Welcome to our Sunday Worship
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23, Year A
October 11, 2026 9:00 a.m. Rite II

Welcome to St Paul's Episcopal Church. We hope that your worship with us will be meaningful and a source of blessing and peace. Please take a moment to silence all electronic devices as a way to quiet the business of the world in favor of finding yourself in the presence of God. If you need to depart early, or arrive late, please exit during the hymns discreetly so as not to disturb the worship experience for others.

The music in our service is generally found in the blue Hymnal 1982 (listed as "Blue Hymnal"). Service music (e.g. S-278) is found in the front section of the Hymnal. Additional hymns may be found in the green hymnal Worship and Rejoice,(listed as "Green Hymnal").

Prelude: Give Thanks *Smith*

•The congregation stands

Surely the presence **Worship #131 (Green hymnal)**
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Song of Praise **Hymnal S-102 (Blue Hymnal)**
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

•The congregation is seated.

The First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14
The temptation to follow other gods, especially in times of crisis, was an on-going challenge for the Israelites both in the desert as they wandered, and throughout biblical history.

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

•The psalm is said responsively, by whole verse. The congregation's verses are bolded.

from Psalm 106 (*from The Book of Common Prayer)*
The psalmist exults in God's steadfast love in the many providential acts performed for Israel. The second part of the selection summarizes the incident recounted in our first reading.

1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
2 **Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD ***
or show forth all his praise?
3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
4 **Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, ***
and visit me with your saving help;
5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, * that I may glory with your inheritance.
6 **We have sinned as our forebears did; ***
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;
20 **And so they exchanged their Glory ***
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 **Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, ***
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
23 So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, * to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

The Second Reading: Philippians 4.1-9
Faith, friendship, reconciliation, and strong ethical behavior are all wrapped into these few verses. They are among the most intimate words written by the apostle Paul.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

•The congregation stands.

Gradual Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness **#482 vs 1 (The Blue Hymnal)**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22.1-14

The parable Jesus tells seems relatively straightforward until a guest arrives wearing the wrong clothes. The fact that we enter the kingdom by grace does not mean that there are no standards. The invitation to salvation is open to all, but when we come through that door we must put off our old clothes, and our old ways. Jesus calls us to accept the new life of the Kingdom, and to live accordingly.

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

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe? 'And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Gradual Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness **#482 vs 2 (The Blue Hymnal)**

•The congregation is seated.

The Sermon

•The congregation stands, and says in unison:

The Nicene Creed

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 congregation stands, or kneels. Responses are in bold.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God, remembering especially The Anglican Church of Burundi. **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Doug, our Bishop, Tom, our Rector, and Mary, our deacon; and for all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We offering thanksgiving for those celebrating the anniversary of their birth, especially Sandra Civet, and George McGowan; and those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage.
Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence
The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, and nurture victims of violence and warfare throughout your world, to the glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

•The congregation greets each other in peace.

•The congregation is seated for the Offertory.

Offertory Anthem: Care for my lambs *Herrington*

•The congregation stands and sings:

Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.
By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all
those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending
hymn:

•The congregation sings:

SANCTUS: (Blue Hymnal)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

•The congregation stands or kneels.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

•The congregation says in unison:

The Lord's Prayer
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

•The congregation sings:

Fraction Anthem: My God, the table now is spread #321 vs 1 (Blue Hymnal)

Distribution of Holy Communion

•The congregation is seated, and sings:

Communion Hymn: The King of love my shepherd is #645 (Blue Hymnal)

•The congregation stands, and says in unison:

Postcommunion Prayer
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.

Blessing
And finally my brothers and sisters, live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander, but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shall be with you this day and all the days of your life. **Amen***.*

•The congregation sings:

Postcommunion Hymn: Savior, again to thy dear Name we raise #345 (Blue Hymnal)

Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Welcome visitors!

We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall after the service.

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Tom Thoeni
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams
Eucharistic Minister/Altar	Dick Emerson
Eucharistic/Chalice	Judy Cimaglia
Lector/Intercessor	Pauline Suss
Usher(s)	Rosemary & Gary Porembo

Active Altar Guild Members: Joan Allison, Diane Augustus, Rose Porembo, Mia Tajawandee, & Cindy Tysiak.

Rector	The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, seasonal
Administrative Assistant	Marybeth Rein
Sexton	
Music Director	Jacquie Scaduto

Vestry
Senior Warden Diane Augustus *Junior Warden* Julio Albino
Secretary Jeannie Smith *Treasurer* Rose Porembo
Members: Mary Lou Dogoloff, Paul Nelson, Charlene Connolly, Linda Connelly