

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat..
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of St. Paul's. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex. To add names to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed.
Please pray for: *Fr. Godon, Cathy Hargrave, Julie*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 28, Sun.—Coffee Hour Join us as we honor Fr. Nick and Laura

Dec. 31, Wed.

- **10:00am** Children's Chapel
- **10:30am** Morning Prayer
- **6:00pm** Bible Study

Jan. 1, Thurs - 8:00pm Compline Service via Facebook or Compline link at Stpaulstx.org

Jan. 3rd Sat.—3:00—5:00pm—Please Join us as we welcome and get to know Fr. Gary Hill and his wife Nancy with a pot-luck dinner.

January 11 Sunday—5pm—Investiture of the Rt. Rev. Robert Price; St Matthew's Cathedral, 5100 Ross Ave. Dallas. Reception follows.

Jan. 17, Sat.

- **8:00am** St. Joseph Guild
- **9:00am** Daughter's of the King—DOK

2025-2026 APNET Events - Opportunities to join with other small Episcopal churches for ministry and mutual edification. Please consider participating. Rural Churches play a important role in the fabric of the communities they serve. They are the outposts of the rural mission field for the Gospel. Often times these small missions and parishes struggle to remain viable having limited resources and small numbers.

- **January 3 – 4pm** Lessons and Carols at St. William Laud, Pittsburg.
- **January 21—5:30pm—ALPHA Course:** St. Philip's Episcopal, Sulphur Springs, TX
- **February 20-21 – APNET Conference**

Cover Art

El Greco, *The Adoration of the Shepherds* (Bucharest, Romania: National Museum of Art, c.1596), oil on canvas. 364 x 137 cm.

More Than Enough

Donate Digitally!

Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code. This will take you directly to our donation page at www.stpaulstx.org/giving where you can donate to our Giving Program.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
8320 Jack Finney Blvd.
Greenville, TX 75402-3004
903-455-5030
secretary@stpaulstx.org
www.stpaulstx.org

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*
The Rt. Rev. Dr. George R. Sumner, *Bishop*
The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk, *Rector*
The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*
David Gish, *Music Director*
Mark Gilliam, *Organist*

First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 28, 2025

Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

9:30 am to 10:15 amADULT CATECHESIS
10:15 am. to 12:00 pm.NURSERY OPEN
10:30 am.HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am.MORNING PRAYER I
10:00 am.CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
10:30 am.MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 pm.BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m.Compline Service (access St. Paul's Facebook Page)

This Sunday, December 28th

Lector/LEM: Jim Pence
Acolyte: Karen Smith
Vestry Person of the Day: Frank McKee, Elizabeth Porter
Intercessory Prayer: Laurel Pence
Tech Team: Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jeff Faunce; Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Next Sunday, January 4th

Lector/LEM: Debbie Shaffer
Acolyte: David Kiriklin
Vestry Person of the Day: Elizabeth Porter, Frank McKee
Intercessory Prayer: Laurel Pence
Tech Team: Director-Jennifer Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce; Audio-Jeff Faunce; Cameras-Jeff Faunce; Social Media-Georgianna Harrison

Altar Guild: Laura Funk, Georgianna Harrison, Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant

Morsels for Meditation

Jesus...
He came not to a throne,
but to a manger.
He lived not as a king,
but as a servant.
He chose not an earthly kingdom,
but a cross.
He gave not just a little,
but everything.
Holley Gerth

"He became what we are that he might make us what he is." - Athanasius

Hauerwas desires to "foment a modest revolution by forcing Christians to take themselves seriously as Christians."

-Stanley Hauerwas, *Jesus Changes Everything: A New World Made Possible* (Walden, NY: Plough Publishing House, 2025), xxi.

"Always preach in such a way that if the people listening do not come to hate their sin, they will instead hate you."

-Attributed to Martin Luther

Holy Eucharist Rite I

The Word of God

Processional Hymn H #473

Lift High the Cross (Crucifer)

Opening Sentence BCP 323

Collect for Purity BCP 323

Summary of the Law BCP 324

Trisagion H #S101

The Collect BCP 160

The Lessons BCP 84

The First Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The Psalm Psalm 147

The Epistle Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel Hymn H #324

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Picardy)

Gospel John 1:1-18

Sermon "The Word Became Flesh" The Rev. Dr. Nicholas

Funk

The Nicene Creed BCP 326

Prayers of the People (Form I) BCP 328

The Confession BCP 331

The Peace BCP 332

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn H #450

All hail the power of Jesus' Name (Coronation)

Offertory Anthem A3 #221

Doxology (Old 100th)

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer I) BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer BCP 336

Communion Hymn

His Name is Wonderful A3 #61

Give me Jesus A3 #42

Post Communion Prayer BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal BCP 339

Recessional Hymn H #100

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come (Antioch)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

H = Hymnbook (red)

A3 = Alleluia III (yellow)

The Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm

Psalm 147

Laudate Dominu

- [1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!]
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.]