

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN | *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
The people stand and sing verses 1 and 3.

LEVAS 111

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

O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee 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

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.
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.
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.
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.

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.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The people stand.

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 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

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

BCP p. 387

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. 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

Hymnal 380 v. 3

The people stand.

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.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BCP p. 336

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

BCP p. 339

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 | *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

LEVAS 146

The people stand and sing verse 1 and 3.

The Priest dismisses the People with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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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
Morris Hamby, Pianist
Lector: Jennifer Groth
Intercessor: Jennifer Groth
Chalice Bearer: Melissa Warren
Ushers: Mike and Dixie Groutt
Altar Guild: Ione Smith, Fenny Fayter, Melissa Hamby

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, Cleo, David, Emsi, Henry, Isla, Jane, Keith, Kelly, Lisa, Martha, Pam, Patrick, Rylee, Stealie, Theresa, Tim, and the Stewart family

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)

