

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

*The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul*

JANUARY 25, 2026 – 9:00AM

## OPENING HYMN

*Hymn 657*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose call does not leave us unchanged, you drew Paul into a life continually reshaped by grace. Keep us from mistaking certainty for faith or zeal for holiness. Turn us again and again toward your purposes, until our lives bear the marks of Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Acts 26:9-21*

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities." With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 67*

Be merciful to us, O God, and bless us, \*  
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.  
  
Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.  
  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.  
  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.  
  
Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.  
  
The earth has brought forth its increase; \*  
may you, our own God, give us your blessing.  
  
May you give us your blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

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

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Based on the Commitment Card for the  
Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights  
by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

We believe in God,  
whose love is revealed in Jesus Christ,  
and whose purpose is justice, reconciliation, and freedom for all people.

We believe the way of Jesus is the way of love—  
a love that rejects violence of fist, tongue, and heart,  
seeks not victory over others but the healing of the whole community,  
and calls us to costly faithfulness.

We believe God calls us to disciplined lives of prayer,  
to daily reflection on the teachings of Jesus,  
to service for others and for the world,  
and to sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

We believe the Holy Spirit strengthens us  
to walk and talk in the manner of love,  
to treat friend and foe with dignity,  
and to keep going when the work is hard.

This is our faith.

This is our commitment.

With God’s help, we will live it. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*the prayers today are based on the epistles of Paul*

We pray with the Apostle Paul as we turn toward you, O God, offering the prayers of our hearts.

For the nations of the world: that the God of steadfastness and encouragement would draw peoples into holy harmony, breaking fear and pride, so that with one voice the earth may glorify you in Christ. (*Romans 15:5-6*)

God of peace,

**Hear our prayer.**

For this local community and our place within it: that you would direct our way, stretch our love beyond what is comfortable, and strengthen our hearts for the work before us, until our common life bears the mark of holiness and joy. (*1 Thessalonians 3:11-13*)

God of faith,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all who are in any need: for the sick, the weary, the anxious, and the forgotten; that you would fill them with joy and peace in believing, and strengthen them with power through your Spirit, so that hope may rise where despair has taken root. (*Romans 15:13, Ephesians 3:16*)

*Please add your own prayers for those for whom you are praying.*

God of hope,

**Hear our prayer.**

For this church, founded in the name of Saint Paul: that, rooted and grounded in love, we may grasp, together with all your saints, the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, and remain bold, generous, and faithful in that love.

*(Ephesians 3:17-18)*

God of love,

**Hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?

*The People add their own thanksgivings and petitions.*

*All conclude together:*

**Glory to you, O God, whose power working within us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to you from generation to generation, here in this church and in Christ Jesus, forever. Amen.** (*Ephesians 3:20-21*)

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

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2026

*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*

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HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*

*Unison or harmony*

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult  
 2 as, of old, Saint An - drew heard it  
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship  
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows,  
 5 Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies,

1 of our life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his  
 2 by the Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and  
 3 of the vain world's gold - en store; from each i - dol  
 4 days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in  
 5 Sa - vior, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to

1 clear voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"  
 2 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.  
 3 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
 4 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
 5 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.

Music: *Restoration*, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. *Hymnal 1982*, after *The Southern Harmony*, 1985; alt. harm. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*the Eucharistic prayer today is based on the epistles of Paul*

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise, O God, giver of life and source of grace. In you we are being transformed, from glory into glory, as the light of Christ shines within us. Forgetting what lies behind and pressing on toward the call you set before us, we lift our voices with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the song of your unending praise:

## SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Grayson Warren Brown

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious God, you formed us for life abundant and placed us within your good creation. Yet we turned inward, doing the very thing we hated, bound by powers we could not escape. Still, you did not abandon us. You called a people into hope, promised blessing beyond measure, and spoke through prophets of justice, mercy, and peace. When the fullness of time had come, you sent your Son, born among us, sharing our flesh and our frailty. Though he was rich, he became poor for our sake. Though equal to you, he emptied himself, obedient even to death on a cross. In him the dividing walls fell. In him a new creation began. You raised him from the dead, the firstborn of all who live in you, and raised us with him—one body with many members, held together in love.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “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 of this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Send now your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that this bread and this cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ; strength for the journey, a share in his life, a foretaste of the feast when we shall know you fully, even as we are fully known. Filled with the Spirit, make us bold in witness, patient in suffering, steadfast in hope, bearing one another’s burdens until your love is made complete. For in Christ all divisions are healed, all things are reconciled, and you are all in all.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, now and forever.

*People*



A-men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall-owed be your Name, your king - dom come,

2

your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

3

And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

4

Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

5

For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

## THE COMMUNION

*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

Bread of Life, nourish our souls.

**Light of the world, shine in our hearts.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)*

*Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.*

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## THE BLESSING

May the God of boundless grace,  
who called the apostle Paul out of darkness into the light of Christ,  
transform your hearts and minds  
to proclaim the Gospel with boldness.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Source of all Being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

1. Ye servants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim,  
 2. God rul-eth on high, al-might-y to save;  
 3. Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne!  
 4. Then let us a-dore, and give him his right;

and pub-lish a-broad his won-der-ful Name;  
 and still he is nigh: his pres-ence we have.  
 Let all cry a-loud, and hon-or the Son.  
 All glo-ry and power, all wis-dom and might,

the Name all-vic-to-rious of Je-sus ex-tol:  
 The great con-gre-ga-tion his tri-umph shall sing,  
 The prais-es of Je-sus the an-gels pro-claim,  
 and hon-or and bless-ing, with an-gels a-bove,

his king-dom is glo-rious; he rules o-ver all.  
 as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus our King.  
 fall-down on their fa-faces, and wor-ship the Lamb.  
 and thanks nev-er ceas-ing and in-fi-nite love.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

Music: Paderborn, melody from *Catolisch-Paderbornisches Gesang-buch*, 1765; harm. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875–1947)

## THE SENDING

Go and proclaim with your lives that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
(*Romans 8:38-39*)

**Thanks be to God.**

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