

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.*



MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Joy to the World

Hymn 100

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.

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn 96

The Collect

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah 52:7-10.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

A Reading from Hebrews 1:1-12.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”

Please stand as able.

Gradual

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 79

Presider: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John 1:1-14.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

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

Intercessor: Everliving God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Silence.

Here other intercessions may be offered, silently or aloud.

Presider 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

Offertory

Nancy Blaire Serrano

Doxology

Sung together to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King".

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!

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 you are able for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Presider: May 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 truly right to glorify you, O God, our Refuge and Strength, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Presider and People:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

S129

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider: We acclaim you, Holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, given the whole world into our

care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might dwell as faithful companions with all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom, to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for the One who died and rose for us, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, Jesus loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to them, 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; offered thanks and 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."

Most Blessed One, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, the Rock of our Salvation.**

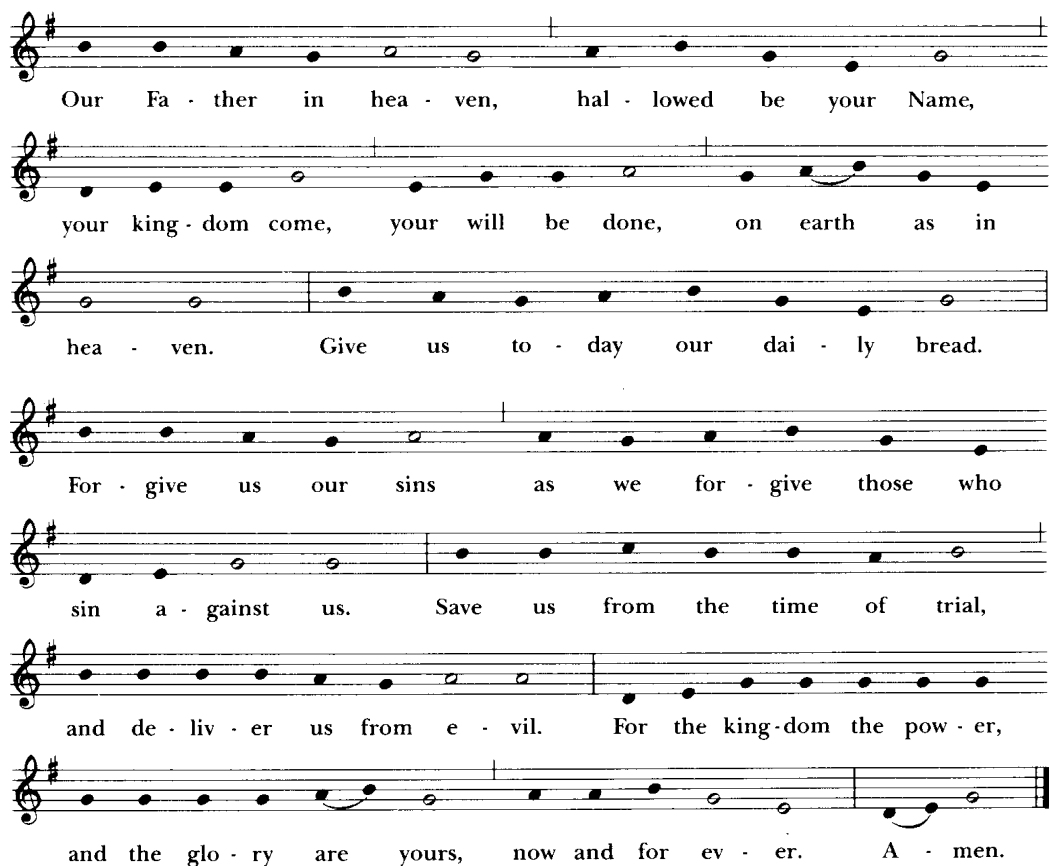
We pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus

Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, O God, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember our Bishops and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have no shelter this night, all who have no food, all who suffer and hurt this night, all who are alone. May they know the healing warmth of your love. Remember all who serve this night on behalf of others. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Eternal God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and forever.
AMEN.

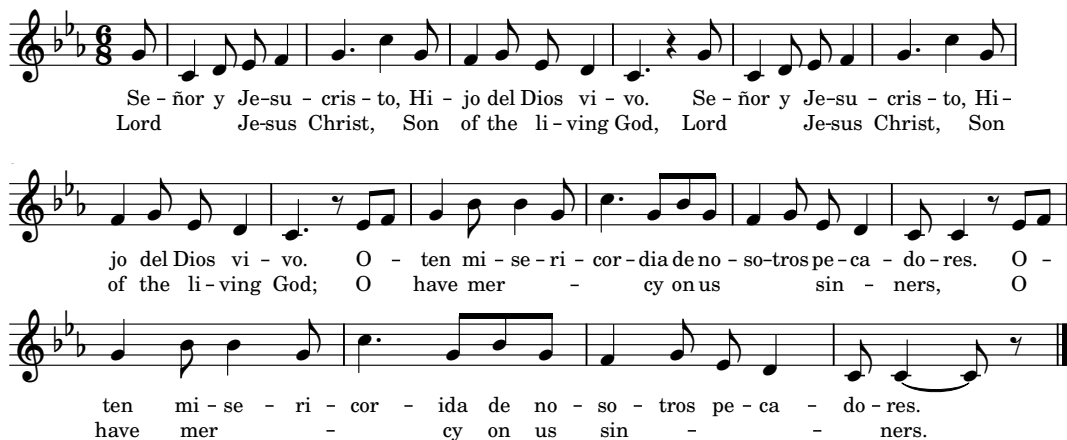
Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:



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.*

Communion

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Hymn 105

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

The First Noel

Hymn 109

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. Keith Axberg

Deacon:

Rev. Dennis Taylor, Rev. Vicki Johnson

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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Cover image: <https://thewilkesrecord.com/christmas-greetings-p5282-149.htm>

Announcements for December 25, 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.