

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN | *As those of old their first fruits brought (Forest Green)*
The people stand and sing verses 1 and 3.

Hymnal 705

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 323

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

SONG OF PRAISE

BCP p. 324

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

The people sit.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 66:7-18

⁷Bless our God, you peoples; *
 make the voice of his praise to be heard,
⁸Who holds our souls in life, *
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
⁹For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
¹⁰You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
¹²I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
¹⁴Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
¹⁵I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.
¹⁶If I had found evil in my heart, *
 the Lord would not have heard me;
¹⁷But in truth God has heard me; *
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
 nor withheld his love from me.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The people stand.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The people sit.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 326

The people stand.

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

BCP p. 388

The people kneel or stand.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION

BCP p. 331

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and people

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

BCP p. 332

The people stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

The people sit.

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 380, v. 3

The people stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 336

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP p. 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

NOTE ON RECEIVING COMMUNION: *All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament regardless of age or denomination. Those who have not been baptized are welcome to receive a blessing—indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 339

The people kneel or stand.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Celebrant blesses the people.

HYMN | *All things bright and beautiful (Royal Oak)*

Hymnal 405

The people stand and sing verses 1 and 4.

DISMISSAL

BCP p. 340

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector
The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector
The Rev. Josh Wilson, Pastoral Resident
The Rev. Funmi Odidi, Volunteer Priest Associate
Peyton Owen, Preacher
Dr. Sean Vogt, Director of Music
Morris Hamby, Pianist
Lector: Jennifer Groth
Intercessor: Jennifer Groth
Chalice Bearer: Stephen Reksten
Ushers: Tom Collins, Charlie Smith
Altar Guild: Barbara Collins, Alice Gibson, Renee Lamine, Zanie Devereaux

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those with cancer: Albert, Betsy, Dennis, Doug, Earl, Jeff, Leigh, Lois, Margaret, Mark, Marsha, Mary Beth, Matt, Maxine, Molly, Pat, Sage, Sherry, Theresa, Tim, Trevor and Zanie.

For those in cancer remission: Andie, Jim, Katarina, and Mandy.

For those healing from surgery: Aidan, Ashli, James, Jason, Kate, and Jim.

For those with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers.

For those experiencing mental health issues.

For those with other needs: Alyssa, Anna Dean, Bernice, Bobby, Byrena, Dan, David, Jane, Emily, Erika, Greg, Hannah, Henry, Jack, Jerry, Kandace, Kim, Kristin, Lisa, Linda, Marcie, Marchella, Marian, Martha, Miranda, Nicole, Poston, Sam, Sarah, Vanessa, Waylon, and Zach.

For those imprisoned including: Abu-Ali, Charlie, Corinio, Gregory, Joe, Michael Tyrone, and Tyler.

For those experiencing homelessness including: Adrienne, Andrea, Carol, Cindy, Connie, Deborah, Donna, Jacki, Jeri, Jessica, Joe, Kanasha, Kelsey, Kimberley, Kristi, Laura, Leanna, Lonetria, Lori, Melissa, Renada, Sharon, Tiffany, and Trista.

For all veterans and those in military service and their families, including: Benjamin, Brianna, Chris, Evan, Gaven, Jeffrey, Josh, Kaitlin, Nate, Topher, Trevor, and Sean.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- 7:30 a.m. | **Rite I Service** with Gospel Piano
- 8:45 a.m. | **Rite II Service**, Ancient and Modern
 - Nursery available 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - Children's Church
 - Intercessory Prayer available
- **No Christian Education**
Resumes Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
- 11:00 a.m. | **Rite II Service** with Choir, Organ, and Livestream
 - Intercessory Prayer available

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday | TODAY, all services

We will celebrate Youth Sunday with youth leading worship in a variety of roles—including preachers, Peyton Owen and Molly Bartsch. We will also recognize graduating seniors and those children transitioning from catechesis and choristers.

A Reminder from the Altar Guild

Ladies, before coming to the rail to receive the Eucharist, the Altar Guild gently reminds you to please blot your lipstick. This helps us to keep the linens clean and stain-free.



Launch of The St. Paul's Episcopal 1892 Society

A long-awaited moment in time has arrived at St. Paul's. After 18 months of study, preparation, and due diligence, the **St. Paul's Planned Giving Committee** members collectively announce the formal launch of a new initiative to prepare for the future success of our beloved parish—**The St. Paul's Episcopal 1892 Society**.

As many of you are aware, the naming of St. Paul's in our wills and estates is yet another step in our personal stewardship and walk with the Lord. Data suggests that the baby boomer generation will bequeath an estimated \$124 trillion dollars over the next 2 decades, and, if St. Paul's does not actively request such gifts, we will most likely not receive them.

Announcements will occur this Sunday, Mother's Day/Youth Sunday, at all 3 services. Parishioners will begin to receive communications from the Planned Giving Committee in a variety of formats—emails, letters, and social media—as our well-laid plans unfold.

The **St. Paul's Episcopal 1892 Society** will begin to add to their roster the names of parishioners who declare any voluntary estate gifts, beneficiary designations, or other gifts. 1892 marks the year that our church was founded. On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2027, the Founding Members of the society will be announced and commemorated. Please consider being part of this group! Of course, future estate gifts will continue to be accepted and celebrated for many years to come.

The Planned Giving Committee: Jeff Davis-Jr. Warden, Anne Davis, Katie Enzor, David Green-Sr. Warden, Kathy Jones, Lauren and Keith Gamble, Heather Studenberg, Kristine Blaess, Don Whitfield, Bruce Fahnestock, and Michael Whitnah. This group has engaged a company to assist—FreeWill—who will walk alongside us in this process. More to follow!

Please pray for us to accomplish this task with excellence as we move forward, claiming, "God love a cheerful giver!" (II Corinthians 9:7)

Connect Ministry Update!

The Connect Ministry met with 15 clients on May 4 and paid 13 late utility bills for 13 clients totaling \$2,077.00 dollars. The Connect Ministry members are Jimmy Calder, Lisa Eveleigh, Dan Felciano, Lance Ikard, Debbie James, Donna Jones, Joan Kellermann, David Rowe, and Mary Beth Wilson. The Connect Ministry meets with clients on the first and third Monday of each month. St. Paul's support of the Connect Ministry is greatly appreciated.

Alpha is Coming & We Need You!

St. Paul's is bringing Alpha back for a third year this fall and we need everyone's help. HOW can you help? First, of all please pray for the planning team and pray for those people you need to invite to experience Alpha. Second, look over the following list to see where you can step up. Have questions? Want to help and are not sure where you fit? Scan the QR code for more information, and someone from the Alpha team will contact you.



Meat and Potatoes resumes!

Meat and Potatoes is an in-depth exploration of the essentials of the Christian Life. In our weekly meetings, we worship together, discuss our readings, and engage in theological reflection. This seminar is open to adult, Confirmed communicants in good standing. We follow a three-year reading cycle, and, this year, we are studying Scripture. Participants may join at any point in the cycle, provided they commit to a full year. Want to know more? Please contact Fr. Michael Michael.Whitnah@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org by June 1.

Bishop's Visitation and Reception | Sunday, May 24

It is our privilege to welcome Bishop John Bauerschmidt to St. Paul's for his annual visitation! This will be his final visitation with us as Bishop Diocesan, as he will retire in January 2027. The Bishop will Baptize and Confirm members of our congregation during his visitation. His presence with us is a reminder of the greater fellowship of which we as Christians are a part—to our Christian brothers and sisters in our diocese, to the world-wide Church, and to the ministry of Jesus himself. On this day, the loose offering will be designated for Bishop Bauerschmidt's Discretionary Fund.

The Rt. Rev. John C. Bauerschmidt is the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee. Prior to becoming bishop, he served in South Carolina, Massachusetts, England, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Bishop Bauerschmidt and his wife, Caroline, have three adult children. He has a professional interest in theology and an amateur love of history—particularly the history of ideas.

Please join us for a reception following the 8:45 a.m. service.

Rector Sabbatical | through-August 3, 2026

Our Rector, The Rev. Dr. Blaess, continues her well-deserved sabbatical, returning to us in early August. She plans to visit her family in Montana and her husband's family in Arizona, visit friends in North Carolina, and, otherwise, lie low at home to catch up on reading and writing. We can't wait to hear stories from her time of renewal and rest when we welcome her back.

First Baptist Castle Street: The Gospel Above All Bible Study | Monday-Thursday, May 11-14, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Allen Chapel AME Church, 224 S. Maney Ave.

We have enjoyed the privilege of cultivating and strengthening our relationships with our Black sister churches in downtown Murfreesboro, notably First Baptist Castle Street and Allen Chapel AME. Our brothers and sisters at First Baptist have extended a generous invitation for us to partake in their two-week Teacher Certification Bible Study which will be held at Allen Chapel. This eight-session Bible study will give you a fresh perspective on the supremacy of the gospel over the trappings and temptations of modern society. Lead your group to a greater awareness and practice of gospel culture, gospel mission, gospel renewal, and gospel unity. The lessons will be led by students of FBC's Teacher Certification 201 class. The deadline to register is April 27, or until the class is full. Please see the [link](#) in our weekly e-newsletter to register. *Book purchase price is \$21/person.

Vacation Bible School | June 8-12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

VBS registration is open! Exploring 5 foundational truths about the nature of God. Get kids ready to embark on a wild, creature-filled adventure at Rainforest Falls where kids learn that God is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever. Age 3 to rising 6th graders. The cost is \$20 a child. Contact Cindy at Cindy.Guevart@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org with any questions! It is also now on the homepage: www.stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.



Offering

To make an offering online with your debit/credit card, scan the QR code with your smart phone camera. A link will appear, click on it to open our website's giving page. You can select the fund you want to give to (i.e. pledge fulfillment, general offering, CONNECT, etc.) and leave a note in the memo line, if desired. Text giving is also available, text GIVESTPAULS to 73256 (ex., GIVESTPAULS \$100).

