



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**The Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2024 • 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

The service begins on page 350 of The Book of Common Prayer and is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Hymn

*The God of Abraham praise
Hymnal 401*

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People God's mercy endures forever.

The Decalogue

Celebrant Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People *Amen. Lord have mercy.*

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Kyrie

Hymnal S 91

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Priest stands and says

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading ~ Genesis 17:1 - 7, 15 - 16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm ~ 22:22 - 30

Sung by the choir

22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; *

but when they cry to him he hears them.

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 4:13 - 25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Take up your cross, the Savior said
Hymnal 675

The Holy Gospel ~ Mark 8:31 - 38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 IV

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.

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *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.

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *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.

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *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.

Bless our Nominating Committee, Philip, Lisa, Kasey, Brother, Katie, J.J., and Bill, and our Vestry, Marianne, Tony, Marge, Anne, Mary Frances, Polly, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Roy that they may be guided by your Holy Spirit.

Bless those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially Matthew, Adele, Julia, Kathy, Carrie, Gail, and Frank.

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *Hear our prayer.*

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

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *Hear our prayer.*

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

Lector Lord, in your mercy
People *Hear our prayer.*

The Prayer In Times of Conflict [*prayed by all*]

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}

Celebrant continues with concluding collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

Let Us Pray For Peace
Nancy Kraft/Thomas Keesecker

St. Cecilia Choir and the Adult Choir

Let us pray for peace, for the healing of creation. May God's truth and justice mend every breach; may we learn to live as one.

Let us pray for love, for the grace to offer mercy. May compassion guide our way in the world, may forgiveness heal division. May forgiveness heal us all.

We pray for peace, we pray for understanding. Pray that hatred cease; and God's reign is known on earth. Hear our prayer for peace. Hear our prayer for love. Hear our voices, Lord, this day, we pray.

You know our hearts, you know our selfish struggles. Take away our pride, and fill us all with you.

Fill us with your peace, fill us with your love, fill us all this day, O Lord, we pray.

May your will be done, here on earth as is in heaven. May your reign of love be known in our lives, may your will be done among us. May we do you will, Amen.

The Presentation Hymn

Take my life, and let it be
Hymnal 707

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.

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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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 124

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.

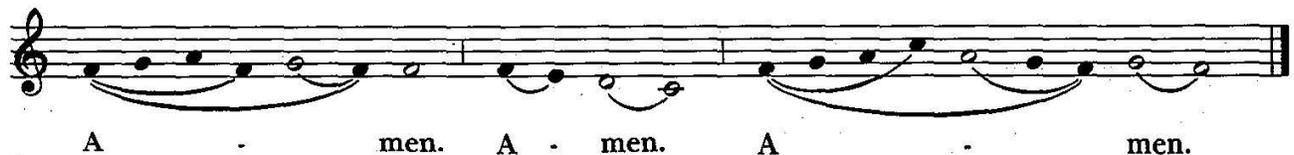
Christ will come again.

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.

The Great Amen

Hymnal S 143



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 Anthem

Hymnal S 161

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

Who Shall Separate Us From The Love of God

Hal Hopson

Sung by St. Cecilia Choir

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Who shall take away his tender care?
Shall pain of sword, or deep despair, or darkest sorrow in the night?
Through all these things our faith is tried; we live in Christ, who loves us all; we conquer
still each passing day; his love shall be our stay.
Shall death or life, or worlds unknow, or all the powers yet to be?

The Communion Hymn

Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord

Please stand at the last verse

Hymnal 328, v 1 - 4

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
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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

Forty days and forty nights
Hymnal 150

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God.

Remember in your Prayers

A Prayer to Start My Day (From The Daughters of the King): Lord, You have given me another day of life; let me celebrate this day, and let me use it according to Your plan. I praise You, Father, for my life and for the friends and family members who make it rich. Enable me to live each moment to the fullest as I give thanks for Your creation, for Your love, and for Your Son. Amen.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Bo Warren, Gloria Crook, Ernie Williams, Andrew Davis, Saralyn Singletary, Bella Pacini, Connie Edge, Sue Woodward, Kathryn Martin, Ron Wilson, Rena McMichael, Bill Garrett, Madelyn Barrow.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Jim Myrick, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson, Lamar Toole, Elizabeth Briscoe, William 'Parker' Johnson, Christian Llosa, Al Williams, Paul Sherman, Robert Hicks.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Tony, Marge, Anne, Mary Frances, Polly, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Roy 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: Matthew Crow, Adele Bulford, Julia Watkiss, Kathy Ellison, Carrie Wendelburg, Gail Furniss, and Frank Marchman.

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

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week	Mary Frances Honea
Vergers	Frankey Henderson & Daryl Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Wendy Llosa & Mike Scott
Acolytes	Adele Bulford (1st); Liam Bulford (2nd); Jack Bulford (Banner); Elijah & James Edwards (Torchbearers)
Reader(s)	Katie McBride-Newman
Prayer Intercessors	Anne & Lou Graner
Ushers	Hadley Heindel, Brian Lewis, David Martin, Rusty Martin, Tammy Martin, Roy Reynolds, & Cathy Sandlin
Altar Guild	Kathy Ellison & Juliane Reynolds

Parish Notices

To view today's parish notices, please pick up a printed copy in the Narthex, see an usher, or [click here](#).

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; **Tony King**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Health & Healing; **Anne Graner**, Outreach; **Mary Frances Honea**, Strategic Visioning; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Sarah Huxford**, Stewardship; **Elizabeth Pape**, Parish Life; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications.