

# St. Paul's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS

The Rev. Alice Graham Grant  
Celebrant and Homilist

HOLY EUCHARIST  
10:00 A.M. SERVICE  
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

Processional

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 93

## Liturgy of the Word

### Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People

Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Celebrant says

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 following is sung.

Gloria

Glory to God

Hymnal S 278

(Organ)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth.. — 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and  
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise — you for your glo -  
 ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, — Lord God,  
 Lamb of God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
 (Organ)

6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus  
 Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**Collect of the Day**

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

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.*

**First Reading** Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A Reading from Isaiah.

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.

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

**The Psalm** Psalm 147

- 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.
- 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!

**Second Reading**

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

A Reading from Galatians.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Hymn 324

**Gospel**

John 1:1-8

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.

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

## Homily

The Rev. Alice Graham Grant

### Nicene Creed

*All who are able, stand.*

*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.*

### Prayers of the People

People's Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### Confession of Sin

BCP 360

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All who are able, kneel. 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 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.*

### Peace

BCP 360

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

### Announcements

*If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found on the giving card in the back of the pews.*

*At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Offertory

Carol Yeargin, Organist

### Eucharistic Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship 1

*The People remain standing.*

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 our God.

People           *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

*The Celebrant proceeds.*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S 128

(organ)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

(organ)

Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

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 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 Celebrant then continues*

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

**Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

*People and Celebrant*

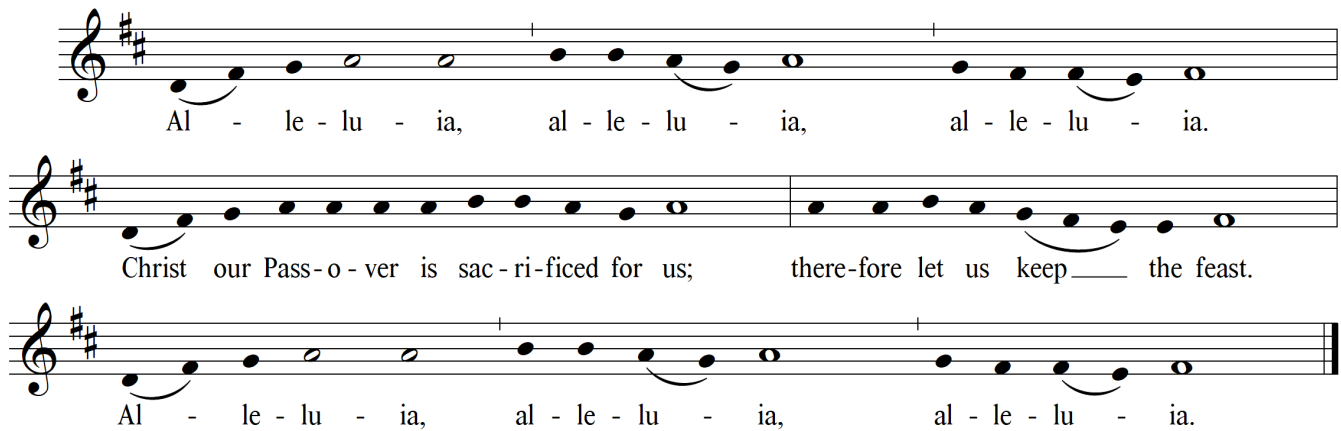
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem****Christ Our Passover**

Hymnal S 154



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Communion***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.

*All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail.*

*If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you.*

*If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup.*

*If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.*

*A priest is also available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.*

**The Communion Music**

Once in Royal David's City  
In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymn 102

Hymn 112

*If you are at home or otherwise unable to take communion, you may say the following prayer.*

**Spiritual Communion Prayer**

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Final Prayer***Celebrant and People*

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food as we hear your Word proclaimed and gather at your holy Table. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

**Blessing****Recessional**

Joy to the World

Hymn 100

**Dismissal**

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Postlude**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*Worship. Serve. Grow.*

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## Christmas Season 2023

A Christmas Message from the Rector:

In the darkness of that night in Bethlehem, a new light was born. And scripture says that the magi who sought and searched for that light, upon discovering it, went home a new way. They couldn't return by the old way.

As we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation of the Christ in our darkened world of war and divisiveness, may the light of this Christmas lead us to a new way.

I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas.

George

**New to St. Paul's? Visiting us for Christmas?** Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Welcome Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat with Greeters and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church. Contact Mary Kintz, Community Connector, at [mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org](mailto:mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org) to learn more.

**Children's Chapel, Sunday School and all Youth activities resume January 7.**

**Children's Communion Class begins January 21.**

**Coffee Hour and Adult Formation Series "The Gospel of Mark" resume January 7.**

**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed the week of December 26; office hours resume on January 2. Please remember that donations postmarked through December 31 will be credited to 2023 for tax purposes, regardless of the date received.

**January Adult Formation Book Study on Zoom:** Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom starting January 3 for a discussion of "Breathing Under Water" by Richard Rohr. Learn more on the website and register by contacting Annie Ritter at [annicorn60@gmail.com](mailto:annicorn60@gmail.com).

**Please visit our website for more information about our community:**



St. Paul's Website