

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

The Last Sunday After Pentecost: Christ the King November 26, 2023 ● 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer and is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Voluntary

Sheep May Safely Graze
Johann Sebastian Bach

The Processional Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Hymnal 450

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The People say together

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 Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The First Reading ~ Ezekiel 34:11 - 16, 20 - 24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm ~ 95:1 - 7a

The Psalm is sung by the choir.

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

- 3 For the LORD is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, * and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

The Second Reading ~ Ephesians 1:15 - 23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Where cross the crowded ways of life Hymnal 609

The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 25:31 - 46

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will

separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

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 — Form III

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and

humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and

Sacraments.

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations

of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or

trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;
People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Intercessor We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially David,

Tim, Graham, Nick, Kate, Sherry, and Jaden.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* {BCP page 824}

The celebrant adds a 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

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

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.

Celebrant says

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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Blessings and Thanksgivings

The Offertory Sentence

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd setting by Rhett Barnwell Maria Margiolakou, Soprano

The Presentation Hymn

At the Name of Jesus Hymnal 435, vs 1 - 4

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People 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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

The Sanctus Hymnal S 129

Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.



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

People and Celebrant

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

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction AnthemHymnal S 154

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion Anthem

The Lord is My Shepherd setting by Howard Goodall

The Communion Hymn

Father, we thank thee Hymnal 302

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

Prayer for those Not Receiving the Blessed Sacrament

[Adapted from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book. For those not present in the Nave.]

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful of every place and people and nation, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I believe that you are truly present in the Bread that has been blessed, broken and given. Since I cannot now receive this holy sacrament, I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Abide with me, that I may embrace you entirely, and submit myself to your love and mercy. Let me never be separated from you, that in my waking and in my sleeping I may know the comfort of your presence. I ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen*.

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Crown him with many crowns
Hymnal 494

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary

Festive Trumpet Tune
David German

Remember in your Prayers

A Prayer for Vision (From The Daughters of the King): Grant Us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom, forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit: so that we may share your vision, proclaim your love and change the world. In the Name of Christ. Amen.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Gary Henault, Max Thomas, Ronnie Peoples, Marsha Friedman, Carol Self, Shirley Cotter, Shaleta Fugua, Beverly Miller, Theo Mann, Colleen Furlong, Bo Warren, Joan LeVan, Annie McDorman.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Jaron Smith, Glenn L. Eaton, Al Williams, David Waldron, Larry Sams, Rev. Hope Knobler, Jim Myrick, Candy Waldron, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson, Lamar Toole, Elizabeth Briscoe, William 'Parker' Johnson, Christian Llosa.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Canon John, Nicole, Rhett, Dawn, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of the Rector Nominating Committee: Philip Hand, Lisa Beerman, Kasey Bulford, Brother Massenburg, Katie McBride-Newman, J.J. Thomasson, and Bill Tudor.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg, Ryan Whitfield, Stephen Malcom, Victoria Eversoll, Trey Bland.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: David Farmer, Tim Dees, Graham Marchman, Nick Eversoll, Kate Wise, Sherry Cook, and Jaden Reynolds.

We pray for those who have died. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week Marianne Lawhead

Vergers Dwight Ellison & Frankey Henderson

Eucharistic Ministers Wendy LeVan & Scott Seiler

Acolytes Adele Bulford (1st); Liam Bulford (2nd);

Reader(s) India Camp

Healing Intercessors Betsy Candler & Frank West

Ushers Virginia Williams, Danny Brown, Mike Colpoys,

Taylor Josey, Mark LeVan, Justin Nieto, & John Tucker

Altar Guild Kathy Ellison Flower Guild Virginia Williams

Parish Notices

Nominating Committee: At 9:30 am and 11:30 am today in the Parish Library, Bill Tudor and Lisa Beerman, will lead a group session to hear from you. You will have the opportunity to let us know the qualities you desire in our next rector; describe your understanding of the mission and ministry of St. Paul's; where you hope to see St. Paul's in the future; and anything else you would like to share. If you can't stay today, there will be additional sessions held throughout December.

2023 Contributions: We are in the last quarter of 2023, please log in to Realm and review your profile information, including email address, and your giving so far this year, especially your pledge status. If you need help logging into Realm or you would like a copy of your 2023 giving statement emailed or printed contact Nicole at admin@stpaulsnewnan.org.

2024 Stewardship Campaign: There are 2024 Stewardship Campaign brochures and response cards available in the Narthex. To make sure that we receive your pledge and contributions, please drop off your pledge and contributions in the offering plate or drop off at Nicole's office. You can use the QR code to go directly to the pledge campaign page in Realm.



Advent Wreath: Advent Wreath making will take place after Wednesday night supper on November 29th. Greenery, candles and foam wreaths will be available for you to decorate and take home. Suggested donation is \$12. Contact Cathy Sandlin at (770) 328-7988 for information. You can sign up via Realm using the QR code.



Advent Quiet Day: Join us for a day of Contemplative Prayer and Meditation on Saturday, December 2nd, 9 am to 12 pm. Canon John will teach centering prayer.

Upcoming Holiday Schedule: We have finalized the schedule of Christmas services. Please pick up a schedule along with details on making a Flower and/or Music Donation in the Narthex. You can use the QR code for donations and to provide your dedication message.



Angel Tree: HO! HO! It's not too early to be thinking about choosing a gift or two from our Angel Tree for a needy child or adult in our community. Our Angel is back at St Paul's in her original "live" form -- not online-- so be sure to look for her in the Narthex and choose the star with the gift you would like to provide.

The Daughters of the King: Information pamphlets are available on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. We welcome any prospective members!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; Nicole Walters, Seminarian; Rhett Barnwell, Organist/Choirmaster; Dawn Harrison, Music Associate; Geoff Mattera, Communications Director; Cole Hankins, Multimedia Associate; Nicole Edwards, Parish Administrator; Kimberly Stokes, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; Mark LeVan, Junior Warden; Marge Bass, Outreach; Frankey Henderson, Parish Life; Mary Frances Honea, Health & Healing; Polly Hopkins, Formation; Tony King, Worship; Roy Reynolds, Communications; Virginia Williams, Stewardship.