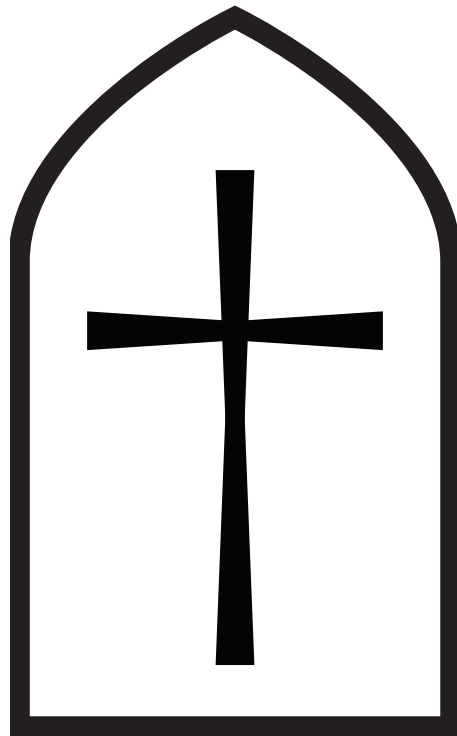


SAINT ♦ PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

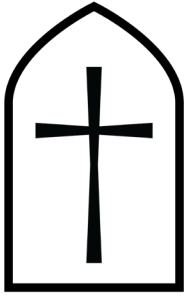


CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2024

10:00 AM, RITE II

LIVE FAITHFULLY.



# The Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

December 25, 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 to the glory of God and in memory of Jennie D. and Andrew J. Dossett and Alethea Sleeper and Walter Brown Dossett, Sr., by Mr. and Mrs. Markham Dossett.*

*The flowers on the altar today are also given to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Martha and Walter Brown Dossett, Jr., by Walter S. Dossett and Markham W. Dossett.*

*The flowers on the cross are given by the Rev. Samantha and Mr. Austin Smith to the glory of God and in gratitude for the staff and parishioners of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.*

PRELUDE: *Quem pastores*

Helmut Walcha  
(1907-1991)

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

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

*The people stand as able.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • *Good Christian friends, rejoice* • 107

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Good Christian friends, rejoice". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three numbered lines of text corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

## 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 GLORIA

BCP 356

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee,  
we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

## 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.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and 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 • Isaiah 52:7-10

*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 Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE • Psalm 98

*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.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

## THE SECOND LESSON • Hebrews 1:1-4

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.

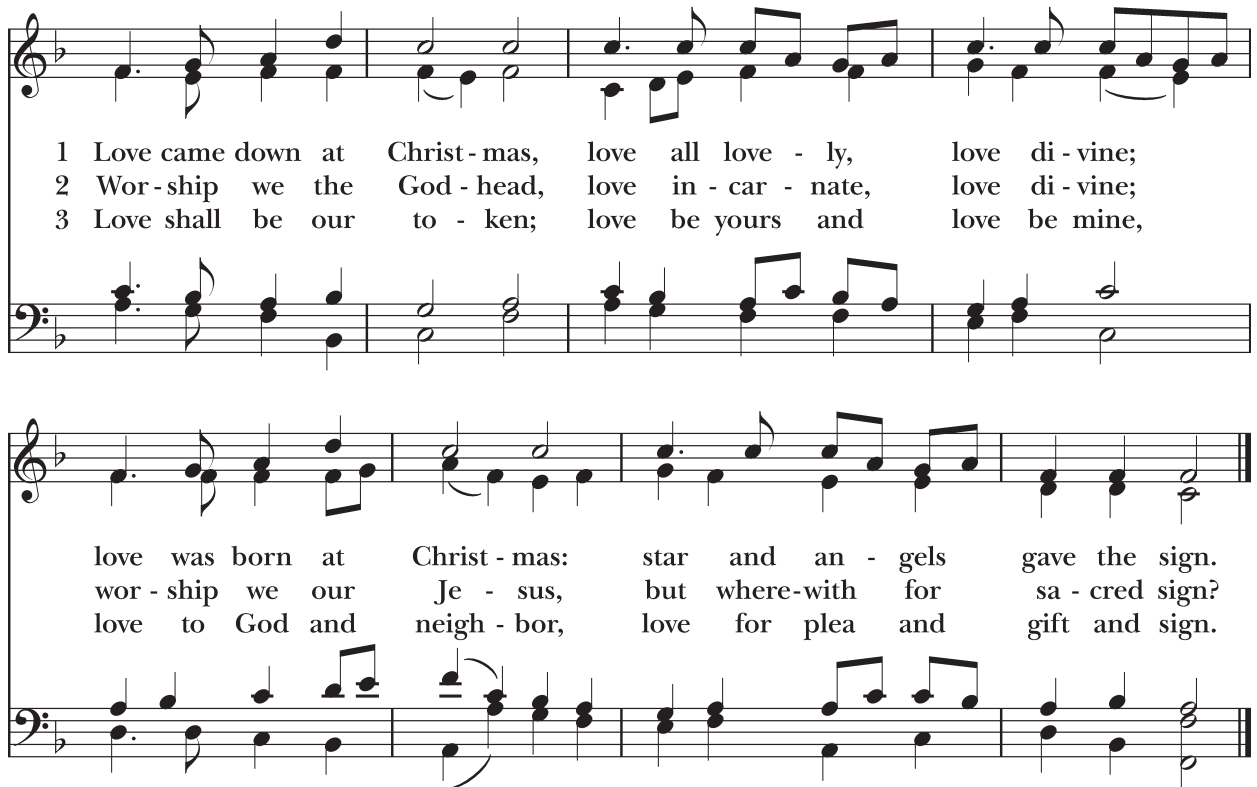
A Reading from Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## SEQUENCE HYMN • Love came down at Christmas • 84



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is written in a simple, folk-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music ends with a double bar line.

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

## THE GOSPEL • John 1:1-14

*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 John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

## THE SERMON • The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, 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.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

## THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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](http://saintpaulswaco.org/give), or by scanning the QR code to the right.*

*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

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.*

*The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.*

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Still, still, still*  
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*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 B BCP 361

*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.**

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

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*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.*

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

## 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.*

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 363

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.**

## 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. For more information, see page 2.*

COMMUNION HYMN • *What child is this* • 115

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

## 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 people kneel or sit for Silent Night.*

## THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The people stand as able.*

CLOSING HYMN • *Joy to the world! the Lord is come* • 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

## 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 go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *In dulci jubilo*

Johann Michael Bach  
(1648-1694)

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# TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector
Choir Director	Will McLean
Organist	Jeffrey Peterson
Lector & Intercessor	Suzy Nettles
Vestry Host	Pieter Sigtenhorst
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](mailto: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



## 2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

### IN MEMORIAM

Given by Piers and Alethea Bateman in memory of Jane and J Leigh Brooks; Sir Ralph and Lady Bateman.

Given by Robert and Aryn Burgess in memory of John Rapp and Susan Burgess.

Given by Earle Wm. and Sharon Calvert in memory of Earl Wm. Calvert, June Calvert, Jennifer Clavert, and Richard Kelm.

Given by Kristi Carlile and Family in memory of B.J. Carlile.

Given by Jack and Pam Compton in memory of Lucas Haralson Compton; Ethan Dell Compton.

Given by Roland and Rose Goertz in memory of John and Emma Goertz; Sebern and Alice Barker; Larry Goertz; Robert Patterson; Dolores Hart; Erin Davis; Anna Wilson; Margaret Brown.

Given by Felicia Goodman in memory of Helen Murchison Landa, Ellender and George Chase.

Given by Steve and Judy Green in memory of Tony Lombardo; Providence Lombardo.

Given by Karen and Bruce Johnson in memory of Clarence Johnson; Van Gladen; Ruth Gladen; Elayna.

Given by Justin, Nicole, Gordon, Lillian, & Olivia Sage in memory of J.P. Motley, Jr. & Aidan Castro.

Given by Ellen and Ford Taylor in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Taylor, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. John W. North.

Given by Carolyn Turner in memory of Fred and Frances Hulme.

Given by Betty Young in memory of Robert and Lisa Young.

## IN THANKSGIVING

Given by Trevor and Sara Allison in thanksgiving for the teachers of Saint Paul's Episcopal School.

Given by Piers and Alethea Bateman in thanksgiving for Sarah Brooks Levine; Andrew James Litton Bateman.

Given by Robert and Aryn Burgess in thanksgiving for Bill and Hackett Burgess and all the teachers and staff of Saint Paul's Episcopal School.

Given by Curtis and Jana Cleveland in thanksgiving for Mary Michael Cleveland, Piper Snokhous, Tucker Cleveland, Wallace Cleveland.

Given by Jack and Pam Compton in thanksgiving for Amy, Lance, Compton, and Alden Grigsby; Benjamin, Taryn, Caleb Rand, and Aaron Benjamin Compton.

Given by Tom and Betty Flowers in thanksgiving for Elizabeth and Charlie Rigney; Will Rigney and Reagan Rigney; Catherine and Kyle Parks; Hannah Parks and Andrew Parks.

Given by Felicia Goodman in thanksgiving for Helen and Daisy Goodman.

Given by Alex and Michele Green in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Given by Bruce and Karen Johnson in thanksgiving for Emily, Ryan, and Sorin; Nell Johnson.

Given by Charlie and Liz Rigney in thanksgiving for our children and our parents.

Given by Stuart and Elizabeth Smith in thanksgiving for Janet and Ray Bagby; Alethea and Piers Bateman; Alison and Eugene Fung; Michele and Alex Green; Amy and Lance Grigsby; M'Lissa and Steve Howen; Willie Sergent.

Given by Toni Riley in thanksgiving for my children, John and Mary.

Given by Julie and Bart Romig in thanksgiving for Madison, Taylor, Reese, Jenna, and Scott.

Given by Ellen and Ford Taylor in thanksgiving for Pearl and Lily Taylor.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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](mailto:saintpaulswaco.org)**.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

The next Ladies Night Out will be Tuesday, January 7. We will meet at Casa se Castillo at 5:30 PM.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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](mailto:sarahm@saintpaulswaco.org).

# FORMATION

Sunday School classes for all ages will return January 26 at 9 AM.



## 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