Saint Paul's
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

The Holy Eucharist
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2025
8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

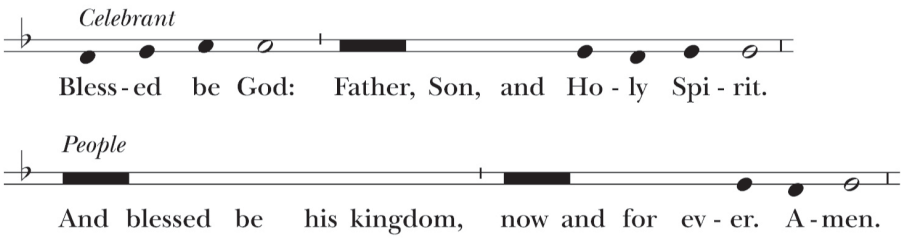
(Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)

PRELUDE – Fugue in E-flat Major (K. 153) W.A. Mozart (1757-1791)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #440 "Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word" *Liebster Jesu*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION S76



THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

THE KYRIE – *Missa Brevis No. 4, Divinum Mysterium* Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleson	Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA S273

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

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

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

PSALM 112:1-9 – *Read at 8AM; chanted by the choir at 10:15* Setting by Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)

1 Hallelujah!
Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Reader A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #488 "Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart" *Slane*

THE GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

THE SERMON The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes

THE NICENE CREED – *Spoken; All Stand, as able* BCP page 358

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

Intercessor: Called by God to become salt and a beacon of light to the world, let us bring to God our prayers for the needs of all saying: *Holy One, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, remembering especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Stephen, our Bishop Provisional, that in all our ministries we may show to the world the gifts bestowed on us by God. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For this Cathedral community, that our lives may reflect Jesus in spirit and in power, and that we may never grow weary in offering love and compassion. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For conversion of heart, that God will strengthen community leaders and others in authority to work to create change and eliminate injustice as we strive to heal society of racism and inequality. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For all who strive to be salt for the human family, that they may heighten our awareness and guide our efforts to work for peace, justice and the common good. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For all places of darkness and despair, that the light of Christ will bring hope, justice and peace. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are cold, hungry or homeless, and for the sick and those in need of our prayers, remembering especially, Roger, Elle & Reid, Vivian, Linda, Alex, Clark, Geri, Dominic, Lisa and family, Andrea, Byron, Chris, Joe, Lori, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley, that they may find strength and hope. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, remembering especially those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week, that they may dwell forever in the perpetual light of God's presence. Holy One, **hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant: Gracious and Loving God, you have called us to be salt in a bitter world and light in the shadow of injustice and oppression, hear our prayers and give us grace to shine with the glory of Christ's light and love that we may give glory to you through the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

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 Bishop, when present, or 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 - *All stand.* BCP page 360

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

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE BCP page 358

Walk in Love, as Christ loved us and give himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – O For a Closer Walk C. V. Stanford (1852-1924)

O for a closer walk with God
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast

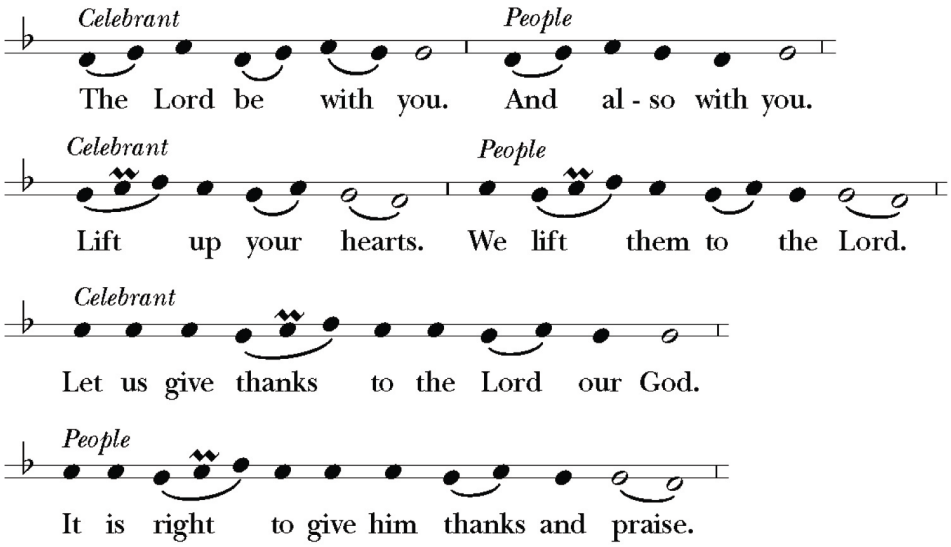
So shall my walk be close with God

Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B – BCP page 367

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

SURSUM CORDA S120



Then, facing the Holy Table, 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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for eversing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD *Sanctus* *Willan*

Celebrant and People

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.

Then 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.

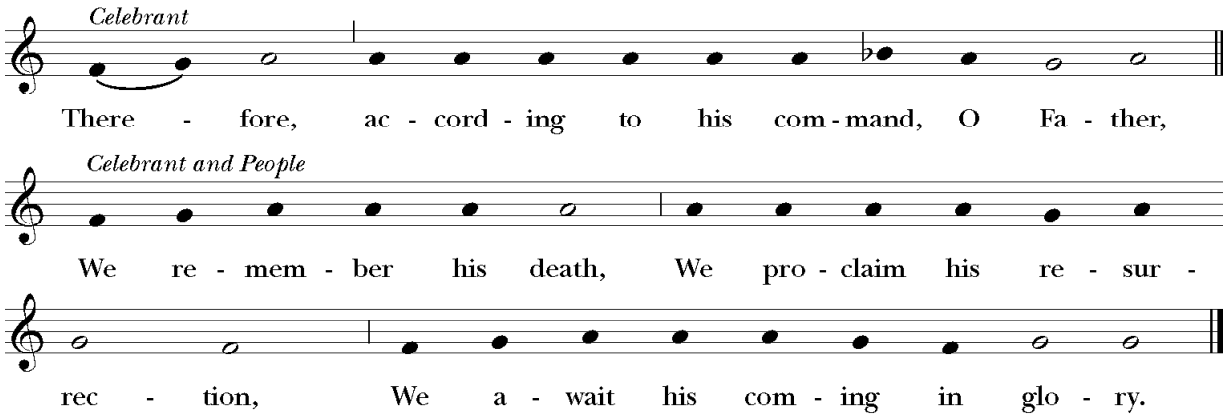
At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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."

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

S136



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.

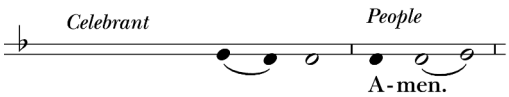
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____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.

THE GREAT AMEN

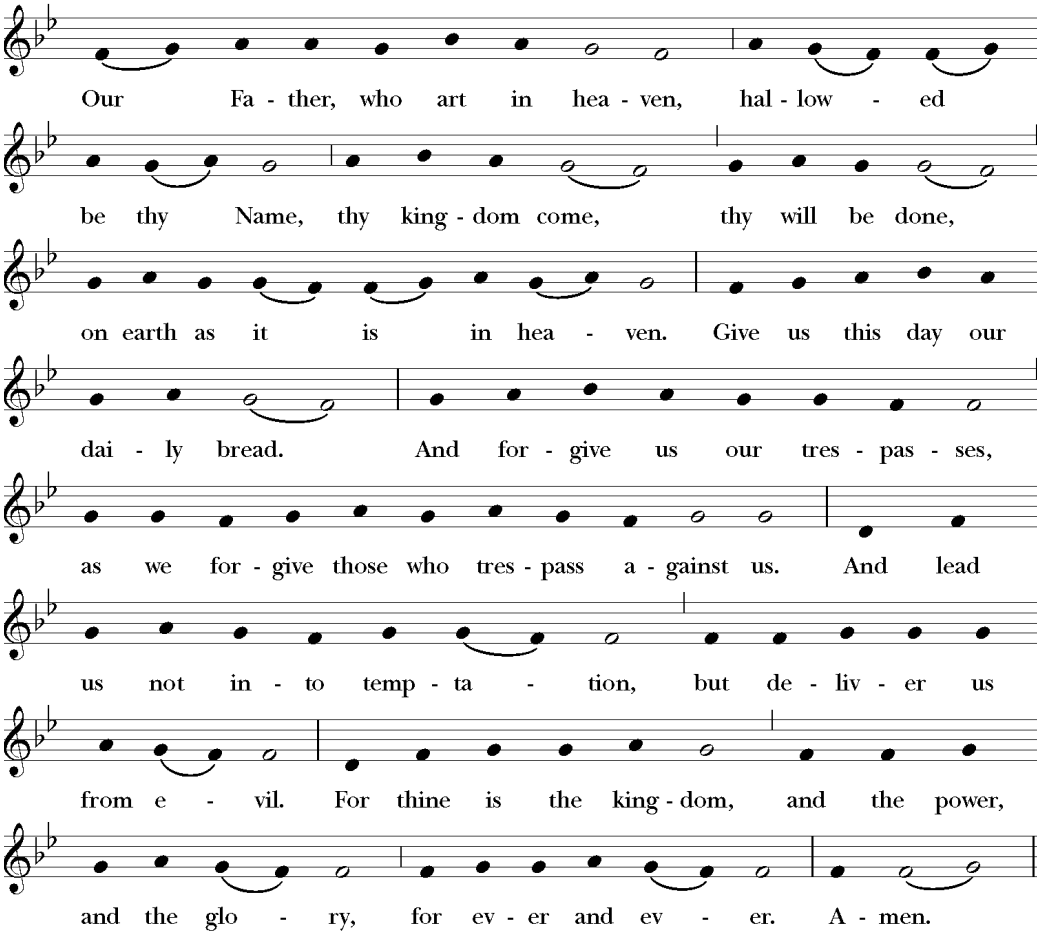
S142



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S119



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP page 364

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

THE FRACTION ANTHEM *Willan*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION BCP page 364

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination, to receive communion here at Saint Paul's. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM – O Nata Lux *Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)*

O nata lux de lumine	O Light born of Light,
Jesu redemptor saeculi	Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Dignare clemens supplicum	with loving-kindness deign to receive
Laudes preces que sumere	suppliant praise and prayer.
Qui carne quondam contegi	Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
Dignatus es pro perditis	for the sake of the lost,
Nos membra confer effici	grant us to be members
Tui beati corp	of thy blessed body

POST COMMUNION PRAYER BCP page 365

Let us pray.

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.**

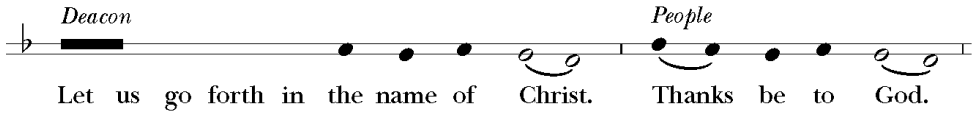
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION – #628 "Help Us, O Lord, To Learn" *St. Ethelwal*

DISMISSAL S 174



POSTLUDE – Fugue in G Minor (K. 154) W.A. Mozart (1757-1791)

TODAY

- Bible Study – 9 a.m. lower level/Walker – coffee and discussion of scripture lessons for the week
- Coffee/Refreshments – after the 10:15 service, lower level/Walker

A Word of Thanks from the Dean

I wish to thank everyone for making last Sunday's Annual Meeting, Patronal Feast, and Episcopal Visitation such a great success. I was pleased that the weather cooperated and we did not have to cancel, as we did the previous week. The bishop and his wife, Maria were so happy to spend time with us and commented upon departing on how well the meeting went and how excited they were about all that is happening at St. Paul's Cathedral!

I am grateful to all who played a role in making the day such a great success, from those who served, prepared food, set up and cleaned, to those who wrote reports, and stood for election. Thank you all for all the ways you continue to serve this faith community.

A special word of congratulations and thanks to our new officers and Delegates to Diocesan Convention. The makeup of the new Vestry and Delegates is as follows:

Vestry
Michael Bonilla - Senior Warden (Class of 2027)
Estelle Siener - Junior Warden (Class of 2028)

Del Milander (Class of 2027 - completing a term)
Kevin O'Neil (Class of 2027 - completing a term)
Katherine Woodard (Class of 2027)

Chris Casto (Class of 2028)
Latanya Jacob (Class of 2028)
David Jemmott (Class of 2028)

Nancy Boncore (Class of 2029)
Wendy Darling (Class of 2029)
Kathy Reiss (Class of 2029)

Evelyn Smigelsky - Clerk of the Vestry

Delegates to Diocesan Convention
Su Hadden
Kim O'Connell
Evelyn Smigelsky
Chris Casto (alternate)
Estelle Siener (alternate)

Again, thank you all for a wonderful Annual Meeting and all who played in part in what was a very full day. May God continue to bless us and guide us in the year ahead.

Faithfully,
Dean Rebecca

From the Dean's Desk: Celebrating Blessed Absalom Jones and Black History Month

February is the month in which we begin the church season of Lent and our walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. It is also the month that civically, and as people of faith, we observe Black History Month. This year is the 50th celebration of Black History Month, a commemoration that has been endorsed by every U.S. President since President Gerald Ford first officially recognized Black History Month in 1976. That year, President Ford called upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

- Last year, Joe McDaniel Jr., a member of The Episcopal Church's Executive Council, wrote an excellent essay on the importance of celebrating Black History Month. Amongst the reasons he noted are:
- To help to promote social justice and equality within the church, recognizing and appreciating the contributions of African Americans, living into our values of respecting the diversity of our members, and highlighting the ongoing struggle for racial justice and a more inclusive and equitable society.
- Black History Month provides an opportunity for the church to engage in reflection and education gaining a deeper understanding of racial issues and work toward reconciliation and healing.
- Celebrating Black History Month encourages the church to confront and address its his story of racism and discrimination. By actively working to repair the harm done the church can move toward reconciliation and create a more racially just and inclusive insti tution.
- To serve as a source of inspiration and empowerment for African American members of the church.
- And lastly, celebrating Black History Month is an act of solidarity with the wider Black community.

(For complete essay see: http://tiny.cc/j1ky001)

In the church, a saint's feast day is generally marked by the day the person entered in to glory, not the day they were born. The month of February in our Lesser Feasts and Fasts interestingly contains the feasts of several African American saints: The Consecration of Barbara Clementine Harris, First Woman Bishop in the Anglican Communion 1989 (2/11); Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818 (2/13); Frederick Douglass, Social Reformer, 1895 (2/20); and Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Educator, 1964 (2/28).

While it has been a common practice in the Episcopal Church to celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones for some time now, he still remains unknown to many.

Born into slavery, Absalom Jones dared to confront the system of oppression he inherited—pursuing education, securing freedom for his wife before himself, and becoming a tireless advocate for justice and dignity. In 1802, Bishop William White ordained Jones making him the first Black priest ordained in the Episcopal Church, just 26 years after the founding of the United States. (For a more detailed biography of Jones and the church he founded, The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, see: https://www.aecst.org/ajones.htm)

This year, a Celebration for the Feast of Absalom Jones will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, 139 Pearl St. Buffalo on Saturday, February 14 at 11AM. The guest preacher for the Eucharist will be The Rev. Canon Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF. Having grown up in a family with a Christian mother and a Muslim father, Fr. Syedullah has a keen awareness and sensitivity for racial and interfaith concerns and helping Christians understand their call to be in positive relationship with people of other faiths and to work to end the ignorance, fear, and hatred done in the name of religion that fuels so much violence and destruction in today's world.

A special musical program featuring works by African American composers will include works by Adolphus Hailstork, David Hurd, Rosephanye Powell; and Lena McLin's Eucharist of the Soul for the service music. Jaman Dunn-Danger, former Asst. Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic, professor at UB, and outstanding baritone will be our special musical guest. The offering will benefit the Absalom Jones Fund which helps support historically Black colleges and universities affiliated with The Episcopal Church since the 1800s.

The Absalom Jones celebration is being co-sponsored by St. Paul's Cathedral; St. Philip's Church; The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), Bishop Holly Chapter; and the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination. Street parking is available; there are also several public parking lots near St. Paul's Cathedral, including a public parking garage under Main Place Mall, which is less than a block away.

We hope you will join us and invite others from your community to be part of this special day!

The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes
Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

Christian Education and Formation at St. Paul's

Children's Christian Education: "Godly Play"

St. Paul's offers "Godly Play: is a Montessori-based program on Sundays at 10am in the Bishop Scaife Room on the lower level of the Cathedral. Making meaning through story, wonder, and play, the program nurtures spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children.

Epiphany Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relation-

ship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. A Centering Prayer Introductory workshop will be offered throughout the season of Epiphany beginning with a workshop on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 10am - 3pm. Follow-up sessions designed for ongoing learning and group spiritual support will be held on January 17, 24, 31, February 7, and 14. The workshop will be by The Very Rev'd Rebecca Barnes, Dean, who is a commissioned presenter and facilitator trainer with Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.

Lent 2026 – Bible Study on the Gospel of John

More details will be available soon.

Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Celebration

All are invited to join in a Mardi Gras / Shrove Tuesday celebration at St. Philip's. Come and feast before we fast!

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
15 Fernhill Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14215
Tuesday February 17th from 5-8pm

Ash Wednesday

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. St. Paul's schedule of services will be:

12:05 p.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with the Imposition of Ashes. No Music.
7:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with the Imposition of Ashes with hymns, organ and choir.

A full schedule of Lenten offerings will be included in next week's announcements.

Episcopal Migration Ministries weekly webinar
Submitted by Kathy Reiss

Even though the Episcopal Church has withdrawn from refugee resettlement following the executive order regarding resettlement of Afrikaners, the Episcopal Church is still very actively responding to the needs of immigrants and refugees, especially in these perilous times for many immigrants. You are invited to join Episcopal Migration Ministries every Tuesday at 1 pm ET for a 30-minute call on the changing landscape of U.S. immigration, refugee, and migration policy. They share updates and resources and will be joined by the Office of Government Relations and the Chief Legal Officer, along with representatives from many dioceses who share their experiences. I try to attend as many Tuesdays as I can and find it very enlightening and encouraging. Register at Episcopal Migration Ministries.

SJAT Note: Best of 2025 Book and Media List
From Estelle Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

Happy New Year! Once again this year members of the Social Justice Team have looked back on their 2025 reading to compile a list of our "Best of . . ." Books and Media. The contributions below have inspired us this year. Please let us know what you are reading and watching!

Fiction

(Chris) ***The Known World*** by Edward P. Jones, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel primarily about a black farmer and former slave in Virginia in the late antebellum period who must stay on the good side of the law. It took me to a very unfamiliar place.

(Estelle) ***One Day Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This*** by Omar El Akkad, journalist and writer. In this National Book Award winner, El Akkad specifically writes about the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza. But it's a call to action for us to speak out against injustice everywhere.

(Bill) ***The Parable of the Talents*** by Octavia E Butler, published in 1998, offers a chilling vision of what could be when, in the face of racial injustice, economic division and climate change, the nation elects authoritarian, Christian Nationalists to lead the country back to greatness. Can there be redemption?

(Gary) ***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** by Harriett Beecher Stowe. On rereading, this book remains remarkably relevant.

(Estelle) ***Playground*** by Richard Powers who again tackles big issues such as racial identity and the plight of our oceans with a strong cast of characters that grapple with technology.

(Chris) ***The Sympathizer*** by Viet Thanh Nguyen tells the story of the end of the Viet Nam war from a Vietnamese perspective. The characters are richly drawn and the story is engaging. While I found it difficult in some ways, it was also very rewarding.

(Estelle) ***Orbital*** by Samantha Harvey, a short book. Ride along in the International Space Station with six scientists as they pursue their experiments in space while gazing and musing in awe at the amazing planet Earth out their window!

Nonfiction

(Dean Rebecca) ***Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us*** by Matthew Sleeth. Influential in evangelical circles the author, Matthew Sleeth has spoken about the biblical call to be good stewards of creation to audiences across the globe, including at the Washington National Cathedral. One of the reviews of this book by a former president of the Sierra Club stated, "Matthew again connects us to the essential: God, the planet, the Sabbath, a tree. God's breath that gave life to man is being shared daily by all that breathes, including trees. This reminder brings hope and enormous joy. Reforesting Faith is a must-read."

(Dean Rebecca) ***Mother Emanuel: Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness in***

One Charleston Church, by Kevin Sack. Just named one of the Top Ten books of 2025 by the New York Times. “Mother Emanuel” is a masterpiece in which Kevin Sack tells the story of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Charleston, S.C., “the most historic Black church in the South’s most historic city,” now best known as the site of an egregious act of barbarism: the killing of nine congregants on June 17, 2015, by a white supremacist. This former NY Times and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist explores Mother Emanuel AME Church's two-century history of racial justice, faith, and forgiveness, culminating in the 2015 tragic shooting and its aftermath.

(Dean Rebecca) ***Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*** by Bill McKibben, acclaimed environmentalist. Although the fight for reduction in use of fossil fuels continues, he writes with hope in the increasing, indeed the spike in, affordable solar and wind powered energy.

(Chris) ***White Too Long*** by Robert P. Jones traces the legacies of white supremacy in the white Christian church. While the book has a slight emphasis on southern churches and the Southern Baptist Convention, the analysis goes well beyond that and includes examples from mainline and northern churches including the Episcopal Church. I found the book accessible and enlightening.

(Bob) ***The Violent Take It by Force: The Christian Movement That Is Threatening Our Democracy*** by Matthew Taylor: Taylor explores the New Apostolic Reformation from its inception in the work of a Fuller Seminary professor, to its immense networks of apostles and prophets, and its role in the January 6 riot. This vision of charismatic Christianity now animates millions, lured by Spirit-filled revival and visions of Christian supremacy.

(Bob) ***Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America*** by Nancy MacLean. Public Choice theory, devised by the Nobel Prize-winning political economist James M. Buchanan, has fundamental beliefs about fairness which differ radically from those that prevailed in the post-Depression era – notably in taxing high income people: 94% the max at the end of WWII vs. 37% currently. An important lesson in how American cultural values can change.

(Estelle) ***Turning to Birds: The Power of Beauty and Noticing*** by Lili Taylor. Yes, the actress Lili Taylor. A lovely book about her own step into the world of birding and how studying birds and just being in nature revives her soul.

Videos

(Estelle) ***Weathered*** by PBS Terra: an ongoing YouTube series of climate change started 5 years ago and updated regularly with the latest video posted one month ago.

Prayer and Pastoral Care

We lift up the following in prayer especially Roger, Elle & Reid, Vivian, Linda, Alex, Clark, Geri, Dominic, Lisa and family, Andrea, Byron, Chris, Joe, Lori, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley We also remember all those who have died, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week. We pray for them and their loved ones who remember them.

From the Bishop

Dear Friends,

Posted below is a letter with an accompanying video link that I signed along with 153 other bishops of The Episcopal Church. It is a letter of support and solidarity with the people and bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota. It is also a letter that reminds us of fundamental commitments of our Baptismal Covenant – to seek Christ in every person and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Ever since the Fires of Smithfield, that is, the execution of Protestant leaning clergy and laity by Queen Mary, and the subsequent Compromise by Elizabeth the Great, the great question for the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church has been: Who belongs at the table? The answer to that question has sometimes taken centuries to answer, but after great struggles, the answer has always been **everyone.** The example set by the early Christian community of making one body of male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave and slave owner, Palestinian peasant and Roman soldier has slowly been replicated in the Anglican Communion. For centuries, people of color were second class members. Women only became full and equal members in The Episcopal Church in the last part of the 20th century. (That's why we had Women's Auxiliaries and the ECW.) The participation of GLBTQ people remains a subject of contention today. And while we want children, they don't participate with the fullness of their baptisms until age 16 or 18. Yet, haltingly, we give everyone a place at the table.

And that matters profoundly. Archbishop Desmond Tutu was set on the path toward his vocation as priest and bishop because Father Huddleston tipped his hat and stepped off the path for Tutu's mother. Retired Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is an Episcoplian and a child of Buffalo because his father and mother were given communion in an Episcopal Church in the still segregated South in the 1940's. A place at the table is a sign that you have been seen as a child of God and a member of Christ's body. Your humanity and dignity are recognized as God-given and irrevocable.

On February 13, we will celebrate the Feast of Absalom Jones, and the occasion will be marked at a service at St Paul's Cathedral (see invitation below). Absalom Jones was a man born into slavery with a remarkable sense of his own worth. He learned to read and write. He bought the freedom of his wife, and when he was manumitted by his owner, he chose the name Jones to signify that he was an American. With Richard Allen, he founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid society for free Africans in Philadelphia. In 1794, he planted a black Episcopal congregation. In 1802, he was the first African American ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church. He was outspoken for the abolition of slavery and the rights of black Americans. He is an icon both of the continuing presence of a strong black tradition in The Episcopal Church and a prophetic answer to the question, "Who belongs at the table?"

It is always the case that there are people we don't like; people we think are wrong-headed or deficient in some way. It is always the case that we are most comfortable with a small group of people who are very much like us. But neither of these realities can justify excluding peo-

ple from the table. The worth of those “others" is established by God, and our task, the task of a lifetime perhaps, is to acknowledge their humanity and their dignity. It is a commitment we make to one another in baptism. It is the path to a better world.

Blessings,
+Steve

A Joint Letter from 154 Bishops of The Episcopal Church: Who’s Dignity Matters?
January 31, 2026

A letter to our fellow Americans.

We, the undersigned bishops of The Episcopal Church, write today out of grief, righteous anger, and steadfast hope.

What happened a week ago in Minnesota and is happening in communities across the country runs counter to God’s vision of justice and peace. This crisis is about more than one city or state—it’s about who we are as a nation. The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters?

In the wake of the tragic deaths of two U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good, we join Minnesotans and people across the nation in mourning two precious lives lost to state-sanctioned violence. We grieve with their families, their friends, and everyone harmed by the government’s policies. When fear becomes policy, everyone suffers.

We call on Americans to trust their moral compass—and to question rhetoric that trades in fear rather than the truth. As Episcopalians, our moral compass is rooted firmly in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is what we know. Women were shoved to the ground, children torn from their families, and citizens silenced and demeaned for exercising their constitutional rights. These actions sow fear, cast doubt, and wear us down with endless noise.

We cannot presume to speak for everyone or prescribe only one way to respond. For our part, we can only do as Jesus’ teaching shows us.

A Call for Action

This is a moment for action. **We call on people of faith to stand by your values and act as your conscience demands.**

We urge the immediate suspension of ICE and Border Patrol operations in Minnesota and in any community where enforcement has eroded public trust. Because the rule of law is weakened, not strengthened, when power is exercised without restraint.

We also call for transparent, independent investigations of the people killed—investigations centered on truth, not politics. Justice cannot wait, and accountability is essential to healing.

We call on the elected officials of our nation to remember the values that we share, including the rule of law. Rooted in our Constitution, it ensures that law—not the arbitrary will of individuals—governs us all, protecting individual rights, ensuring fairness, and maintaining stability.

A Shared Commitment

Every act of courage matters. We must keep showing up for one another. We are bound together because we are all made in the image of God. This begins with small, faithful steps.

As bishops in the Episcopal Church, we promise to keep showing up—to pray, to speak, and to stand with every person working to make our communities just, safe, and whole.
We are committed to making our communities safer and more compassionate:

So children can walk to school without fear. So families can shop, work, and worship freely. So we recognize the dignity of every neighbor—immigrant communities, military families, law enforcement officers, nurses, teachers, and essential workers alike. You may feel powerless, angry, or heartbroken right now. Know that you're not alone.

Each of us has real power: community power, financial power, political power, and knowledge power. We can show up for our neighbors, support small businesses and food banks, contact elected officials and vote, and learn our rights so we can speak up peacefully without fear.

Choosing Hope

This crisis is about more than one city or state—it's about who we are as a nation. The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters?

Our faith gives a clear answer: everyone's.

Safety built on fear is an illusion. True safety comes when we replace fear with compassion, violence with justice, and unchecked power with accountability. That's the vision our faith calls us to live out—and the promise our country is meant to uphold.

In the face of fear, we choose hope.

By the grace of God, may this season of grief become a season of renewal. May courage rise from lament, and love take root in every heart.

Faithfully,
† The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane
Bishop Provisional of Western New York

View the full list of 154 Episcopal Bishop signatories: http://tiny.cc/h1ky001

COME JOIN US FOR A

Shrove Tuesday MARDI GRAS PARTY

MUSIC, MASKS, AND MARDI GRAS VIBES.

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

— 5 PM – 8 PM —

CHICKEN AND WAFFLES

FOR JUST $25, ENJOY AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT EXPERIENCE.

ST. PHILIP'S PARISH HALL
15 FERNHILL AVE., BUFFALO, NY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

New or visiting today? Everything you need to participate in worship is in this bulletin and the Hymnal in the pew (red or blue). We invite you to join in praying, singing, and responding, as you are comfortable.

Restrooms are located on the lower level. From the elevator, proceed through the double glass doors and look to your right for an accessible restroom. Additional restrooms are on the same level, to the left, near the kitchen.

Children are always welcome in worship and are invited to explore! Greeters can provide activity kits, available in the back of the church. Godly Play is also offered. For details: cathedral@spcbuffalo.org.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Kathy Reiss; Altar Guild
Evelyn Smigelsky, Frank Smigelsky; Ushers
Estelle Siener; Coffee Hour Host
Tracy Thomas; Livestream Coordinator

Andrew Jacob; Crucifer
Chris Casto; Sacristan
Kevin O' Neil, Roger Woodard, William Siener; Readers
Michael Bonilla; Intercessor
Jessy Alexander, Michael Bonilla; Eucharistic Ministers

The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral
Patricia Hills; Conductor
Tim Socha; Guest Organist

The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes; Dean, Celebrant and Preacher

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK

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The people of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral strive to be a beacon of
God's love in Western New York through transformative worship, inclusive fellowship,
and active service in partnership with the wider community.

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