



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 21, 2022
6:00 pm

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

*The mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to explore and celebrate
God's infinite grace, acceptance, and love.*

Welcome! We are glad that you are with us.

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The *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) is the red book.

The *Hymnal 1982* (H) is the blue book.

The service starts on page **109** in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

*It is customary in the Episcopal Church to keep silence before the service
so that people may pray.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The church is dark, or partially so, at the start of the service. All stand, and the Presider greets the people with these words

Presider Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Presider If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

Psalm 139:10-11

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The candles on the altar are now lighted, as are other candles and lamps as may be convenient.

HYMN: O GRACIOUS LIGHT

H 25

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON: HABAKKUK 2:1-4

I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

The lector closes the reading, saying

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence and stillness

THE PSALM: PSALM 126

Spoken in unison

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
 then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 “The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
 will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

THE SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 10:35-11:1

Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

For yet “in a very little while,
the one who is coming will come and will not delay;

but my righteous one will live by faith.
My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.”

But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The lector closes the reading, saying

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence and stillness

HYMN: THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

H 645

Please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 20:24-29

Please stand or remain standing.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE HOMILY *The Rev. Evan D. Garner*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our prayer list can be found online at www.tinyurl.com/stpaulsfay-prayer

Litanist For the darkness of waiting and not knowing what is to come, for the darkness of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
We praise you O God:

People **For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.**

For the darkness of staying silent and for the terror of having nothing that can be done to change things,
We praise you O God:

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of choosing to act, not knowing what the future will bring,

We praise you O God:

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the darkness of hoping in a world which longs for fulfillment, for the wrestling and the laboring of all creation for wholeness and justice and freedom,

We praise you O God:

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

For the needs of our hearts; for those who are ill or troubled; for those who have died and those who grieve; including those we name aloud or in our hearts.

We praise you O God:

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you.

Presider Comfort us in our darkness with the light of your promise, O God; that we may wait with hope for the fulfilling of your Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP 360

Please stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly announcements can be found online at www.stpaulsfay.org/s/epistle.pdf

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Gifts can be made online at www.tithe.ly/give?c=454227



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

Please stand.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Presider continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages.

The Presider continues

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:

SANCTUS: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD

H S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san- na in the high - est.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

Please stand or kneel.

The Presider continues

BCP 368

We give thanks to you, O God...

... Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider continues

BCP 369

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all...

... 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM: JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

H S-161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

*Whoever you are and wherever you are in your pilgrimage of faith,
 you are welcome in this place; you are welcome at God's table.*

To receive Communion, come forward down the center aisle. Hand sanitizer is available. You may come up the chancel steps to the altar rail or, if you need the clergy to bring Communion to your pew, please let an usher know. To receive the bread, extend your open palm to the minister. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. To receive the wine, guide the base of the chalice with your hand so that you can sip from the cup. You may also intinct/dip the bread into the wine if you prefer. If you prefer not to receive in either or both kinds, cross your arms over your chest to indicate your intention. Return to your pew by the side aisles.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For those joining us at home

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beg you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND HEALING PRAYERS

While returning from communion, you may wish to pause for healing prayers or to light a candle in remembrance and hope.

HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

H 56

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Please stand or kneel.

Presider 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.

HYMN: GOD IS LOVE

H 379

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

After the dismissal sentence

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

Music begins approximately 30 minutes before each service.

4:00 pm Eucharist in the Church & Parish Hall

6:00 pm Eucharist in the Church

11:00 pm Festal Eucharist in the Church (with incense)

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25

10:00 am Eucharist in the Church

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