

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN | *Joyful, joyful we adore Thee (Hymn to Joy)*
The people stand and sing verses 1 and 3.

Hymnal 376

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

BCP p. 323

The Celebrant says the following prayer and then the summary of the Law

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.

GLORIA

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.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost alway resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14

The people sit.

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalms 149

¹Hallelujah!
Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
²Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
³Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
⁴For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
⁶Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
⁷To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
⁸To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
⁹To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live

honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

THE GOSPEL
The people stand.

Matthew 18:15-20

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON
The people sit.

THE NICENE CREED
The people stand.

BCP p. 326

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. 392

The people kneel or stand. The leader and people pray responsively.

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence.

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;
People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, for Donald our president and Bill our governor, and the world;
People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;
People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader For Sarah Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, and John our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
People For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence is kept. *The People may add their own petitions as the Leader adds the collected petitions of the Congregation.*

Leader Hear us, Lord;
People For your mercy is great.

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence is kept. *The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;
People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence is kept. *The People may add their own petitions as the Leader adds the collected petitions of the Congregation.*

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 330

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.
Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Priest 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.

THE DOXOLOGY

The people stand.

Hymnal 380 v. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 340

The Celebrant says

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 unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant proceeds

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.

[Here a Proper Preface is said]

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.*

Celebrant and People

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

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The people kneel or stand. The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 gives the blessing.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN | *Jesu, Jesu*

The people stand and sing verses 1 and 5.

The Priest dismisses the People with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector
The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector
The Rev. Josh Wilson, Pastoral Resident
High Garst, Seminarian
Morris Hamby, Pianist
Lector: David Urban
Intercessor: Gina Urban
Chalice Bearer: Melissa Warren
Ushers: Bonnie Black, Tom Collins

Altar Guild: Gina Garner, Jim Calder, Holly Cunningham, Krystal Marsh, Macie Peek, Mary Hooper
Flowers by the Flower Guild

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of Joan L. and John C. Neff, by Tom Neff.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those with cancer: Anna Dean, Betsy, Dennis, Doug, Earl, Jeff, Leigh, Lois, Mandy, Margaret, Mandy, Mark, Marsha, Mary Beth, Matt, Molly, Pat, Sage, Sandy, Sherry, Tim, Todd, Trevor, and Zanie.

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

For those healing from surgery: James, Liz, and Edward.

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

For those experiencing mental health issues.

For those with other needs: Aiden, Alyssa, Andrew, Bernice, Bob, Bobby, Byrena, Cleo, Crystal, Dan, David, Dean Family, Ensi, Jane, Emily, Erika, Fulton Family, Greg, Hannah, Henry, Hope, Isla, Jack, Jennifer, Jessica, Jerry, Joe, Kandace, Keith, Kim, Kiffin, Lisa, Marcie, Marian, Martha, Melissa, Miranda, Morris, Natalie, Nicole, Pam, the Parton Family, Patrick, Poston, Rylan, Sarah, Stealie, Theresa, Tim, the Stewart family, Vanessa, Waylon, and Zach.

For those imprisoned, including: 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, Christian, Evan, Gaven, Grace, Jeffrey, Josh, Nate, Topher, Trevor, Sean, Walker, and Zachary.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- 7:30 a.m. | **Holy Eucharist Rite I**, Gospel Piano
- 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | **Nursery available**
- 8:45 a.m. | **Holy Eucharist Rite II**, Ancient and Modern
 - **Children's Church**, Parish Hall, 2nd floor
- **No Christian Education** *resumes Sunday, September 13*
- 11:00 a.m. | **Holy Eucharist Rite II**, Choir, Organ, and Livestream
- **No SNL**

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

- 7:00 a.m. | **Holy Eucharist Rite II**, St. Andrew's Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. | **Evening Prayer**, St. Andrew's Chapel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closure | Monday, September 7

The parish office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Sign up for Choristers | beginning Wednesday, September 9, from 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Choristers is a wonderful opportunity for our children (K-5th grade) to learn foundational skills in music and singing as well as a deeper appreciation of our Episcopal tradition. Weekly rehearsals for the fall begin this week. Contact Melody to sign up! Melody.Ford@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.

Fall Choir Kickoff | Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 pm; Choir room, Parish Hall, 2nd floor

As the Fall 2026 season begins, we are excited to have **Cameron Roberts** leading the choir! We'd love to have you join us. If you are interested or have questions, please email Cameron.Roberts@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.

Ladies' Night Out | Thursday, September 10, 5:30 p.m.; 2240 Shannon Drive (enter through gate at bottom of drive)

Join us for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. If your day permits, bring your favorite beverage and an item to share. Contact Libby at 615-545-0220 if you have questions.

Service of Prayer and Remembrance | Friday, September 11, 5:00 p.m. | St. Andrew's Chapel

This year marks the 25th year since 9/11. Join us for a simple service of prayer, remembrance, and intercession in St. Andrew's Chapel at 5:00 pm. Contact Fr. Michael with any questions.

Scatter Christian Education: Rector's Forum and Parents' Group combined | beginning Sunday, September 13 through Sunday, September 27

"And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord." (Post-Communion Prayer, BCP pg. 366). Where are you on Monday morning? How are we faithful witnesses to Christ our Lord on Monday morning? How does our Christian faith shape our presence in whatever community we find ourselves on Monday morning? Join us in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. for a three-week conversation on *Faith and Good Works*.



Alpha Starts Next Week | Sundays, starting September 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We all have questions about being a Christian in today's world. Alpha is an 11-week series of dinners and discussions that can help you—or someone you know. Would you like to join us? Register today. Know someone who would like to join the conversation? Invite them to come. All are welcome!



Upcoming Concert | Sunday, September 13, 3:30 p.m.; Hinton Hall, MTSU

St. Paul's own, **Stephen Smith**, is planning his retirement next year from MTSU where he has been a Professor of Voice in the School of Music for many years. He is performing a farewell concert on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in Hinton Hall (1439 Faulkinberry Drive) on the MTSU Campus. The concert is free. In addition, Keith Sorrels (oboist), a parishioner at St. Paul's and dear friend of the Music Ministry, will accompany Stephen. Works being performed on the vocal music program will include Ralph Vaughan Williams, Schumann, Bizet, and Gounod, and Puccini.

Senior Brown Bag Lunch | Tuesday, September 15, 11:30 a.m.; Parish Hall

Seniors, come together on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your lunch and share in fellowship and the occasional craft.

Serve in Worship

As we gear up for the start of a new program year, you may be thinking of ways in which you would like to more actively participate in our worship services. St. Paul's provides many opportunities for us to use our gifts and help others connect with God. If you are interested in serving on one of our worship teams or have any questions, please contact the appropriate team leader listed below. You may also visit our website for more detailed information about each team:

- Serve as an **Acolyte**: contact George Carlson, at VistanTN@BenLomand.net or 931-307-9094 call/text.
- Serve as an **Usher**: contact Mary Probert at ushers@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org, or 615-743-5693 call/text.
- Serve on the **Altar Guild**: contact Gina Garner at altar.guild@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.
- Serve on the **Flower Guild/Junior Flower Guild**: contact Sudi Luboniecki at sudi624@gmail.com.
- Serve on the **Intercessory Prayer Team**: contact Kristi Hay at ianandkristihay@gmail.com.
- Serve on the **Tech Team**: contact Adam Thrash at tech.team@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.
- Serve as a member of the **Choir**: contact Cameron.Roberts@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org.
- Our youngest musicians may wish to join **Choristers**: contact Melody.Ford@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 along with giving amount to 73256 (ex., GIVESTPAULS \$10)

