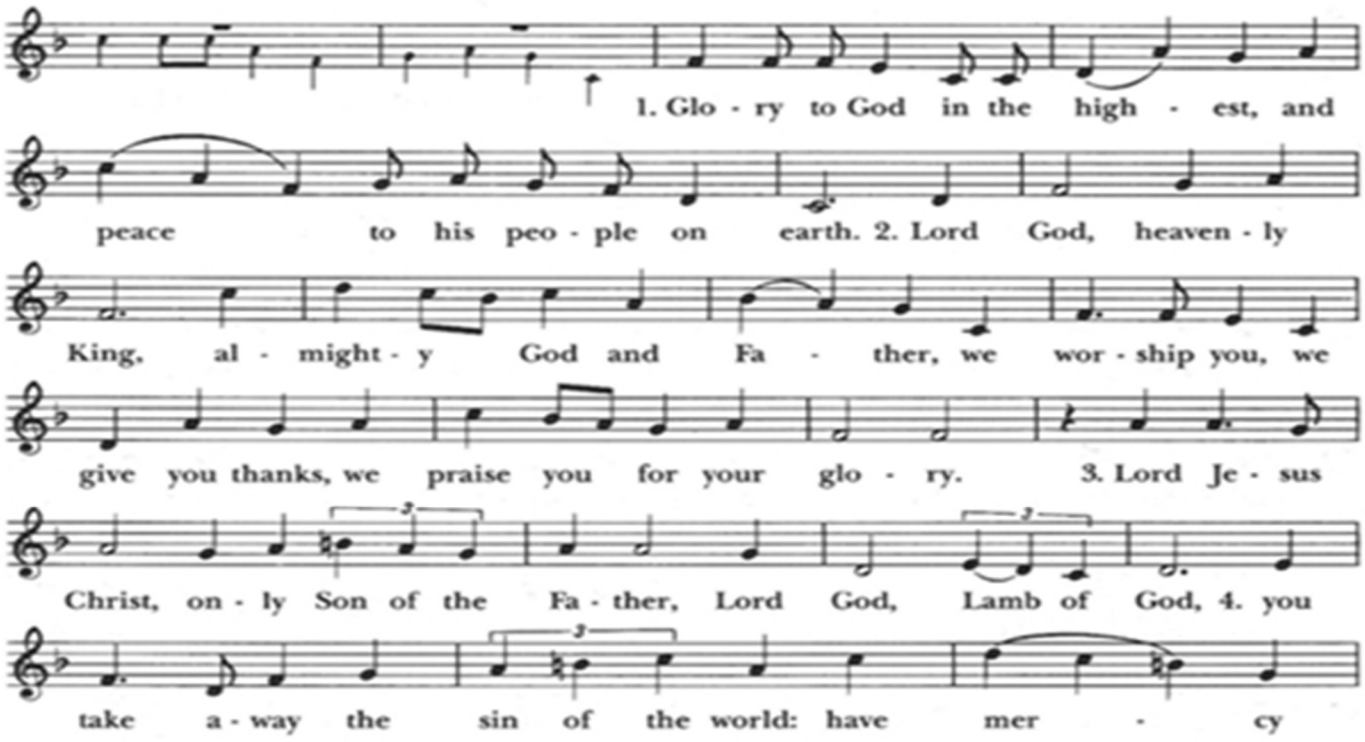
Processional Hymn – #61 Sleepers Awake

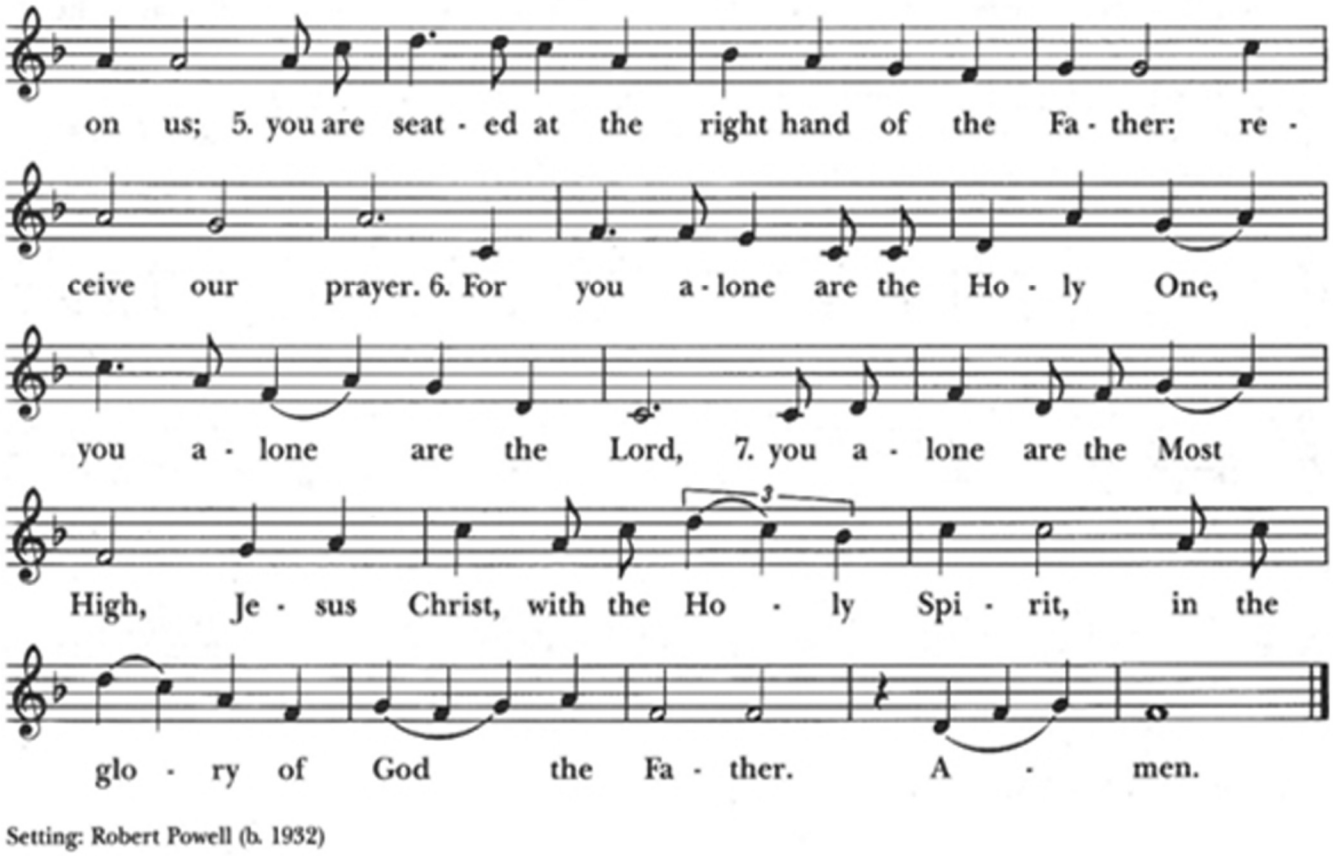
In the name of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Family of Christ,
welcome to this holy table;
welcome to joy,
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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.
He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;
he is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community
gathered here before you.

Bless us (+) and our Advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *Rev Matthew Kozlowski (adapted)*

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of HOPE.

The candle is lit.

"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield."

Let us pray:

Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen."

We sit for the first readings

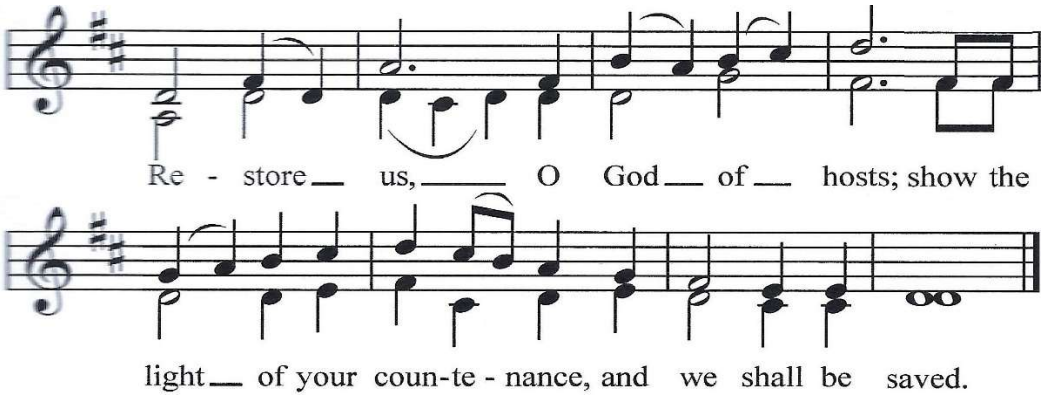
The First Reading-Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading –1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn Levas #6 Christ is coming

The Gospel Reading – Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark

Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I

tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

The response to "Maranatha" is "**Amen. Come Lord Jesus"**

Reconciliation

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Silence

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Through the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you,
pardon you
and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

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

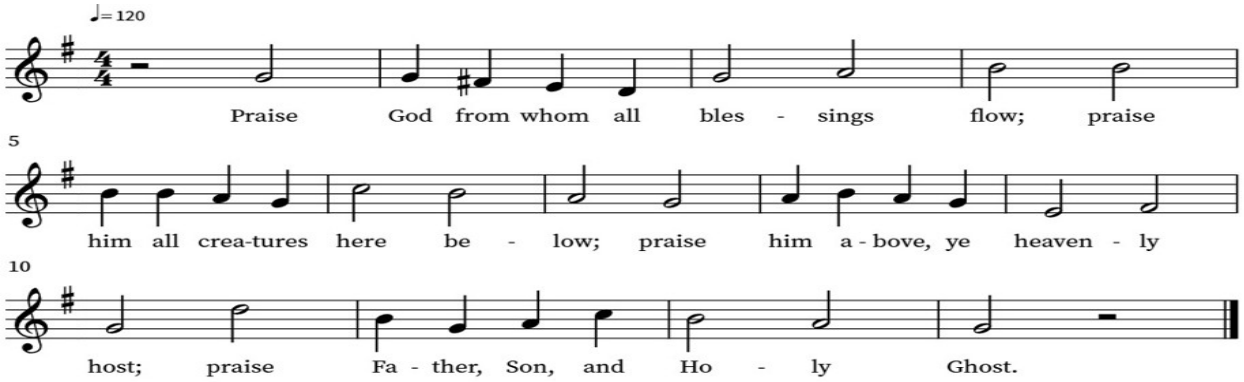
Gracious God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you want for us all better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn #596 Judge eternal, throned in splendor

Doxology



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.

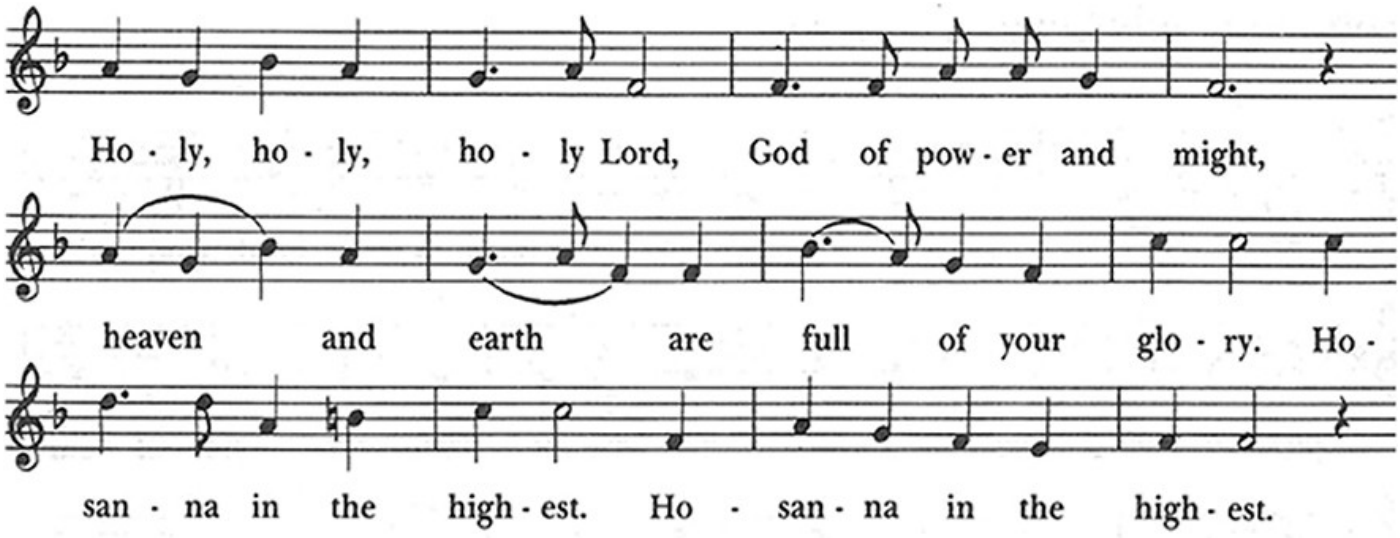
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

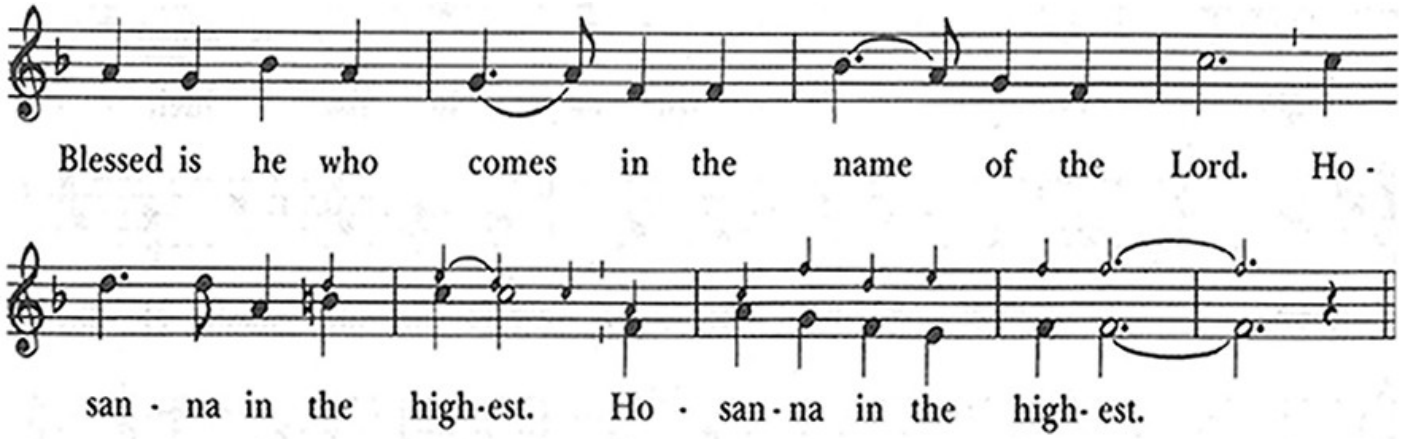
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:





Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family, and dwelling among us,

he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and 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 friends, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this to remember me."

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this to remember me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

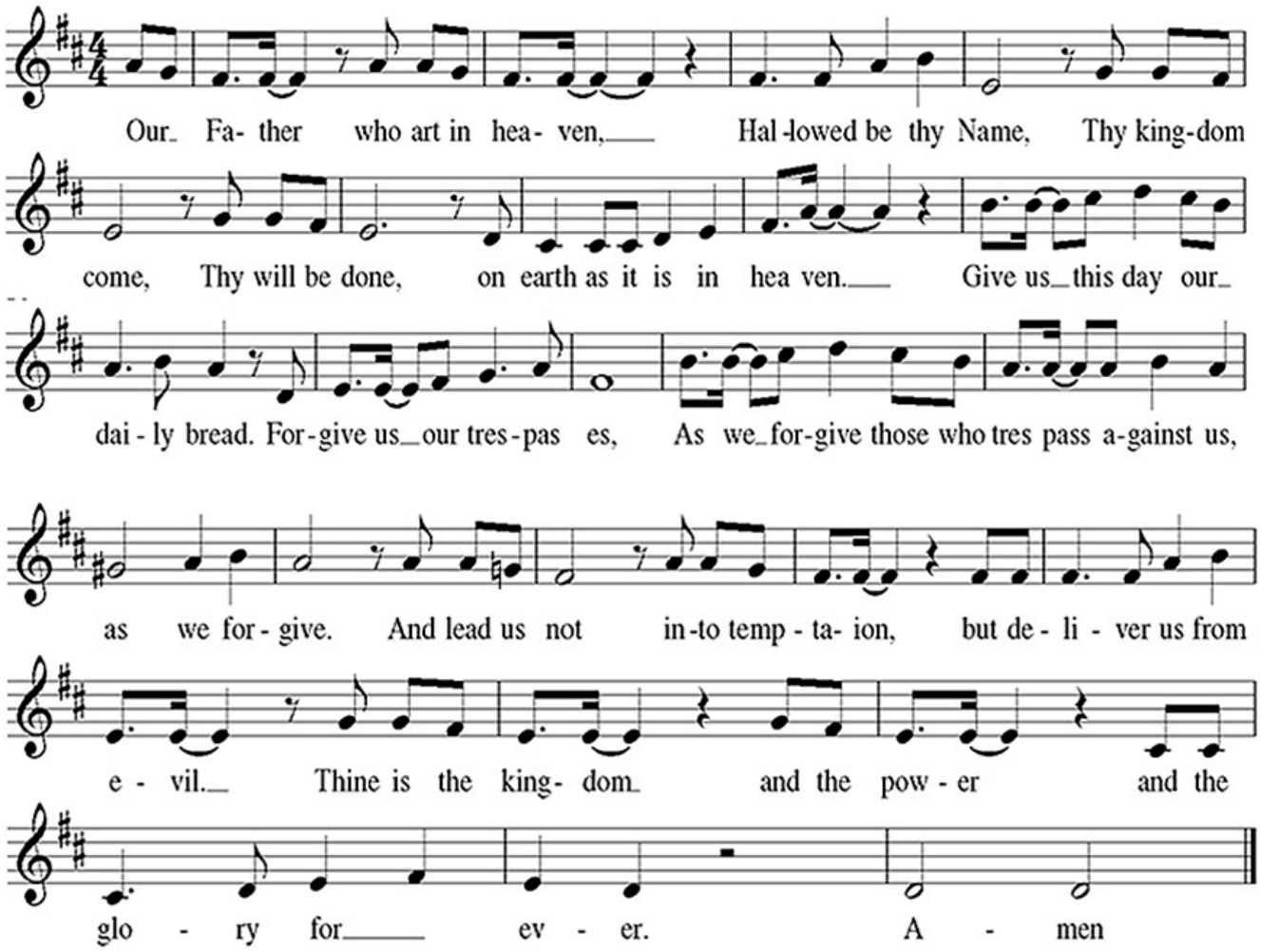
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints,

past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

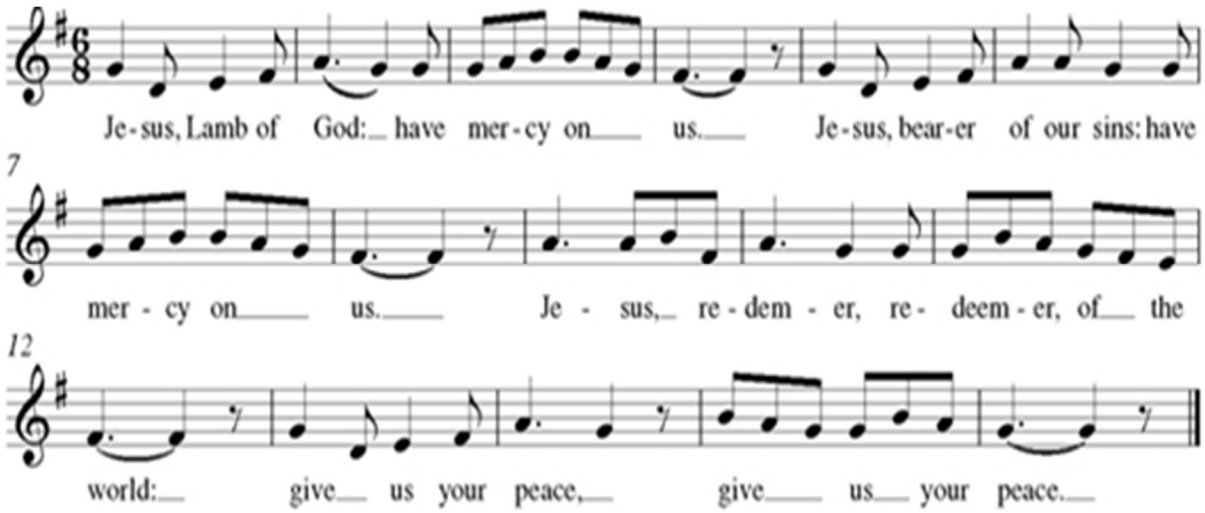
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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 #13 My Lord what a morning

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 #68 Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

The Dismissal of the Community

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude – Jennifer Loftus

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Calendar Updates

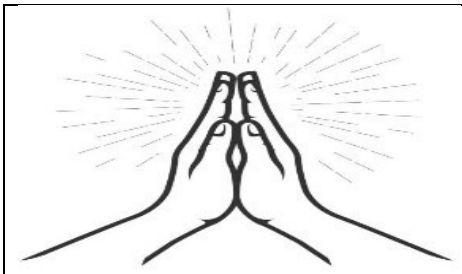
Wednesday December 2, 10-11 am-Salvation Army Food Distribution

Thursday December 3-NO MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

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

Christmas Eve Family Service-7 pm

Christmas Day Service Time To Be Announced



PRAYER & PRAISE

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Annamary, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, 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, Paul

Those who have passed away:

Gary Le Blanc

All In Our Prayers

Those in the Military:

CPT Sam Birch, USA

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Eucharistic Visitors

The flowers at the altar today are given to
The Glory of God by Toni Clark
In Honor of Her Son Tim's Birthday

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

DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dates	**Dec 6th**	**Dec 13th**	**Dec 20th**	**Dec 27th**
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Joyce C-Gabe	A-Nancy C- Carlos	A-Alex C-Evelyn	A-Judy C-Alex
Eucharistic Minister	Bobbi	Ann Stephanie G.	Linda	Ann
Lectors	Judy Linda	Peter Claudine	Alex Nancy	Stephanie H-W Ann
Intercessor	Luis	Carolyn	Alex	Joyce
Ushers	Luis David	Carolyn Claudine	David Claudine	Carolyn Linda
Greeters	Luis Lynelle	Carolyn Claudine	Lynelle Linda	Carolyn Claudine
Vestry Rep.	Luis	Carolyn	Alex	Joyce
Coffee Hour Host	Cookie Walk Goodies			Sarah and Joyce
Sunday School	Evelyn	Sarah	Christmas Pageant	

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Advent Sock Drive for the Modesto Shower Shuttle

This Advent Season we are again collecting socks for the Modesto Shower Shuttle. The Shower Shuttle provides clean socks for each guest that visits. A fresh pair of socks is a luxury for those living on the street, and the Shuttle give out around 400 pairs per month!

What is needed are thicker athletic type socks to provide warmth for people's feet in these colder, winter months. If you are able to contribute a pair or more, take the time, too, to say a prayer over each pair for the person who receives it. These socks go to the people Jesus calls "the least of these".

Also, we have need of small packs of hand wipes/disinfectant lotion, tubes of ChapStick/lip balm, and small packages of Band Aids for the Yellow Bags that are given out to those encountered along the way. We are also keeping a few bags in the office for distribution.

It is even in the little things that we contribute that God continues to bless our loving community. May our journey through Advent lead you to the Peace of Christmas!
Deacon Greg

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Sunday School Christmas Pageant

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 20. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact Ann-Marie Lorentz, 209-480-8377, or Linda in the church office, 209-522-3267 for more information.

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Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 17, following the 10 am service.
Reports from the ministries, approval of 2027 Budget, election of Vestry members and Convention delegates, fellowship time.
All are welcome to attend.

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Capital Campaign Kick-Off, Friday, February 5

Celebrate 55 years at 1528 Oakdale Road and Plan for the Future
Details to be announced

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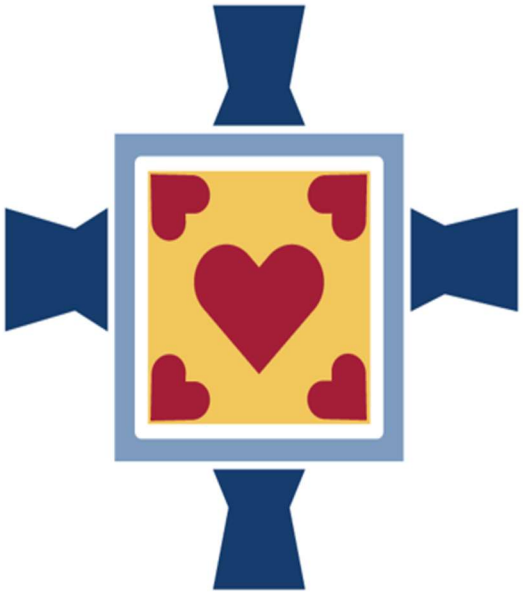
Ash Wednesday, February 10

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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 29 parishioners for $123,922 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/