



**ST. PAUL'S**  
Episcopal Church  
1135 12th St.  
Sparks, Nevada  
775-358-4474 StPaulsSparks.org



# Holy Eucharist: Rite II

5:30 p.m.

Liturgy Taken from The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.



**Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2024**

The Rt. Rev.  
Elizabeth Gardner,  
Bishop of Nevada

The Very Rev.  
Kirk A. Woodliff,  
Rector

## Welcome to All

We know you had many options in choosing where to worship on Christmas Eve and we thank you very much for choosing to worship with us here at St. Paul's.

## Communion in the Pew

If you desire to receive Holy Communion but are unable to walk up to receive it, please notify an usher. They will inform the clergy of your request, and the clergy will gladly bring Holy Communion to you in your seat.

## Who Are We

St. Paul's is a theologically diverse community who seeks to embrace their diversity in order to live through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be a place of belonging for all people.

## Kid's Area

Located on the south side of the church is a special area where there are some coloring materials which can be used there or at other places in the church. Please return these supplies to their baskets following worship.

## Helpful Hints for Receiving Holy Communion

- Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. Everyone!
- The usher will let you know when it is time for your row to go up.
- Watch the people in front of you to get the flow of things.
- To receive the bread and if you want to Intinct ("dipping" the wafer into the cup of wine/grape juice) the minister will place the wafer between your thumb & pointer fingers (pinch it) then you can Intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice.
- Please do not drink from the cup. Intinction only.
- There is a designated chalice on the north side, that has **grape juice**.
- If you would like a **gluten free** wafer, either say gluten free to the clergy distributing the bread, or you can get a small black stone from the basket in the back of the worship space on the north side. Present it in the palm of your hand to the clergy and they will exchange it for a gluten free wafer.

## **Just a Reminder!!**

**St. Paul's  
Annual Parish  
Meeting  
with Holy Eucharist  
January 26th, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**



## Special Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering this year will be split between St. Paul's General Fund and The Community Food Pantry.



## Worship Times

**Christmas Day, December 25th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Traditional with Holy Communion  
(No music)

**Sunday, December 29th**  
10:00 a.m.  
Praise with Holy Communion

## Prelude of Carols: 5:15 p.m.

**"Do You Hear What I Hear?"  
"What Child is This?"  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
"Go Tell it on the Mountain"**



## Welcome and Announcements

*All stand in body or spirit*

**Processional Hymn** “O Come all ye Faithful”

### The Greeting

*Presider:* Blessed be God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People:** **And blessed be God’s Kingdom,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider:* With the angelic host proclaim.

**People:** **Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Song of Praise** “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*All sit*

**The First Lesson** *Isaiah 52:7-10*

*Lector:* A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *96: 1-5, 11-13*

*Lector:* We will now say a portion of Psalm 96 responsively by whole verse.

*Lector:* Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

**People:** **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his  
salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the LORD**

**and greatly to be praised; \***

**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

**Let the heavens rejoice,**

**and let the earth be glad;**

**let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \***

**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.**

**The Second Lesson** *Titus 3:4-7*

*Lector:* A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand in body or spirit*

**Gospel Acclamation** “Away in a Manger”

**The Gospel** *Luke 2:1-20*

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and

the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon:** The Very Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff

*All stand in body or spirit*

**The Nicene Creed** *(All in unison)*

**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 Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* All the gifts we shall give and receive in this season are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us pray, saying:  
Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Lord God, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born as a human child. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* On this holy night Christians the world over are celebrating Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us tonight.

Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* On this holy night Mary in the pain of labor brought your son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in any kind of pain or distress.

Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Lord in your mercy:

***People:* Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* On this holy night shepherds in the fields heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the Good News of Christ's redemption.

Lord in your mercy:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* On this holy night the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Strengthen those who work for your peace and justice in all the world.

Lord in your mercy:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* On this holy night angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger. Receive the worship we offer you in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and all the saints.

Lord in your mercy:

**People:** Hear our prayer.

### Concluding Collect

*Presider:* All these things we ask in the name of him who came as the Light in the darkness of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Presider:* The Peace of the Lord  
be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.*

### The Offertory Sentence

*Presider:* Let us make an offering of the gifts we have been given and make an offering of ourselves to God.

### The Offertory

*During this time we make an offering to the church for its mission and a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the world around us.*

**The Christmas offering will be split between  
St. Paul's general fund and  
The Community Food Pantry.**

If mailing in an offering, please remit to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 737, Sparks, NV 89432

Or online at [www.StPaulssparks.org](http://www.StPaulssparks.org)



**Scan with your smart phone camera  
to give secure and "contact free" donations.**

**The Offertory Song "Christmas Hallelujah"**  
*(Praise Team Only)*

### The Presentation Song:

*"Let there be peace on Earth"*

### The Presentation

*Presider:* All things come of thee O Lord.

**People:** And of thine own have we given thee.

### The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer B

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.

*Presider:* 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:

### The Sanctus "Sanctus"

*Presider:* 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,

*Presider and People:*

**We remember his death,**

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

*Presider:* 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 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*People and Presider:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider:* We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.

*People:* **We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

#### **The Invitation**

*Presider:* Come and be fed; you who have much faith, and you who are seeking more; you who come here often, and you who are new among us; you who have done well, and you who have

stumbled along the way.

All of you are welcome and belong here at Christ's table. So come as you are, for it is Christ who invites us to meet him here, and these sacred gifts are for you.

**Communion Songs:** "O Holy Night"  
"Mary Did You Know?"

#### **Communion to the People**

*Hand candles are lit at this time.*

**Candlelight Post Communion Song**  
"Silent Night"

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Presider:* Let us pray together.

*People and Presider:*

**Gracious God,  
We thank you for the birth of your son Jesus  
and for the nourishment we receive from  
Christ's Holy Communion.**

**Bless us with the courage to live our lives as the  
Gospel tells us.**

**Bless us with the confidence to share our faith  
with others.**

**Bless us with the strength to admit that we need  
your help and the humility to accept it from  
those you send us.**

**Propel us out into the world, but guide us back  
here each week to be fed; and may our eyes and  
hearts be open to you always. Amen.**

#### **The Blessing**

*Presider:* May the Christ of all that has been  
and all that is to come, stay by our side through  
daylight and darkness, heal us of the wounds  
of the past, console us of our afflictions,  
and welcome us into the future.

And may the blessing of God go with you now and  
always. **Amen.**

**You may now blow out your candle.  
Please place your candle in the basket  
as you exit the church.**

**Recessional Hymn** "Joy to the World"

#### **The Dismissal**

*Presider:* Alleluia, alleluia!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Postlude** "Angel We Have Heard on High"  
"We Wish you a Merry Christmas"



**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE  
CHRISTMAS ALTAR WERE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:**

**SAM ALLEN**, in memory of Patty and our life together.

**PAT BERGE**, in thanksgiving for all God's children.

**MARGARET BOUZEK**, in loving memory of family who have gone before.

**DOROTHY DEVINE**, in thanksgiving for family and friends.

**LINDA & JEFF DEVON**, in memory of Friends and Family no longer with us.

**SANDRA EDWARDS**, in thanksgiving for Blessings.

**NANETTE FLEMING**, in memory of Robert & Nancy Lerche.

**VICKI GARDNER**, in loving memory of my mother Jerie Taylor.

**DOUG & SANDY HOUSTON**, grateful thanksgiving of all our blessings in family and church family.

**MILLIE MITCHELL**, in thanksgiving of the Christmas season.

**PETER & BARBARA PAPADAKOS**, in honor of our loved ones.

**DICK & DOTTIE STUFFLEBEAM**, in thanksgiving for all our blessings, family, and friends.

**VERN & DOT WATTS**, in loving memory of Thomas & Hilda Graham.

**KIRK & TRICIA WOODLIFF**, in loving memory of Lucy.