



St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS**

The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Celebrant
The Rev. J. Carr Holland III, Homilist

**HOLY EUCHARIST
9:00 A.M. SERVICE
JANUARY 5, 2025**

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

Processional

What Star is This with Beams so Bright

Hymn 124

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 S278

(Organ)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. — 2. Lord God, hea - ven - 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, 7. 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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Children's Processional

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Vs. 3)
Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

Hymn 405

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
 "Save, O LORD, your people,
 the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
 among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
 those in labor, together;
 a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
 and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
 in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
 and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;
 their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.
 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

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

The Psalm Psalm 84:1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
 my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
 or the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

A Reading from Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

Gradual Love Came Down at Christmas Hymn 84
Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come

to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Homily

The Rev. J. Carr Holland III

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

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

St. Paul's Choir

Linda McKinney, soprano soloist

Russell McKinney, tenor soloist

Offertory Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant proceeds.

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.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S128

(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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;*

The Celebrant then continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of

Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **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 S154

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.

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.

The Communion Music

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly
When Jesus Left His Father's Throne

Hymn 277

Hymn 480

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

Brightest and Best are the Stars of the Morning

Hymn 117

Dismissal

Deacon

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

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

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MISSION STATEMENT

Worship. Serve. Grow.

Church Phone: 919-467-1477

Web Site: www.stpaulscary.org

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The Rev. J. Carr Holland III, Bridge Priest

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Bridge Priest

The Rev. Antoinette Wike, Priest Associate

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TODAY – JANUARY 5, 2024

New to St. Paul's? 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. Join a tour of our campus on the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. to learn more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more about us!

Children's Chapel: Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to process to Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. service and return to their families during announcements.

Coffee Hour (Parish Hall): Hosted this week by the Eucharistic Ministers. Join us after the 9 a.m. service for coffee and conversation.

Adult Formation (Chapel, 10:15-11 a.m.): Our series on the Gospel According to Luke begins next week; please enjoy the fellowship of Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall this Sunday.

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under (Education Building): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Meets this evening for fun and fellowship from 5-7 p.m. in the Youth Wing.

Pre-EYC (4th-5th Graders): Join us for bowling at Buffaloe Lanes in Cary from 5-6:15 p.m.; contact Jacob Nelson at jacobnelson77@hotmail.com with any questions.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note in the Pocket Clothing Drive: St. Paul's Pre-EYC families (4th and 5th graders) are supporting Note in the Pocket's mission "to provide quality clothing to homeless and impoverished children and families with dignity and love" with a month-long clothing drive, Jan. 20-Feb. 16. A drop-off box will be set in the narthex hallway starting Jan. 20. Bring new or gently-used, school-appropriate clothing donations in all sizes, infant through adult; these drives clothe referred students and their entire families. Coats are among items currently needed; more information about needed items will be posted in the coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact Shannon Robinson at shannon3b@gmail.com

Youth Confirmation Classes: The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson will be joining us for confirmation services on Sunday, Feb. 23. **Youth Confirmation classes** will be held at St. Paul's on **Sundays from 10:10-11 a.m. (Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and Feb. 9)**. If you wish to sign up, or if you have questions about the classes, please contact the Rev. Carr Holland at jcarr.holland@stpaulscary.org. Youth who cannot participate in person may attend the adult confirmation retreat but are asked to check in with Fr. Carr before doing so.

Adult Inquirer's Retreat: Adults are invited to take part in a one-day Confirmation and Inquirers' Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 25 (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) at St. Paul's. This retreat is for those who wish to be confirmed or received in The Episcopal Church, as well as those who simply wish to grow deeper in their understanding of the Christian faith and Episcopal tradition. Lunch will be provided. This event is open to all St. Paul's parishioners, inquiring members, and visitors. Please register for the retreat on our website or by calling the church. Contact the Rev. Javier Almendárez-Bautista at javier@stpaulscary.org if you have questions.

Altar Flowers SignUp: The beautiful floral arrangements you see at our altar each week are funded by donations to the Altar Guild Flower Fund. You can reserve a special day to celebrate or remember a loved one with a donation of \$50. The 2025 Altar Flowers Signup is now available in the narthex/lobby. Please complete the short form which assists our office staff and allows ample space for your dedication message. The form can also be found on the church website.

Prayer List: Dave, Bob, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Laura, Margaret, Mary, Virginia, Doug, Guy, Katie, Cathy, Alan, Jessica, John, Mary, Susan, Clarence, Susan, Mila, Florence, Noah, Sally, Chase, John, Janice, John, Randy, Mary, Regina, Nathanael, Lisa, Parrish, Matias, Yosi, Trudy, Lorraine, Ralph, Judy, Jackie, Christy, Mark, Marty, Gary, Lou, Steven, Bonnie, Olive, Randall, Becky, Connor, Carter, Henry, Gary, Jessica, Martha, Joe, and Rich.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.



St. Paul's Website