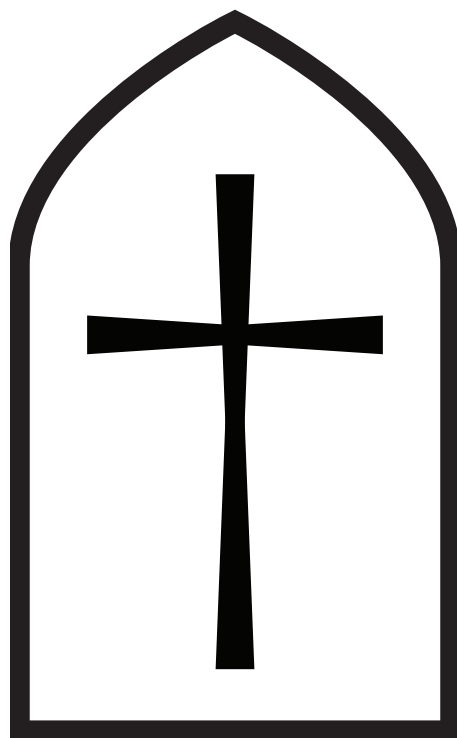


SAINT ♦ PAUL'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

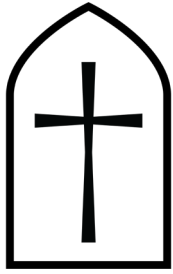


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

10:00 AM, RITE II

LIVE FAITHFULLY.



The Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 • 10 AM

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

••• Live Faithfully

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Larry Goertz and to the glory of God by the Goertz family.

PRELUDE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Kristina Langlois
(b. 1956)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

INTROIT: *Advent Wreath Prayer*

Malcom Archer
(b. 1952)

The fourth candle in the Advent Wreath symbolizes peace. It is also called the Angel's Candle. We light it as a reminder that Jesus came to bring peace to the world, and in honor of the Angel's proclamation, "Peace on Earth, Good will towards Men."

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* • 66

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer is an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE KYRIE • Morning Star Service • Richard Shephard

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a '2' above the staff, indicating a second ending. The lyrics are: *Choir* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son; *Congregation* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son; The second staff continues the lyrics: *Choir* Chris - te e - lei - son, *Congregation* Chris - te e lei - son; The third staff concludes the lyrics: *Choir* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, *Congregation* Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

This collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church Year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

THE WORD OF GOD

The propers of the service are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel, and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of readings shared by many mainline denominations. Each year we retell the Christian story from Advent through Pentecost.

THE FIRST LESSON • Micah 5:2-5a

Our first lesson is usually from the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Scriptures. The exception to this is in the Easter season, when we read lessons from the life of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles.

A Reading from Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE • Luke 1:46-55 • The Song of Mary

The psalms are sung or spoken prayers that cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and often it relates to the themes read in the lesson.

Read in unison.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; ***

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

THE SECOND LESSON • Hebrews 10:5-10

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

A Reading from Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN • *The angel Gabriel from heaven came* • 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OLD, England.

THE GOSPEL • Luke 1:39-45

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON • The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector

The sermon directly follows the Gospel and helps illuminate the scriptural readings and relate them to daily life.

The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant to recite the Nicene Creed.

The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at services of Holy Eucharist and reflects the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church — the Body of Christ. A brief silence is kept between each bidding.

The people kneel or sit.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Confessing our sins, receiving absolution, and sharing signs of peace with one another prepares us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

THE PEACE

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

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and materially in the money we give.

All are invited to support Saint Paul's mission to Live Faithfully as the plate is passed, at saintpaulswaco.org/give, or by scanning the QR code on the card titled "Giving" on the back of the pew in front of you.

If you give online, mail checks, or use other methods to give but still want to participate when the plate is passed, you are welcome to pick up a giving coin at the Welcome Center and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.
The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Living Advent Wreath
Saint Paul's Children*

The people stand as able.

THE DOXOLOGY • *From all that dwell below the skies (verse 3)* • 380

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING • Eucharistic Prayer C BCP 367

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum Corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS • *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord* • Richard Shephard

The Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry
Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The people kneel or stand.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

THE GREAT AMEN

The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only "Amen" in all capitals found in The Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation's response.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 363

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM • *Lamb of God* • Richard Shephard

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the world: have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins_ of the world: grant us peace.

THE PRESENTATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at the acolyte's direction. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive Communion from your pew, you may remain seated during altar rail distribution. A priest will come to the congregation for anyone wishing to remain in the pew. You may raise your hand to get their attention.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Creator of the stars
John Scott

The people stand as able.

COMMUNION HYMN • *Ye who claim the faith of Jesus* • 269

1 Ye who claim the faith of Je - sus, sing the won - ders that were done
 2 Bless - ed were the cho - sen peo - ple out of whom the Lord did come;
 3 There - fore let all faith - ful peo - ple sing the hon - or of her name;
 4 “Mag - ni - fy, my soul, God’s great - ness; in my Sa - vior I re - joice;

when the love of God the Fa - ther o - ver sin the
 bless - ed was the land of prom - ise fa - shioned for his
 let the Church, in her fore - shad - owed, part in her thanks -
 all the a - ges call me bless - ed, in his praise I

vic - tory won, when he made the Vir - gin Ma - ry
 earth - ly home; but more bless - ed far the mo - ther,
 giv - ing claim; what Christ’s mo - ther sang in glad - ness
 lift my voice; he has cast down all the might - y,

mo - ther of his on - ly Son. Hail Ma - ry, full of grace.
 she who bore him in her womb. Hail Ma - ry, full of grace.
 let Christ’s peo - ple sing the same: Hail Ma - ry, full of grace.
 and the low - ly are his choice.” Hail Ma - ry, full of grace.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Vincent Stucky Stratton Coles (1845-1929), alt.; st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) metrical *Magnificat*.
 Music: *Den des Vaters Sinn geboren*, melody from *Hundert Arien*, 1694; harm. Conrad Kocher (1786-1872).

COMMUNION HYMN • O come, O come Emmanuel • 56



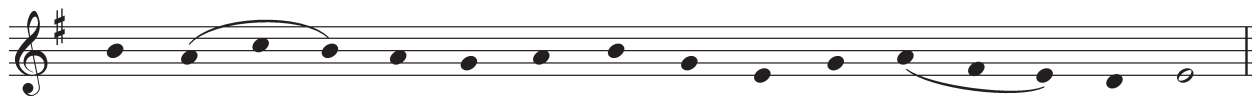
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

The people kneel or sit.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

BOS 11

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN • *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord* • 438



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

The dismissal signals the end of worship but the beginning of our service. Now that we have been renewed at Christ's altar, we are sent into the world to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. In seasons of festive celebration, like the great 50 days of Easter, we add "Alleluia, Alleluia" to our dismissal.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her*

Johann Pachelbel
 (1653-1706)

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector
Choir Director	Dr. Will McLean
Organist	Dr. Jeffrey Peterson
Vestry Hosts	Laura Swann and Kristi Carlile
Lector & Intercessor	Eric O'Neill and Piers Bateman
Ushers	Ben Koshy and Megan Ferguson
Oblationer	Richard and Dick Brunn
Altar Guild	Team III: Alison Fung, Bonnie Carpenter, Susan Harriman, Jane Hart, Dawn Khoury, Ruth Miller, Suzy Nettles, Cindy SoRelle, Laura Swann, Ellen Taylor, Carl Ballew

THE PRAYER LIST • December 22-28

At Saint Paul's, prayer is an important part of our vision to Live Faithfully. Every week, we pray for upcoming birthdays and anniversaries, ten of our families, and the ill and infirm. If your birthday or anniversary is in the next week, you are welcome to join us at the front for a prayer following the announcements.

BIRTHDAYS

Joe Flowers, Lee Ann Rader, Renee Yawn, Ava Clevenger, Megan Ferguson, Sarah Marcum, Charlotte McNamara, Lance Grigsby, Donald McLaughlin

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Karina and John Deaver, Carolyn and Chet Scheel, Jill and Douglas Michaels, Frankye and Tom Oliver, RoseMary and Harold Rafuse

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

MEMBERS CYCLE

Marilyn Carden; Kristi Carlile; Ed and Bonnie Carpenter; Katherine and William Carpenter; Henry Carter; Paige Cashion; Jeff and Vanessa Castleberry; Ellie Caston; George and Cara Chase; Tom and Penny Chase

ILL & INFIRM

Whether you are here for the first time or have been a member your whole life, we would love to pray for you. To send in a prayer request, you may call the church office at 254-753-4501 or email contactus@saintpaulswaco.org. You may also fill out the card titled "Prayer" on the back of the pew in front of you. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please ensure you have their permission or the permission of an immediate family member before putting them on the public prayer list. We are happy to pray privately for those who do not wish to publish their names.

Do you see someone on this list who is doing better? Please let us know! We would love to celebrate with them.

THIS WEEK

Betty Young, Chuck Reeves, Julia Burgess, Sharon Morrow, Lisa Moon, Doris Strain, Peter Dailey, John Wesley Bottoms, Jessica Attas, Kelly Whitehead, Rock McNair, Roger Yount, Benita Louvier, Carolyn Berry, Jack Compton, Mary Greaves, Rob Young, Brad Canon, Kelly, Gail Wade, Glenda Goehrs, Foris Louvier, Paxton Dove, James Rowe, Laura McNutt, Beth Mayfield, Amanda Horner, Warner Barnes, Sue Davis, Dorothy Fisher, Khalida Javaid, Lily Williams, Lorri Khoury, Barbara Jensen, Anna Kessler, Suzie Wright, Rollin Khoury, David Janda

ONGOING

Tom Brothers, Laretta Buchanan, Samantha C., Marilyn Carden, Erin Clark, Clayton Felton, Janette Flanary, Tom Haddad, Lezlie Hall, Ben Hambleton, Nancy Hightower, Eva Jackson, Hannah Lessenger, Richard Mills III, Shannon O'Brien, Dennis Ramsey, Carolyn Scheel, Wes Stafford, Adam Sattler III, Jan Sattler, Eric Stromme, Beverly Terrell, Bud Unell, Neela Vera, Erin Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREENING OF THE NAVE

Join us after the 10 AM service today to hang greenery around the nave in preparation for Christmas!

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1. The office will reopen for regular hours on Thursday, January 2. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Sam or Preston directly through email.

COMFORT MEALS

Know someone who could use a meal delivered to them while they recover from surgery, handle a major life event, or just need encouragement? Our Comfort Meals ministry is ready to help! Stop by the Parish Hall and head to the freezer to pick up a meal or two for those in need. Scan the QR code on the freezer to fill out a brief form online, and then take a meal to someone who needs it, or two for you to share. Special requests are welcome and we can always use more volunteers to cook! To learn more, contact **Lisa@saintpaulswaco.org**.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Join us after the 10 AM service on Sunday, January 5 to celebrate the Epiphany! We'll have a pinata, king cake, and fun activities. Bring a branch from your Christmas tree to participate in the burning of the greens in the church courtyard and be sure to pick up a bag of chalk with a short liturgy included so you can bless your home following an ancient practice of the Church.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place after the 10 AM service on January 19. We will elect new members to the vestry and hear reports from several members of the parish.

SPIRITUS GLADIUS



The Winter Edition of Saint Paul's magazine, Spiritus Gladius, is here! Spiritus Gladius is an online publication with a limited print run. Scan the QR to read about Advent, Christmas, and all the exciting events happening at Saint Paul's this winter! If you would like a print copy of the magazine, you can pick one up in the narthex or email sarahm@saintpaulswaco.org.

END OF YEAR GIVING



As 2024 comes to an end and we enter into this season of giving, we want to thank all of you who have donated to Saint Paul's and helped further our mission to Live Faithfully. We hope you will consider Saint Paul's as you plan your end-of-year giving. Your gifts will help us fund the last of our 2024 budget and continue doing the work of God in and around our community. To learn more about giving, scan the QR code.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

3:30 PM Children's Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist, Rite II

7:30 PM A Christmas Prelude: Music for voices, strings, and organ

8 PM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 PM A Christmas Prelude: Music for voices, strings, and organ

11 PM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I, chanted

Christmas Day

10 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

SUNDAY FORMATION

The final session of our Advent Formation classes is today, December 22. Formation for all ages will return on Sunday, January 26.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Join Preston at 9:05 AM in the Parish Hall for a special Advent formation series focused on Mary, the Mother of God. (And why we call her that.) Over the course of four weeks, we will consider Mary in the Bible and Mary after the Bible; why she is such an important part of our theology of Jesus, resurrection, and future hope; and, what does Mary's experience of motherhood invite us to consider in our own prayers and reflections for the season.

YOUTH FORMATION

Youth Formation takes place each Sunday morning at 9 AM in the youth room. Email sara@saintpaulswaco.org with questions.

ADVENT CHILDREN'S FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Sundays in Advent, we will be using a children's formation format called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This Montessori method centers the child's prayer life with God. Sunday School for ages 4 through 12 begins at 9 AM with Advent stories led by Ms. Lisa with rotating guests of clergy and trained facilitator. Children can arrive at any time. At 9:50 AM, children who would normally go to Children's Chapel should be dropped off at the Chapel to join Ms. Lisa and friends. At 10 AM, children will start church in the chapel with their own presentation and prayers, then rejoin parents and caregivers at the Peace. All children are welcome at any time before the Peace, so don't worry about coming late. Please contact preston@saintpaulswaco.org with any questions.

PRESCHOOL: LET THE CHILDREN COME

Let the Children Come nursery program offers a multifaceted approach to introducing colorful characters of the Old Testament and to the wonders of Jesus's birth and life through visuals, games, group play, singing, and other activities. **This class meets at 10 AM in the Nursery.**

WEEKLY FORMATION



BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP

Benedictine Study Group is taking a break for the month of December and will resume meeting on January 7. This group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 12 PM in the church office library. Scan the QR code to visit their website. All are welcome to join.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast will not meet on December 25 or January 1 and will resume meeting January 8. Men's Prayer Breakfast meets weekly on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Hall. Breakfast begins at 6:30 AM and study begins at 7 AM.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will not meet on December 25 or January 1 and will resume meeting January 8. The Women's Bible study group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the office library. Our group is currently studying "Searching for the Historical Jesus with Jean-Pierre Isbouts" by Wondrium. Please join us.



SAINT • PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM-4 PM
Closed Federal Holidays
601 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701
254-753-4501

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

517 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701
office@speswaco.org
254-753-0246

SAINT PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith
Rector

The Rev. Preston Yancey
Interim Associate Rector

The Rev. Alberto Melis
Deacon

The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby
Retired Priest Associate

Lisa Terry-Ickles
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Sara Allison
Director of Youth Ministry

Brandi Goddard
Parish Administrator

Sarah Martin
Director of Communications & Membership

Iona Easterwood
Accountant

Paul Hicks
Sexton

Charles Watson
Assisting Sexton

Willie Sergent
Retired Sexton Emeritus

Dr. Will McLean
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson
Organist

Liz Dover
Nursery Attendant

M'Lissa Howen
Head of School