

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Today's Stewardship Pearl

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

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, Edward Haines*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, December 13, 2025

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

*The parish is cordially invited to join us for our
annual Christmas Tea in the Parish Hall. Everyone is invited!*

RSVP to Rita Woods—903-521-3533 By December 7th

Hosted by ECW

Dec. 9, Tues.—School Board Meeting

Dec. 11, Thurs. - 8:00pm - Compline Service Via stpaulstx.org click on Facebook or Compline

Dec. 13, Sat.— 2-4pm—Christmas Tea, everyone welcome. RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 7 to Rita Woods 903-521-3533 with number attending.

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. Rural 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 limited resources and small numbers.

- **December 17 – 6pm** Blue Christmas at St. Dunstan's, Mineola. Focused on those grieving the death of a loved one.
- **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

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



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Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*
The Rt. Rev. Dr. George R. Sumner, *Bishop*
The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk, *Rector*
The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*
David Gish, *Music Director*
Cathy Hargrave, *Pianist*

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025

Service Times at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m to 10:15 a.mADULT CATECHESIS
10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.NURSERY OPEN
10:30 a.m.HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m.MORNING PRAYER I
10:00 a.m.CHILDREN’S CHAPEL
10:30 a.m.MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 p.m.BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

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

This Sunday, December 7th

Lector/LEM: Jim Pence
Acolyte: Karen Smith
Vestry Person of the Day: Matt Wolff, David Kirklin
Intercessory Prayer: Suzanne Taylor
Tech Team: Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jeff Faunce; Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Next Sunday, December 14th

Lector/LEM: Jim Pence
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

Altar Guild: Laura Funk, Georgianna Harrison, Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant

Morsels for Meditation

“The most damnable and pernicious heresy that has ever plagued the mind of man was the idea that somehow he could make himself good enough to deserve to live with an all-holy God.”
-Attributed to Martin Luther

It is no strain of metaphor to say that the love of God and the wrath of God are the same thing, described from opposite points of view. How we shall experience it depends upon the way we shall come up against it: God does not change; it is man’s moral state that changes. The wrath of God is a figure of speech to denote God’s unchanging opposition to sin; it is His righteous love operating to destroy evil. It is not evil that will have the last word, but good; not sorrow, but joy; not hate, but love.
-R. J. Campbell

Let no thought linger in your mind that you would be ashamed to let out of your mouth.
-Unknown
How paltry must be the devotions of those who are always in a hurry.
-William Law

Cover Art

Unknown, *Christ Pantocrator* (Mt. Sinai, Egypt: St. Catherine's Monastery, 6th century), encaustic.

Holy Eucharist Rite I

The Word of God

Processional Hymn H #76
On Jordan’s Bank (Helmsley)
Opening Sentence BCP 323
Collect for Purity BCP 323
Summary of the Law BCP 324
Trisagion H #S101
The Collect BCP 159
The Lessons
The First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
The Psalm Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
The Epistle Romans 15:4-13
Gospel Hymn H #66
Come thou long expected Jesus (Stuttgart)
Gospel Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk

The Nicene Creed BCP 358
Prayers of the People (Form I) BCP 328
The Confession BCP 331
The Peace BCP 332
Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn H #56
O Come O Come Emmanuel
Offertory Anthem A3 #221
Doxology (Old 100th)
The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer I) BCP 333
Sanctus H #S129
The Lord’s Prayer BCP 336
Agnus Dei BCP 337
Communion Hymns
Jesus, Name Above All Names A3 #89
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot A3#157
Post Communion Prayer BCP 339
The Blessing & Dismissal BCP 339
Recessional Hymn H #436
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates (Truro)

All baptized Christians are welcome
to receive the Holy Eucharist.

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

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen

The First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.