

The Word of God

PRELUDE | *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

J. Walther

ENTRANCE HYMN | *Joyful, joyful we adore Thee (Hymn to Joy)*
The people stand.

Hymnal 376

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

BCP p. 355

The Celebrant continues

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

GLORIA (*Robert Powell*)

S 280

(The “S” numbers are found at the front of the blue hymnal)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

The Celebrant prays the Collect

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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.

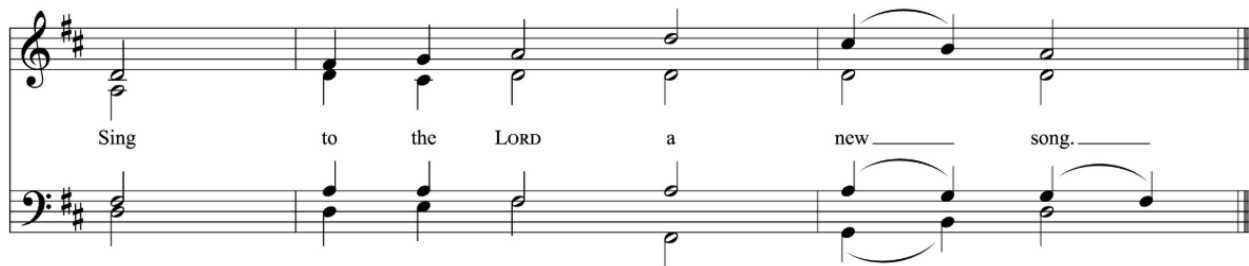
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

PSALM

Psalm 149

ANTIPHON



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.

ANTIPHON

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. **ANTIPHON**

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; **ANTIPHON**

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! **ANTIPHON**

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.

SEQUENCE HYMN | *Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve (Siroe)*
The people stand.

Hymnal 546

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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 to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The people sit.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

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. 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. 359

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

The people stand.

BCP p. 360

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

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY | *Amazing Grace*
The people sit.

arr. by D. Wood

THE DOXOLOGY
The people stand.

Hymnal 380 v.3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

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

[Here a Proper Preface is said].

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 (*Robert Powell*)

S 129

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 p. 364

People and Celebrant

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

S 155

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, 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. Intercessory prayer teams are available to pray with you at the back of the nave.*

COMMUNION HYMN | *Forgive our sins as we forgive (Detroit)*

Hymnal 674

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 365

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant 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.

The Celebrant gives the blessing.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN | *Singing songs of expectation (Ton-y-Botel)*

Hymnal 527

The people stand

The Priest dismisses the People with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE | *Allein Gott in Der Hoh sei Ehr*

A.Vetter

The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector
The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector
The Rev. Josh Wilson, Pastoral Resident
High Garst, Seminarian
Cameron Roberts, Choir Director
Kimberly Sprinkle, Organist
Lectors: High Garst, Jenny Fayter
Intercessor: Charmaine Nicolau
Chalice Bearers: Jim Calder, Marta Van Hoose
Prayer Team: Kris McCusker, Kristi Hay, Jennider Handy, Sandy Clemmons
Acolytes: John Gamble, Andie Owen, Hayes Owen, Macie Peek
Ushers: Debbie Harris, Sandy Gleaves, Lisa Rhea, Victoria Atamer
Altar Guild: Gina Garner, Jim Calder, Holly Cunningham, Krystal Marsh, Macie Peek, Mary Hooper
Tech Team: Rex Fayer, Jeanne Potter
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

09/06/2026

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)

