

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We believe that God is healing and restoring the world,  
and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.*



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE THIRD CANDLE – JOY

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Welcome to St. Paul's! We are grateful for your prayers and presence on this day in the life of the parish community. We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

Our worship service takes place here and online; it is also being recorded for later viewing. Feel free to greet one another as is your custom as you gather. When we are ready to start, our Angels Aloft will sound an opening bell. This signals those gathered that our service is now being recorded. Please maintain quiet and turn your attention to our opening activities at this time.



## The Holy Eucharist - Rite II

Opening Bell

Welcome..... *Presider*

Announcements ..... *Member of Vestry*

Prelude..... "Breath Of Heaven" – Amy Grant ..... Elizabeth Mahoney

Land Acknowledgement..... *Presider*

*We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples who have reserve treaty rights to this land, especially the Skagit Nation who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank these caretakers of the land, who have lived here and continue to live here since time immemorial.*

### **Mission Statement**

***Presider and People:***

**We believe that God is healing and restoring the world, and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.**

Opening Hymn.....Ready the Way of the Lord

Verses

1. "Read - y the way of the Lord! Read - y the  
 2. "Let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled. Let ev - 'ry  
 3. Des - ert and waste - land will bloom. Des - ert and  
 4. Those who are blind will then see. Those who are  
 5. Strength - en the ones who are weak. Strength - en the

1. way of the Lord!" A voice cries out in the wil - der -  
 2. val - ley be filled. Let ev - 'ry moun - tain be hum -  
 3. waste - land will bloom. } Glo - ry and splen - dor will fill the  
 4. deaf will then hear. } Those who are lame will then leap for  
 5. ones who are weak. } Say to the fright - ened: "Have cour -

1. ness: "Read - y the way of the Lord!" (to Verse 2)  
 2. bled; let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled." (to Refrain)  
 3. land. Des - ert and waste - land will bloom. (to Verse 4)  
 4. joy. Those who are mute will then sing. (to Refrain)  
 5. age." Strength - en the ones who are weak. (to Refrain)

Refrain

Here is your God, com - ing with your vin - di - ca - tion.

Look and be - hold the sav - ing pow - er of God.

The sav - ing pow - er of God.

## Come, Let Us Adore Him: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

**Reader One, Susan Sanderson:** No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming: *And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away* (Isaiah 35:8ff). With **joy** you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

**Congregation:** Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

**Reader Two, Judy Smith:** We light this candle of **joy** as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

**Acolyte:** *Light the first, second & third (pink/rose) candles of the Advent wreath.*

### The Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen

### The Collect For Purity

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.**

#### Trisagion (sung x3)

Ho - ly God, \_\_\_\_\_ ho - ly and might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

*Presider and People:*

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please be seated.*

A Reading From Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even  
fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow  
 and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

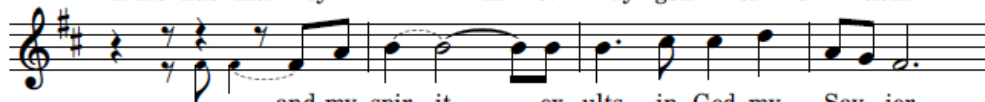
People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15.....Holy Is His Name .....Magnificat



1. My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord,

2. He has mer-cy in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



and my spir-it ex-ul-t in God my Sav-ior.  
 He has re-vealed his pow-er and his glo-ry.



For he has looked with mer-cy on my low-li-ness  
 He has cast down the might-y in their ar-ro-gance,



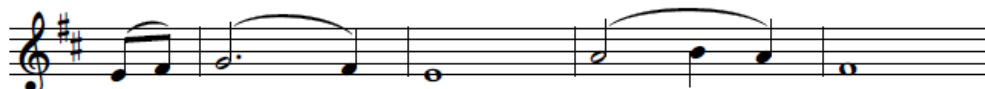
and my name will be for-ev-er ex-al-ted.  
 and has lift-ed up the meek and the low-ly.



For the might-y God has done great things for me,  
 He has come to help his ser-vant Is-ra-el;



and his mer-cy will reach from age to age.  
 he re-mem-bers his prom-ise to our fa-thers.



And Ho ly, ho - - ly,



ho - ly is his name.

A Reading From James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn.....O Come Emmanuel, verses 1-3.....Hymn 56

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew 11:2-11

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

The Sermon..... The Rev. Rilla Barrett

*Please stand as able.*

## **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:  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 I**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Deacon: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."



Intercessor: For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean, our presiding bishop, and Philip, our bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Mount Vernon, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of St. Paul and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

**Presider and People: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Presider speaks an Absolution.*

## **The Peace / La Paz**

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you. / La paz del Señor sea siempre con ustedes.

**People: And also with you. / Y con tu espíritu.**

*If you are worshiping with us virtually, use the chat function to “say” peace to your fellow parishioners, or text/email someone with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.*

## **Celebrations and Thanksgiving of Life**

**Offertory**..... Your Light Will Come Jerusalem ..... *This page and next*

Refrain

Your light will come, Je - ru - sa - lem; for on you will dawn the  
glo - ry of the Lord, and all na - tions will walk in your  
light, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written on three staves in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff continues the melody for the third line of lyrics, ending with a double bar line and a fermata. The lyrics are: 'Your light will come, Je - ru - sa - lem; for on you will dawn the glo - ry of the Lord, and all na - tions will walk in your light, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.'

Verses

1. Christ is the light of the world, a light dis -  
 2. His light is mer - cy and peace, a peace sur -  
 3. His light is jus - tice and truth, and love which

1. pel - ling the dark - ness. May we, his  
 2. pass - ing all tell - ing. May we, his  
 3. casts out all ha - tred. May we, his

1. bod - y, re - flect that ho - ly light. to Refrain  
 2. bod - y, be in - stru - ments of peace.  
 3. bod - y, pre - pare the reign of God.

*Your gifts are much appreciated.*

*If you are joining this live stream, you may mail your offering/pledge to 415 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98274. You can also make payments online at [www.stpaulsmv.org](http://www.stpaulsmv.org)*

## Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise God all creatures here below  
 Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## The Holy Communion - Eucharistic Prayer B

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to come forward for communion or blessing. Gluten free wafers are available. The assembly is invited to stand as they are able for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

*Intinction, also known as dipping the bread in the wine, is not practiced here. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please cross your arms in front of our chest as the chalice bearer approaches. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread.*

Presider: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift our hearts to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the One who created us.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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::



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My  
cor - a - zon te sa - bede-cir: san - to e-res Se - ñor.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Presider: 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. Through Mary's Holy Child, you have delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before you. 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, Jesus 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, Jesus 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

***Presider and People***

**We remember Christ's death,**

**We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**

**We await Christ's coming in glory;**

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Dear One; 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, gather all things into the circle of Christ’s love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with St. Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of all your children; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Most Blessed One, now and forever. Amen.

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

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come,  
 your will be done on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
 Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil For the king - dom the pow - er,  
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. a - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## Fraction Hymn

Se - ñor y Je - su - cris - to, Hi - jo del Dios vi - vo Se - ñor y Je - su - cris - to, Hi -  
 Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the li - ving God, Lord Jesus Christ, Son  
 - jo del Dios vi - vo. O - ten mi - se - ri - cor - dia de no - so - tros pe - ca - do - res O -  
 of the li - ving God, O have mer - cy on us sin - ers, O

-ten me - se - ri - cor - dia de no - so - tros pe - ca - do - res  
 have mer - - - cy on us sin - - - ners.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Please be seated.*

*Those present are invited to receive Holy Communion. You can approach the altar at the direction of the usher.*

*Those with us online, during these next moments of meditation, wherever you are, receive God's gifts to you.*

*We share spiritual communion today.*

**Communion Hymn** .....Beyond the Moon and Stars

Refrain

Be-yond the moon and stars, as deep as night, so great our  
 hun-ger, Lord, to see your light. The spar-row finds her home  
 be-neath your wing. So may we come to rest where an-gels

Verses

sing. 1. Our eyes have longed to see your lov - ing  
 2. Your roads have led us, Lord, 'cross des - ert  
 3. Up - on our dark-ness, Lord, a light has  
 4. With shin - ing star at night, and cloud by  
 5. When life's great jour - ney ends, and day is

to Refrain

1. face, to live with - in your courts for all our days.  
 2. sand. We place our hopes and dreams with - in your hand.  
 3. shone. You chose to dwell with us in flesh and bone.  
 4. day, you brought us here to see your love's dis - play.  
 5. done, then may our eyes be - hold your Ho - ly One.

## Sending out of Eucharistic Ministers:

*The Deacon sends forth the Eucharistic Ministers:*

Deacon: We who are many are one body

**People: Because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Deacon: In the name of God and of this congregation we 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.

**People: As you have been fed, now feed others in the name of Christ.**

Deacon: Our prayers go with you, go in peace. Amen.

## Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

***People and Presider:* God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Blessing

**Closing Hymn** ..... Prepare the way O Zion .....Hymn 65

## Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude.....And the Glory of the Lord ..... arr. Tornquist

Serving Today:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Presider and Preacher

Deacon:

Musician

Eucharistic Minister:

Eucharistic Visitors:

Greeters:

Lectors:

Counters:

The Rev. Rilla Barrett

The Rev. Dennis Taylor

J.J. Cully

Judy Smith

Sandy McDougall & Mary Ann Taylor

Carol Treston

Nicole Smith & Bonnie Schuh

Elizabeth Tucker & Dianna Hume

St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list. Please email Acacia McDermott at redwoodam@proton.me

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## *Welcome to Saint Paul's!*

We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. The prayer book gives directions as to when we stand, sit, or occasionally kneel; these are guidelines. What is more important is that you bring your complete self to worship God.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. We use real wine in the cup. Intinction, which is also known as dipping the bread in the wine, is not practiced here. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please cross your arms in front of your chest as the chalice bearer approaches. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread, which is gluten free.

We ask that those worshipping with us online reverently pray and meditate on God's grace and blessing whenever you observe the Eucharist being taken.

TELECOIL ASSIST AVAILABLE.



HEADPHONES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE,  
PLEASE SEE A GREETER.

The Right Reverend Philip N. LaBelle, Bishop 206-325-4200

<https://ecww.org/>

*The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia*

The Reverend Dennis Taylor 360-661-1551

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*David Lorente, Parish Administrator*