

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was
in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Epistle 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 pa-
tient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You al-
so 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.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

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 roy-
al 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.”

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of
St. Paul’s. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every
Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also
submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex. To add names to the prayer
list, please contact the church office. Names will remain on the
prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed.

Please pray for: *Bob Lloyd, Cathy Hargrave*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 16, Tues.—Vestry Meeting

Dec. 20, Sat.—8:00am—St Joseph’s Guild
9:00am DOK Daughter’s of the King

2025-2026 APNET Events - Opportunities to join with other small Episcopal
churches for ministry and mutual edification. Please consider participating. Ru-
ral Churches play a important role in the fabric of the communities they
serve. They are the outposts of the rural mission field for the Gospel. Often
times these small missions and parishes struggle to remain viable having lim-
ited resources and small numbers.

- **December 17 – 6pm** Blue Christmas at St. Dunstan’s, Mineola.
Focused on those grieving the death of a loved on.
- **December 20 – 5pm** La Posada at San Marcos, Mt. Pleasant. It will
include a meal.
- **January 3 – 4pm** Lessons and Carols at St. William Laud, Pittsburg.
- **January 21—5:30pm—**ALPHA Course: St. Philip’s Episcopal,
Sulphur Springs, TX
- **February 20-21** – APNET Conference

ANY TIME YOU CAN GIVE IS APPRECIATED

Dec. 19, Fri.— 10:00am - Volunteers needed
to prep the Christmas adornments for the
Greening of the Church after the service on
Sunday, Dec. 21st.



Dec. 21, Sun.— After Service - Grab a snack/ drink and head back in to the
sanctuary to join in this annual event as we decorate the sanctuary in
preparation for Christmas Eve Services.



Today’s Stewardship Pearl

Jesus says “I give you a new com-
mandment, that you love one an-
other. Just as I have loved
you, you must love one another.
John 13:34

More Than Enough

Donate Digitally!

Open your phone’s camera and aim it
at this QR code. This will take you
directly to our donation page at
www.stpaulstx.org/giving where you can
donate to our Giving Program.

Thank you for your support!



St. Paul’s Episcopal Church



St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
8320 Jack Finney Blvd.
Greenville, TX 75402-3004

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Service Times at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

9:30 am to 10:15 amADULT CATECHESIS
10:15 am. to 12:00 pm.NURSERY OPEN
10:30 am.HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am.MORNING PRAYER I
10:00 am.CHILDREN’S CHAPEL
10:30 am.MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 pm.BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m.Compline Service (access St. Paul’s Facebook Page)

This Sunday, December 14th

Lector/LEM Debbie Shaffer
Acolyte: Karen Smith
Vestry Person of the Day: Frank McKee, Elizabeth Porter
Intercessory Prayer: Laurel Pence
Tech Team: Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jeff Faunce; Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Next Sunday, December 21st

Lector/LEM: Matt Wolff
Acolytte David Kiriklin
Vestry Person of the Day: Jeff Faunce, Elizabeth Porter
Intercessory Prayer: Laurel Pence
Tech Team: Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jeff Faunce; Social Media-Georgianna Harrison
Altar Guild: Laura Funk, Georgianna Harrison, Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant

Morsels for Meditation

“Jesus' life began in a stable and ended on the cross between two criminals. The Apostle Paul said he wanted to proclaim nothing but this crucified Christ. We, too, have nothing to hold on to except this Christ. We must ask ourselves again and again: Are we willing to go his way, from the stable to the cross? As disciples we are not promised comfortable and good times. Jesus says we must deny ourselves and suffer with him and for him. That is the only way to follow him, but behind it lies the glory of life-the glowing love of God, which is so much greater than our hearts and our lives.”
J. Heinrich Arnold

“It can be no dishonor to learn from others when they speak good sense.”
Sophocles

“Patience is the companion of wisdom.”
Augustine of Hippo, "On Patience"

Cover Art

F.M. Mural Group, *Madonna and Child* (Nazareth, Israel: Church of the Annunciation, 2008), mosaic. A Gift from the Christians of Japan.

Morning Prayer Rite II

The Word of God

Processional Hymn H # 616
Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
Opening Acclamation BCP 78
Confession of Sin BCP 79
The Invitatory and Psalter BCP 80
The Lessons BCP 84
The First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10
The Psalm Canticle 15
The Epistle James 5:7-10
Gospel Hymn H # 70
Herald, sound the note of judgement (Herald, Sound) Matthew 11:2-11
Gospel

Sermon “The Song of Mary: The Magnificat”
By The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk, presented by Matt Wolff

The Apostles’ Creed BCP 96
Announcements

Offertory Hymn H # 65
Prepare the way, O Zion (Bereden Väg För Herran) BCP 97
The Prayers BCP234
The Collect of the Day BCP 101
The General Thanksgiving H # 56
Recessional Hymn
O Come O Come Emmanuel (Veni, veni, Emmanuel) Verses 1-5
The Blessing and Dismissal BCP 102

The Collect

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.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer
H = Hymnbook (red)
A3 = Alleluia III (yellow)

The First Reading 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.

Canticle 15 BCP 91

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
In every generation