Welcome to our Sunday Worship
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 24, Year A
October 18, 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: Let Heaven Rejoice *Dufford*

•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.**

Kyrie **Hymnal S-96 (Blue Hymnal)**
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

•The congregation is seated.

The First Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

Theophanies - conversations between God and Israel's religious heroes like Moses or one of the prophets - were reported as if they were everyday conversations. But these were surely deep religious experiences when special revelations came to a great spiritual leader.

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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**.

Psalm 99 *(from The Book of Common Prayer)*

This is one of several psalms thought to have been used to celebrate God as Israel's sovereign at the beginning of a new year.

1 The LORD is King; let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
2 **The LORD is great in Zion; ***
he is high above all peoples.
3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

4 **"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."**
5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
6 **Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, ***
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
8 **"O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds."**
9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10
The idea that Jesus would be returning very soon was common in the early decades of the Church's history. Paul's letters to the Thessalonians dealt with this expectation as well as some particular local issues.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

•The congregation stands.

Gradual Hymn: Faith of our fathers **#558 vs 1 (The Blue Hymnal)**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22.15-22
In responding to his opponents 'efforts to entrap him, Jesus did not separate material things from spiritual values as some have presumed. He believed that God is sovereign over all aspects of human life. We can extrapolate from his answer a clear definition of Christian stewardship: God has first call on all our assets.

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Gradual Hymn: Faith of our fathers **#558 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
Intercessor
With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, remembering especially The Anglican Church of Canada, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; Tom, our Rector; Mary, our Deacon; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, and for all those who advise them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth, especially Karen Sullivan, and John Jones, and for those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage, especially Jack and Rosemary LaRose, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

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: We will rise again ***Haas***

•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: Enriching our Worship, Prayer 2

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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

•The congregation sings:

<u>SANCTUS</u>:
Holy, holy, holy—- **Holy, holy, holy**
Lord God of power and might—- **Lord God of power and might**
Heaven, heaven and earth—- **Heaven, heaven and earth**
Are full of your glory— **Are full of your glory**

Refrain
Sing Hosanna—- **Sing Hosanna**
Sing Hosanna—- **Sing Hosanna**
Sing Hosanna— **Sing Hosanna**
Sing Alleluia— **Sing Alleluia**

Blessed, blessed is he—- **Blessed, blessed is he**
Who comes in the name of the Lord— **Who comes in the name of the Lord**
Refrain

•The congregation stands or kneels.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

•The congregation is seated, and sings:

Communion Hymn: And now, O Father, mindful of the love #337 (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: Christ is the world's true light **#542 (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	Linda Connelly
Eucharistic/Chalice	Steve Carnell
Lector/Intercessor	Steve Carnell
Usher(s)	Barb & Dave Abernethy

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