

The Word of God

PRELUDE | *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

J. Pachelbel

ENTRANCE HYMN | *All hail the power of Jesus' name (Coronation)*
The people stand.

Hymnal 450

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

The people sit.

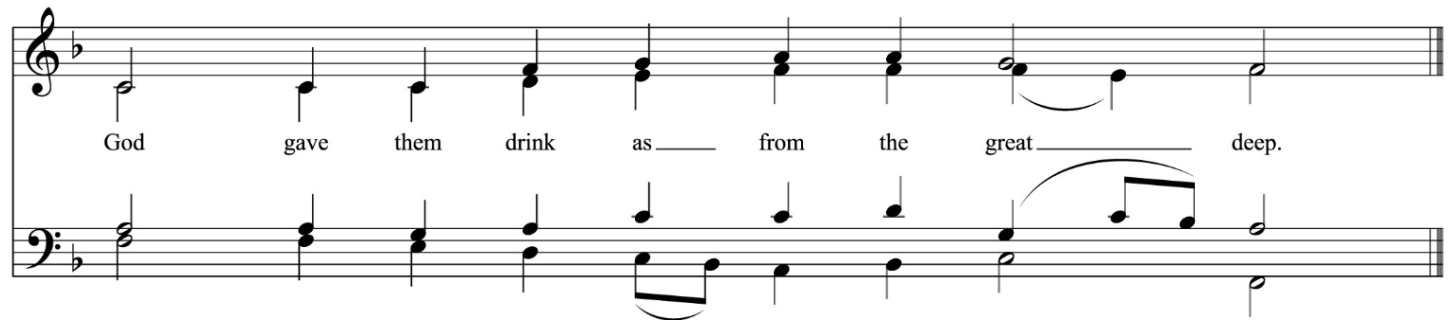
¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

PSALM

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

ANTIPHON



¹Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

ANTIPHON

³That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

⁴We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done. *ANTIPHON*

¹²He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

¹³He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls. *ANTIPHON*

¹⁴He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

¹⁵He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

¹⁶He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers. *ANTIPHON*

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just

as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN | *Good Christians all, rejoice and sing (Gelobt sei Gott)*
The people stand.

Hymnal 205

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

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

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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. 387

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

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; and John, our Bishop; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Donald our President and Bill our Governor, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 359

The Celebrant bids the people to the confession of their sins against God and neighbor. The people kneel as able. Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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 Celebrant 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

BCP p. 360

The people stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY | *Hush! Somebody's Callin' my Name*
The people sit.

Dennard

THE DOXOLOGY
The people stand.

Hymnal 380 v.3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 367

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 VOLUNTARY | *Let the Vineyard be Fruitful, Lord*

arr. D. Cherwien

COMMUNION HYMN | *Break, Thou the Bread of Life*

LEVAS 146

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 366

The people stand or kneel. Celebrant and People together

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. 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. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN | *At the name of Jesus (King's Weston)*

Hymnal 435

The people stand.

The Priest dismisses the People with these words

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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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: Kris McCusker, Charmaine Nicolau
Intercessor: Jenny Fayter
Chalice Bearers: Carol Detmer, Richard Detmer
Prayer Team: Charlotte James, Kristi Hay, Byrena Kirkham, David Rowe
Acolytes: John Gamble, Daphne Dieringer, David Perry, Joseph Perry
Ushers: Tristin Castell, David Fowler, Ben Kropog, and Me
Altar Guild: Ione Smith, Fenny Fayter, Melissa Hamby
Flowers by the Flower Guild
Technical Team: Don Whitfield, Ben Bartsch

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by the Flower Guild

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those with cancer: Anna Dean, Betsy, Cookie, Doug, John, Mandy, Mary Beth, and Zanie.

For those in cancer remission: Andie and Jim.

For those healing from surgery: Liz and Edward.

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

For those experiencing mental health issues.

For those with other needs: Bobby, David, , Henry, Isla, Jane, Keith, Kelly, Lisa, Martha, Patrick, Rylee, Stealie, and Tim

For those imprisoned, including: Charlie, Corinio, Michael, and Tyrone.

For those experiencing homelessness, including:

For all veterans and those in military service and their families, including: Benjamin, Chris, Christian, Evan, Gaven, Grace, Josh, Nate, Topher, 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
- 10:00 a.m. | **Christian Education**
 - **Rector's Forum and Parents' Group combined** | Parish Hall, 1st floor
Scatter Christian Education: "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*.
 - **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** | Kindergarten and 1st graders, Atrium Level I; 2nd and 3rd graders, Atrium Level II; 4th and 5th graders, Atrium Level III; Parish Hall, 2nd floor
 - **Youth Sunday School**
 - Middle School (CGS IIIB) | Sewanee Room, Parish Hall 2nd floor
 - High School (Jesus' Sermon on the Mount) | Christian Education Rooms, Parish Hall, 1st floor
- 11:00 a.m. | **Holy Eucharist Rite II**, Choir, Organ, and Livestream
- 5:00 p.m. |
 - Alpha, Parish Hall
 - SNL, Youth Room, St. Margaret's Hall, 2nd floor

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

Vestry nominations are open.

This is your chance to help shape the leadership of St. Paul's. If you know a fellow parishioner with the energy, perseverance, and drive for prayerful leadership, please nominate them. (Self-nominations are welcome, too!) See the eNewsletter for online nominations or pick up a paper form on the credenza in the narthex or from the church office.

Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve

Generosity is about more than sharing our resources—it opens our hearts to God's transforming love. Through simple steps of faith, we are joyfully seeing God change lives and bless our community. How can you share God's love through generosity? You should be receiving the 2027 Estimate of Annual Giving in the mail. Pledges received will be blessed as a communal offering at the altar on **Sunday, October 18**.



Rector's Forum and Parents' Group combined | TODAY Sunday, September 27

Scatter Christian Education: "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 the last in our three-week conversation on *Faith and Good Works*.



Alpha | TONIGHT, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Alpha continues tonight! It still isn't too late to register. And, volunteers are needed each Sunday for hospitality and prayer. You will definitely grow closer to God by attending, or by helping others as they participate in these dinners and small group discussions. Click the QR Code, or come by at 5:00 p.m.!



Undie Sunday | TODAY, September 27

Dry socks and fresh undergarments help every person feel more dignity. The Wednesday morning Bible study group is sponsoring "Undie Sunday" to gather new socks and underwear for the homeless population in Murfreesboro. A collection box is available in the parish hall; items are welcome anytime this month. All donations will be delivered to The Journey Home for distribution. If giving money, please put "Undie Sunday" in the memo line of your check or online donation.

Men's Club | Thursday, October 1st, Fellowship at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Brad Miller will bring the entree. Please contact Brad (770-616-6001) for side dish needs.

No Christian Education Next Week | Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Instead we will be having a Cheese Party. Join us in the Parish Hall!

Blessing of the Animals | Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us in the Courtyard for a brief service celebrating St. Francis of Assisi, concluding with a blessing of each animal in attendance. All animals are welcome, but please do make sure they are properly restrained (leashed, in a carrier, etc.). This is a great opportunity to invite friends to St. Paul's. The more the merrier!

Over 70 Birthday Luncheon | Tuesday, October 20, 11:30 a.m.; Parish Hall

Senior parishioners (70+), please mark your calendars for the Senior Luncheon celebrating *you*. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or by contacting the front office (615-893-3780 or frontoffice@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org). Plan to wear gear in support of your favorite football team! For more information about the luncheon or how to help contact Kelly Goodman (kellyogoodman@comcast.net).

Parents' Night Out | Friday, October 16, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Our nursery hosts a Parents' Night Out on the 3rd Friday of the month. Each event is full of activities, snacks, and games. This event not only provides a fun time for our children at the church, but it also helps to give parents of young children a night to nurture their relationship with each other. Email nursery@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org with questions or to sign up. You may also sign up on the sheets provided outside the Nursery and next to the Parish Hall elevator.

Serve in Worship

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)

