

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 17, 2023

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

415 SOUTH 18TH ST., MOUNT VERNON WA 98274-4658

360-424-1822

E-MAIL: STPAULMV@COMCAST.NET

WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSMV.ORG

The Holy Eucharist - Rite II

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. The majority of the liturgy is printed in the bulletin; however, you will find the hymns in the Blue 1982 Hymnals in the back of the pews. Hymns that start with "S" are found at the beginning of the hymnal.

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.

Opening Bell

Welcome

Celebrant

Announcements

Member of Vestry

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement

Celebrant

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 Tribe who has stewarded this land throughout the generations.

*We thank these caretakers of this land, who have lived, and
continue to live, here since time immemorial.*

Mission Statement

¹ *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.

Please stand as able.

Opening

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Here & next page.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

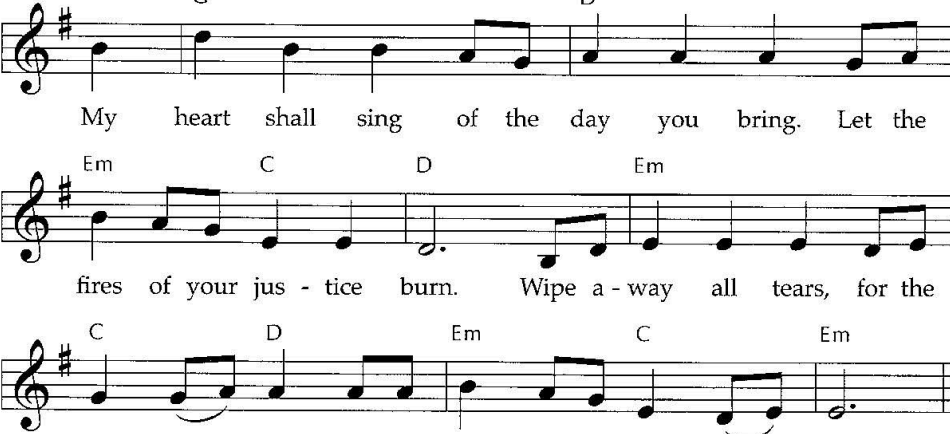
cont'd.

G D Em C Em



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D Em C D Em C D Em C Em



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Presider: Blessed be God, Earth Maker, Pain Bearer, Life Giver.

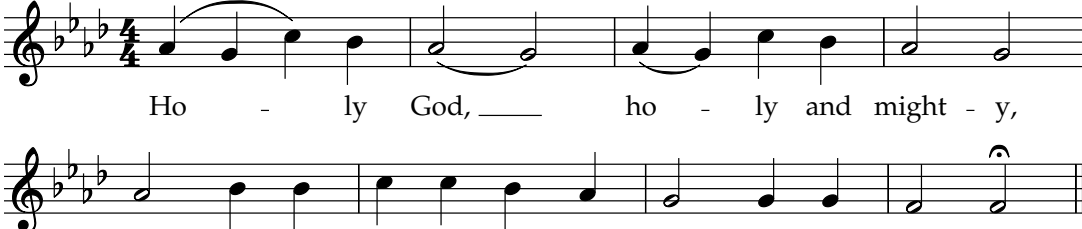
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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

(Repeat x3)



Ho - ly God, ____ ho - ly and might - y,
 Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect

Presider: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

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 61:1-4, 8-11.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15 : The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Antiphon: Holy, Holy, Holy is God's Name. *(repeat)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit exults in God my savior,
For He has looked with mercy on my lowliness
And my name will be forever exulted,

5 Antiphon: Holy, Holy, Holy is God's Name. *(repeat)*

For the mighty God has done great things for me
And his mercy will reach from age to age.

Antiphon: Holy, Holy, Holy is God's Name. *(repeat)*

He has mercy in every generation.
He has revealed His power and his glory.
He has cast down the mighty in their arrogance.
And has lifted up the meek and the lowly.

Antiphon: Holy, Holy, Holy is God's Name. *(repeat)*

He has come to help his servant Israel
He remembers his promise to our fathers.

Antiphon: Holy, Holy, Holy is God's Name. *(repeat)*

A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Presider: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John 1:6-8,19-28.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Moore

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

Eucharistic Minister: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “*Lord, have mercy.*”

Silence.

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 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, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, 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 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 Saint 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.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and Absolution

Deacon or Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

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

Your gifts are much appreciated.

If you are joining this live stream, you may mail your offering/pledge to 415 S. 18th Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98274. You can also make payments online at 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. Glutenfree wafers are available. The assembly is invited to stand for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Creator 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



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. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

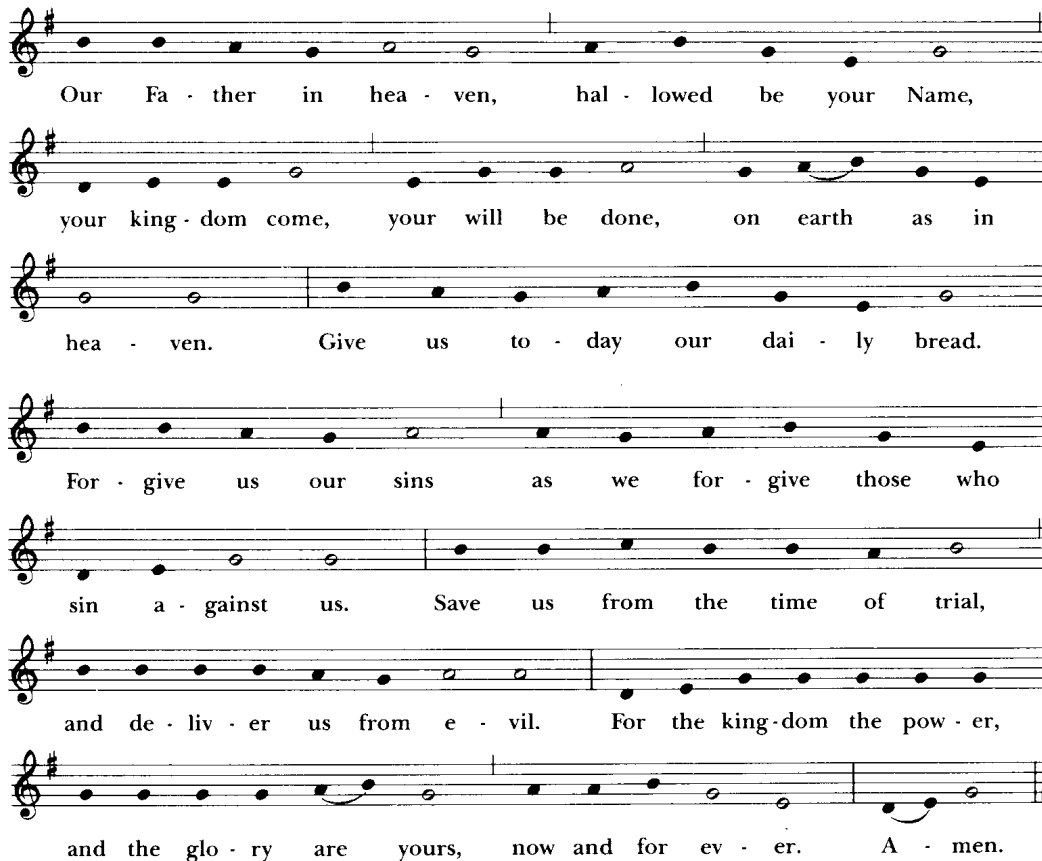
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

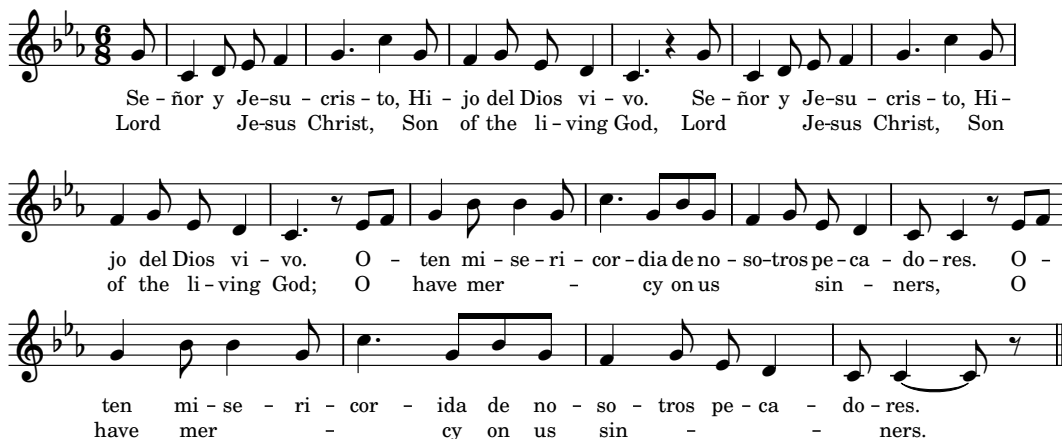
Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:



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

The Fraction Song:



Se - ñor y Je-su - cris - to, Hi - jo del Dios vi - vo. Se - ñor y Je-su - cris - to, Hi -
Lord Je-sus Christ, Son of the li - ving God, Lord Je-sus 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 - ners, O

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

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

Please be seated.

Those present, are invited to receive Holy Communion.

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

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors:

The Presider sends forth the Eucharistic Minister with a blessing:

Presider: We who are many are one body

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

Presider: 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.

Presider: Our prayers go with you, go in peace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

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

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Hymn 556

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Offertory - Thank you for giving!

Please drop your offering in the church's mailbox or mail it to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

415 S. 18th Street

Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Serving Today: 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Presider:	The Rev. Paul Moore
Deacon:	Rev. Dennis Taylor, Rev. Vicki Johnson
Eucharistic Minister:	Dan Niven
Greeters:	Melissa Dean, Jeffery Bird
Lector(s):	Marilyn Allen, Bonnie Schuh
Eucharistic Visitors:	Sherri/Dan
Counters:	Bonnie Schuh, Marilyn Allen

Your Vestry members request your prayers for this congregation and their leadership. They want to be in conversation with you. Speak with them so they know the needs of the congregation: Maggie Bird, Bonnie Schuh, Joe Thomas, Darcy Wells, Margie Lauer, Sue Shepherd.

St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list.
Please email Penny Worrell at penny.worrell@gmail.com.

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Announcements for December 17, 2023

Welcome to our guests: We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today! Please put your name and contact information in our guest book so that we may get to know you better.

Free COVID Tests - continue to be available and will be for some time. Like the previous batch, the expiration date on them has been extended and Nurse Barb Cheney is updating them. Feel free to take as many as you like; give them to friends and neighbors, etc. There are lots more coming. (Thank you to the anonymous donor!)

Women's Getaway Weekend (adult program) – January 12-15, 2024

I made an announcement about The women's retreat at Camp Huston (Episcopal church Camp and Conference Center) on Sunday. It is a wonderful weekend to de-stress after the holidays and it would be great fun if a whole group of us could go together this year. Mary Ann goes almost every year and I go many of those with her. We have taken whole groups of women from St. Paul's with us on a couple of occasions, and then we get a cabin all to ourselves. People do crafts, games, walks, hikes, read, visit, snack, etc. Pretty much whatever you want to do. Some people quilt, scrapbook, knit, work on fun computer projects etc. There are church services if you want to attend. There is usually a masseuse if you choose to make an appointment. The cabins have either a fireplace or wood stove in the living room and a table(s) for crafts and games. You may pick a roommate for your bedroom or ask for a private room. All your meals are in the main building. There is no pressure, no set agenda. Mary Ann and I go on Friday and come home Monday afternoon. Some people come up on Saturday instead. It is always held on Martin Luther King weekend. We bring our own linens and towels, which saves \$20. Here is the website info: <https://huston.org/hustonevents/>. Women's Getaway:

WG Three nights (shared room)	345.00
WG Two nights (shared room)	240.00
WG One night (shared room)	135.00
WG Three nights (single room)	450.00
WG Two nights (single room)	320.00
WG One night (single room)	165.0

When looking at the costs, keep in mind that if you rented a vacation cabin and meals were included, the cost would be a great deal more than this. I sincerely hope that several of you will join Mary Ann and I. -Sandy

Family Promise - Seasonal Shelter for homeless families: Gift certificates of \$25 or less are being collected now thru January 14th. Gift certificates from Target, Fred Meyer, Walmart and Safeway would be appreciated. Put them in an envelope, marking Family Promise, and leave in the collection plate. Also, if you wish to donate by check, write the check out to St. Paul's and note Family Promise and leave in the collection plate. Gift Certificates will purchased with this funding. Questions, please contact Sharon Johnson.

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. If you wish to receive only a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest approaches. If you do not want to drink from the chalice, please cross your arms across your chest. Non-gluten bread is also available. Please inform us if this is your preference. 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.



The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia	206-325-4200	https://ecww.org/
The Reverend Paul Moore <i>Rector</i>	254-368-6475	padrequiteno@gmail.com
The Reverend Dennis Taylor <i>Deacon / Faith Community Nurse</i>	360-661-1551	deacon2rn@comcast.net
Nancy Blaire Serrano <i>Organist and Music Director</i>		stpaulmvmusic@gmail.com
St. Paul's Office <i>Parish Administrator</i> <i>Bookkeeper</i>	360-424-1822	stpaulmv@comcast.net spbookkeeper@comcast.net

If you would like to receive our e-news, please send a message to stpaulmv@comcast.net.