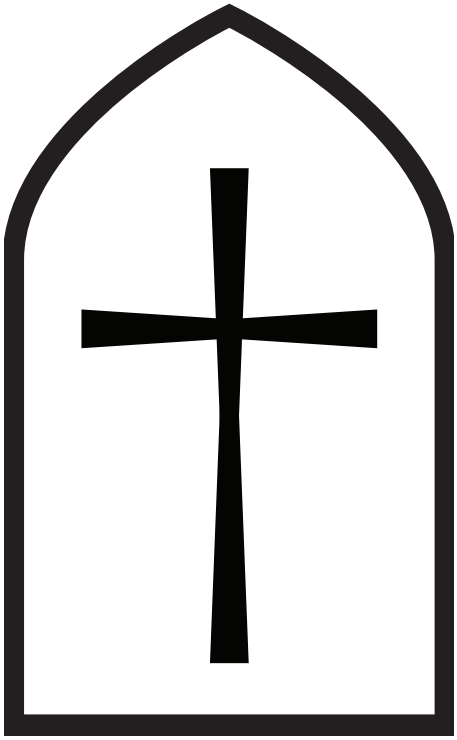
SAINT • PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

10:15 AM, RITE I

LIVE FAITHFULLY.

The Holy Eucharist

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026 • 10:15 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.

In the Christian tradition, there are a few dates in the liturgical calendar that are especially appropriate for baptism. These days are The Baptism of Our Lord, The Easter Vigil, The Day of Pentecost, and All Saints' Day. If you or a member of your family would like to receive the rite of baptism, please contact the church office.

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 by Tom Wolfe to the glory of God and in loving memory of Janette Mathias, Jackie Mathias, and Elizabeth McGlasson.

PRELUDE: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* — J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

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

The people stand as able at the introduction of the Processional Hymn.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • *All creatures of our God and King* • 400

1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistiche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP 323

The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant.

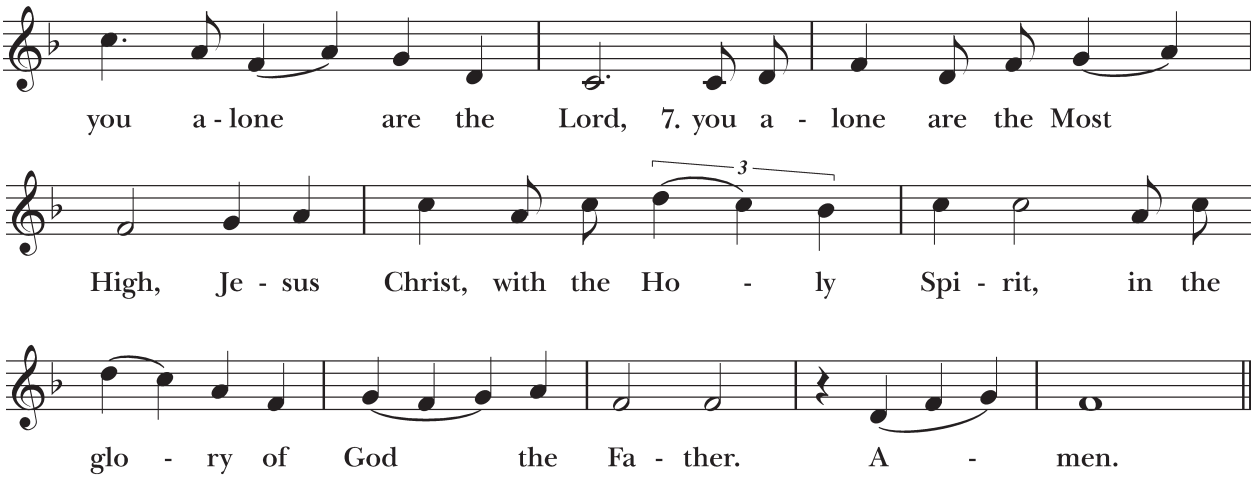
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA • S280



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF 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 with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The people are seated.

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 • Ezekiel 33:7-11

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 the Prophet Ezekiel.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE • Psalm 119:33-40

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.

Chanted by the choir.

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

THE SECOND LESSON • Romans 13:8-14

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 the Letter to the Church in Rome.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

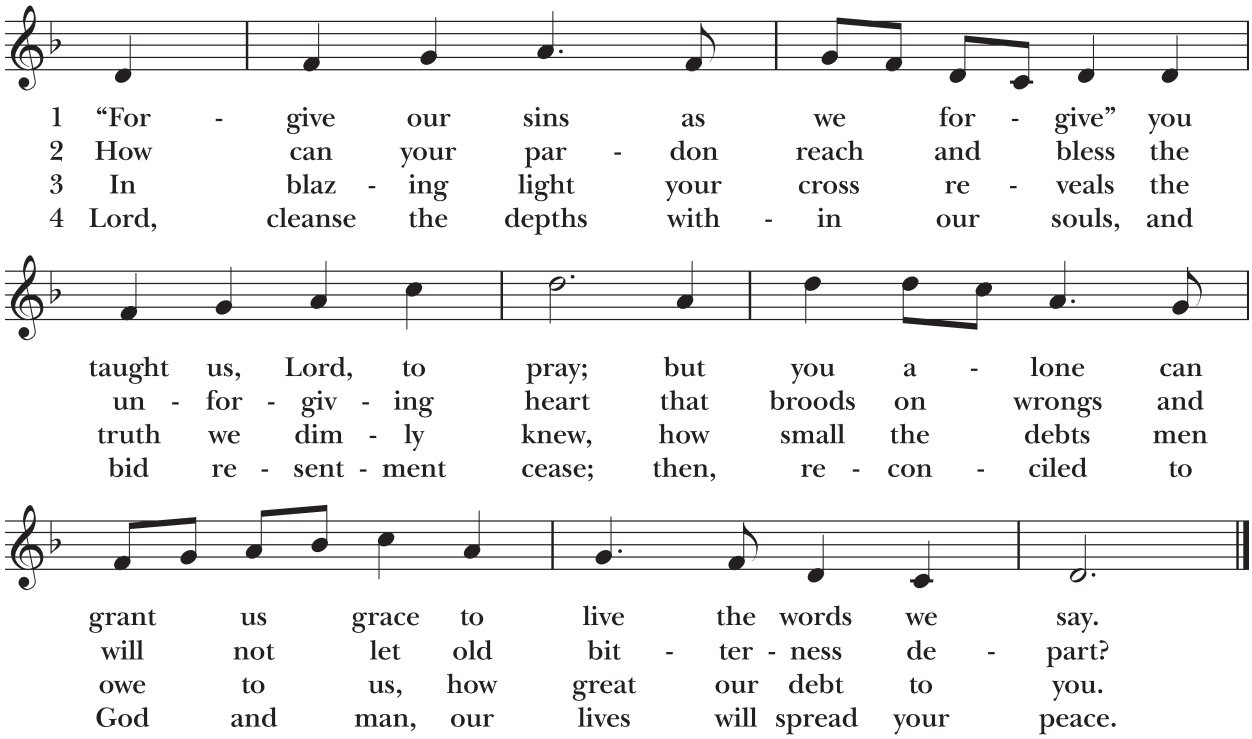
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

We invite your child to join our Children's Chapel program this morning! Children ages pre-k through 6th grade are invited to follow our Director of Children's & Family Ministry, Lisa Terry-Ickles, to the Children's Chapel. Chaperoned children younger than pre-k are welcome to join with a parent. After the exchange of the peace, children are directed back to their seats.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the Sequence Hymn.

SEQUENCE HYMN • "*Forgive our sins as we forgive*" • 674



Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Detroit*, from *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

THE GOSPEL • Matthew 18:15-20

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 Matthew.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON • The Rev. Gavin E. Tomlin, Associate Rector

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

THE NICENE CREED BCP 326

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.

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

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BCP 328

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 for the prayers.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, other ministers, and to those we sponsor for ordination, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; to the whole order of the baptized; our lay pastors, musicians, vestry, school board, and all the faculty and staff of Saint Paul's School; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Bless, O Lord, the milestones of our lives, that, in the course of our mortal pilgrimage, we may know that thou art ever walking beside us. We offer particular thanks for the life and occasion we celebrate with our altar flowers.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those persons who have requested our prayers, those we remember in our hearts, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Lois Greer and Suzie Wright, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of

blessed Paul and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN BCP 331

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 unto Almighty God.

A brief silence is kept.

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

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

The Comfortable Words have been included in our Prayer Book liturgies since its origin in 1549 in the Church of England. They are said after the absolution to remind us of the incredible grace of God present in our lives.

The people remain kneeling or seated. The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.
Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

The people stand as able.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

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 to the left.

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 and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Lord is my Shepherd, from *Requiem*
John Rutter (b. 1945)

Reagan Brokeback, oboe

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul; and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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

The people stand as able.

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 II BCP 340

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 with thy spirit.

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

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

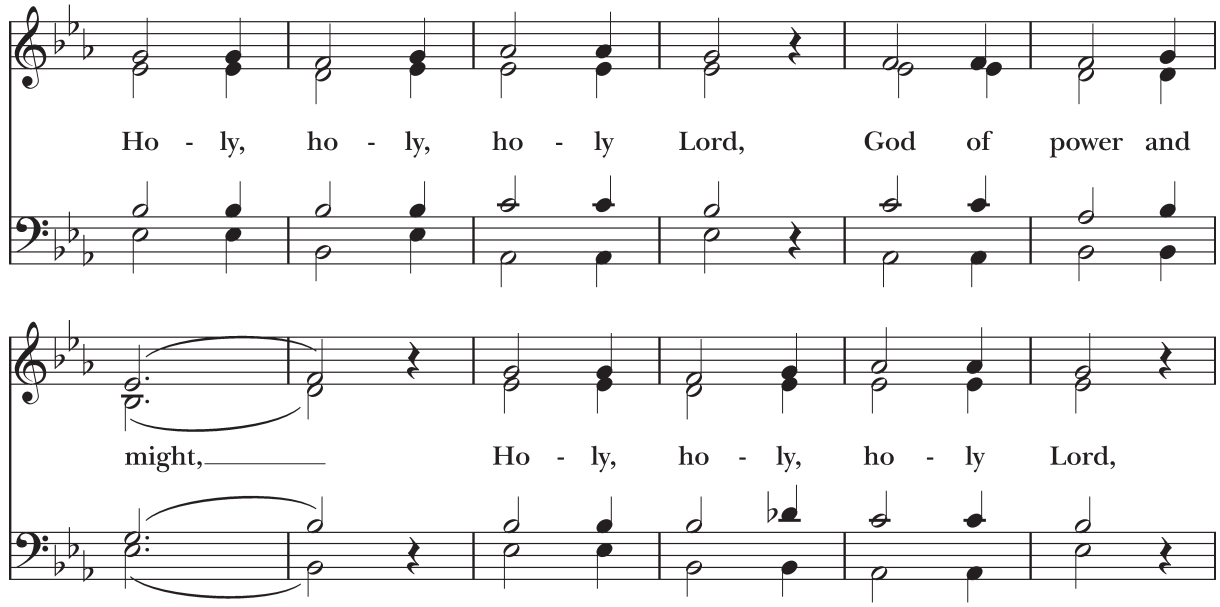
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

The Celebrant adds a proper preface appropriate to the season or day.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

SANCTUS • S130

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



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people kneel or stand as able.

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.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 336

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 • S164

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

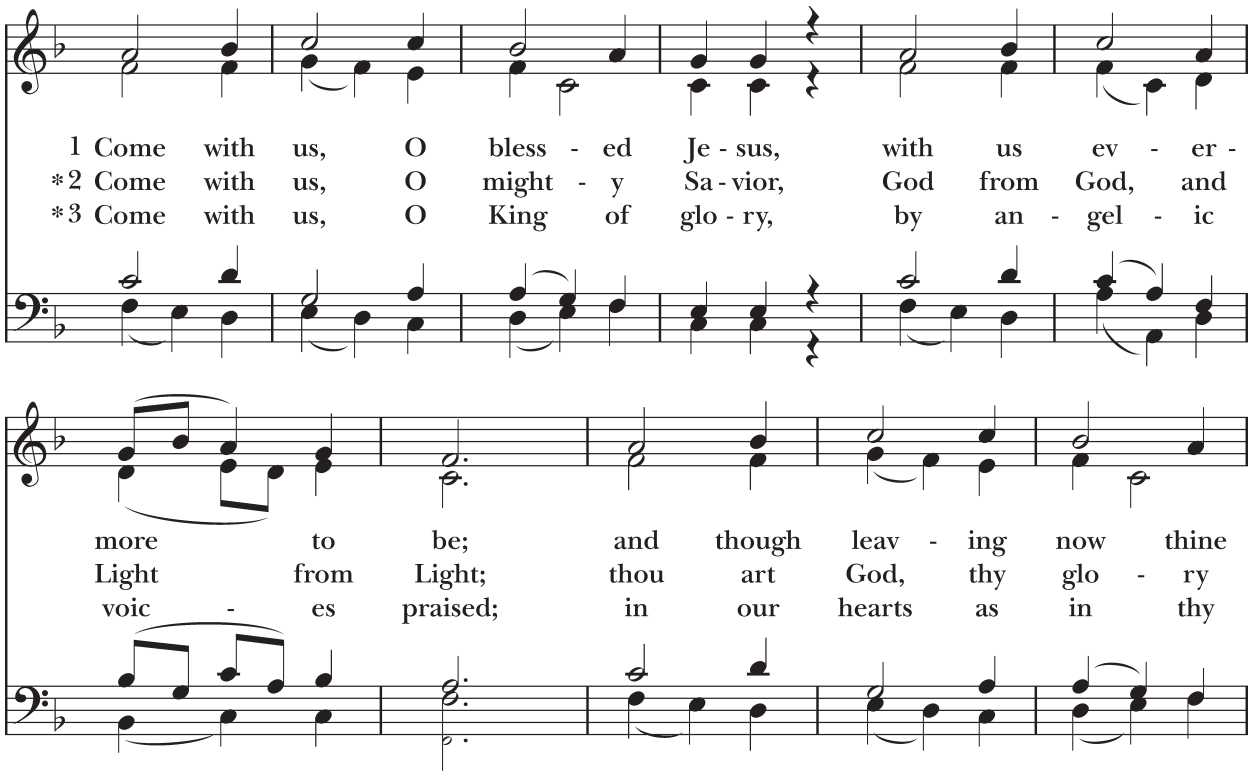
The Celebrant may add

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The people are seated until invited forward for Communion.

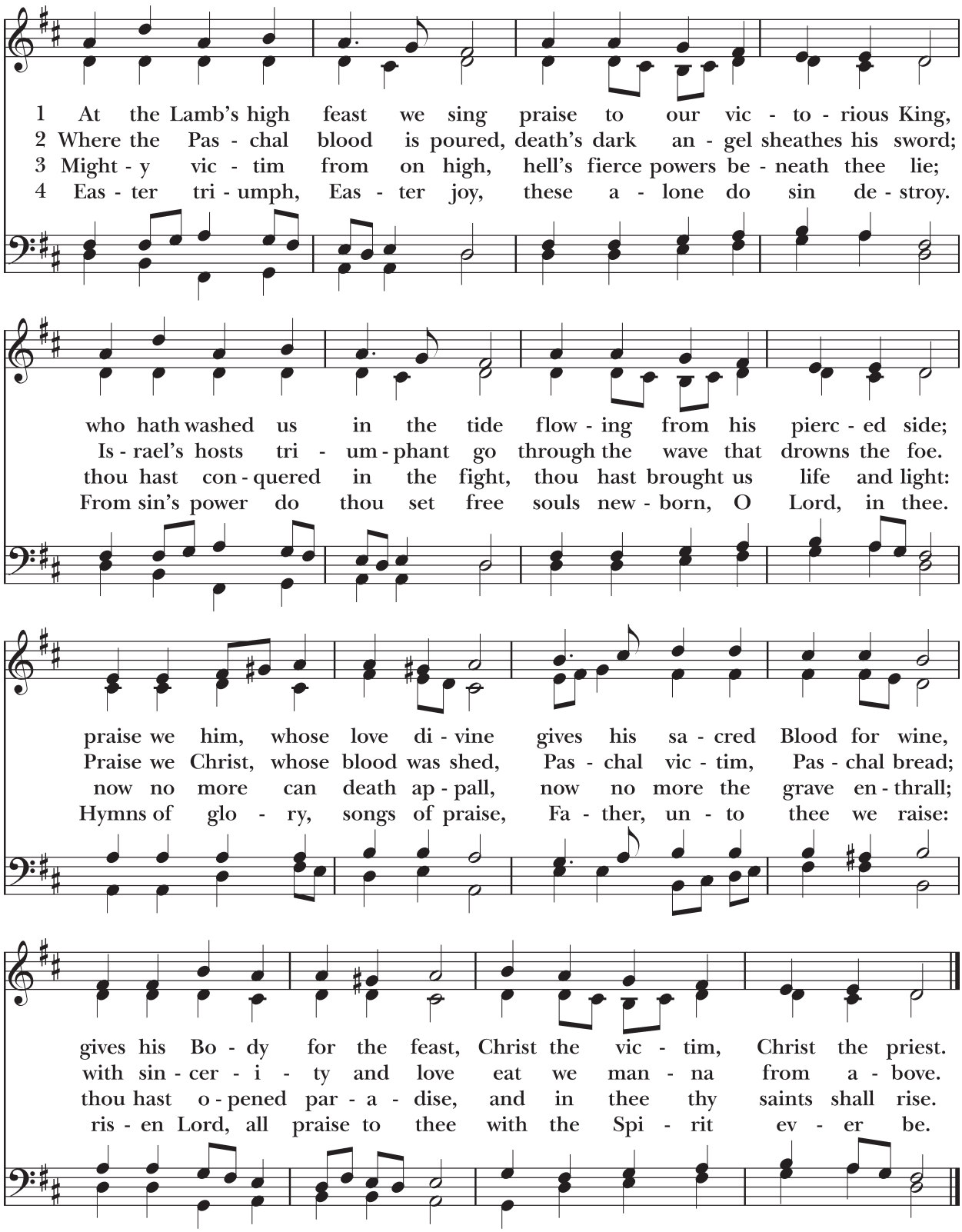
Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive communion from your pew, you may remain seated during altar rail distribution. A priest will come to the congregation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

COMMUNION HYMN • *Come with us, O bless'd Jesus* • 336



Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1861-1945) and Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Sts. 2-3, Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price.
Music: *Werde munter*, Johann Schop (d. 1665?); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

COMMUNION HYMN • *At the Lamb's high feast we sing* • 174



Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

SENDING OF OUR LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS
(when appointed)

When a lay eucharistic visitor is present at the service, they come to the altar after communion to receive a communion kit in order to be sent out to distribute communion to those who cannot be with us in person.

The people remain seated.

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body,
because we all share one bread, one cup.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER BCP 339

The people kneel or stand as able.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING BCP 339

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

The people stand as able.

CLOSING HYMN • *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* • 376

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

THE DISMISSAL

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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Invention No. 8* — J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information on our events, our calendar, and to submit RSVPs, please visit our events page on our website **saintpaulswaco.org/events.**

OFFICE CLOSED: LABOR DAY

The church office will be closed Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. We will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, September 8.

SAINT PAUL'S T-SHIRTS

Our new Saint Paul's T-shirts are for sale in adult sizes for $20, with children's sizes ($18) available for pre-order through the link in this week's Tidings email.

HOLY HIKES

Enjoy an easy-to-moderate hike with a distribution of communion, celebrated in stations along the trail on Saturday, September 12. Hike begins at 9 AM at Mouth of the Bosque in Cameron Park.

CRAFTERNOONS

Crafternoons meets in the Great Hall from 1 to 2:45 PM on the third Thursday of the month. Our next gathering is Thursday, September 17. Bring your own project or join the group project we provide. We gather in the narthex at 12:55 and head upstairs at 1. RSVP or reach out to **Sara Allison** (sara@saintpaulswaco.org) with any questions, and let her know if you'll be running late.

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL SUNDAY

Celebrate Saint Paul's Episcopal School with us on Sunday, September 27, at the 10:15 AM service. SPES students will serve as volunteers and perform a special music offering.

MAHJONG AND MINISTRY

Join us for Noonday Prayer and a friendly game of mahjong in the Great Hall on the first Thursday of the month. All skill levels are welcome, including first-timers. Our next gathering is Thursday, October 1 at 1 PM. RSVP to **Sara Allison** (sara@saintpaulswaco.org) so we can save you a seat.

CAMERON PARK ZOO

Visit Cameron Park Zoo with your fellow parishioners and help us bless the animals! We will gather outside the gates at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 3.

WOMEN'S RETREAT SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Women's Retreat returns October 16–18, 2026, at Mustang Island Conference Center. Mark your calendars, and watch for registration details soon.

ESC MEAL SIGN UP

Want to feed our college students at the Episcopal Student Center? Use the QR code to sign up to provide a meal on Sunday or Thursday nights. Contact our Campus Missioner, Stephanie Drum, with questions (missioner@escwaco.org).

SCAM REMINDER

Please remember that your clergy and staff will never email or text you with requests for money, gift cards, or "discreet" or "urgent" communication. If you receive such a request, please delete the message.

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

September
Pledged: $63,381.95
Received: $980.00
Difference: -$62,931.95

Year-to-Date
Pledged: $456,349.65
Received: $466,031.09
Difference: +$9,681.54

This information reflects the period ending September 2, 2026.

SUNDAY FORMATION

THE LORD AND HIS PRAYER

Join Rev. Gavin for a two-week formation class on the Lord's Prayer, Sundays August 30 and September 6 at 9 AM.

THE LIFE OF PAUL

Join us for a six-week look at the life of the apostle, following Paul from Pharisee to missionary to martyr through his letters and the book of Acts. We will meet Sundays at 9 AM, September 13 to October 25, with no class October 4 for St. Francis' Day.

SAINT PAUL'S 101

Whether you're new to the parish or preparing for confirmation, this six-week class covers the foundations of the Christian faith and our parish's place in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. We will meet Sundays at 9 AM, September 13 to October 25, with no class October 4 for St. Francis' Day.

YOUTH FORMATION

Abide: The Presence of God in the Life of the Church

Come discuss how God is made manifest in the unity and practices of the Church! We will meet August 30 and September 6 at 9 AM to discuss our fall theme. Breakfast tacos provided! Students grades 6-12 are welcome!

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd's approach to formation is based on the unique relationship that God has with children. CGS focuses on helping children grow their relationship with God by fostering curiosity and reflection while introducing scripture and liturgy to young minds. This formation opportunity is open to children ages 3-9 on Sundays at 9 AM. Classes meet in the atrium, located behind the Children's Chapel.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children's Chapel meets during the 10:15 AM service on Sunday mornings. Children are released with Ms. Lisa before the Gospel procession and brought back during the Offertory. Look for the little cross as it passes by.

WEEKLY FORMATION

BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP

The Benedictine Study Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at noon in the church office library. Scan the QR code to visit their website. All are welcome to join!

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer meets on Thursdays at noon in the chapel. All are welcome, and attendance is not limited to Saint Paul's parishioners. For further information, please email **contactus@saintpaulswaco.org**.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

The Women's Bible Study group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the office library. The group is studying the book *Short Stories by Jesus*, by Amy-Jill Levine. All are welcome, please join!

SAINT • PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:15 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10:15 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM-12 PM & 1 PM-4 PM
Closed Federal Holidays
contactus@saintpaulswaco.org

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. Gavin E. Tomlin
Associate Rector

The Rev. Courtney M. Greene
Curate

The Rev. Alberto Melis
Deacon

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

Lisa Terry-Ickles
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Kelsey Maglio
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Sara Allison
Director of Ministry Operations

Iona Easterwood
Accountant

Sarah Martin
Director of Communications & Development

Michelle Shackelford
Office Assistant

Adam Johnson
Facilities Director

Charles Watson
Sexton

Dr. Will McLean
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson
Organist

Liz Dover
Nursery Attendant

Tresa R. Wilson
Head of School