

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(1135 12th St.)
P.O. BOX 737
Sparks, Nevada
89432-0737



775-358-4474 (phone)

775-313-0806 (fax)

www.StPaulsSparks.org

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Liturgy Taken from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979.*

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

On ZOOM: Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3FcKREH>
Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013 Password: 308693

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner
Bishop of Nevada

Welcome to ALL

**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 learning and belonging for all people.**

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent is marked with a special liturgy. The theme for the day, though not for all of Lent, is that we stand as sinners condemned to die, but for God's grace. This is symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, with the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of penitence (feeling regretful at offenses) and mourning.

Ash Wednesday is one of two days of special observance (the other being Good Friday) for which fasting is recommended. While this usually refers going without food for the entire day, this practice is not practical for all persons, including, but not limited to, diabetics. Use your own discretion in determining how you can best observe this day.

**Instructions for
Receiving Holy
Communion**

If you are new to receiving Holy Communion or new to St. Paul's, there are some specific instructions and helpful hints located on the back page.

Holy Communion in your seat

If you desire to receive Holy Communion but are unable to walk up to the altar, 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.

Name Tags

Thank you for wearing your St. Paul's name tag during our time together.

If you have never had a name tag, or if you would like a new one, please sign the name tag list located on the newcomers table near the north entrance.

**Daughters of the King invite you to join
in the following:**

During Lent the National Episcopal Church Women promotes "Thursdays in Black". The World Council of Churches is promoting support of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence against women particularly women of color and indigenous women. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence by wearing black on Thursday during the season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday

On this day, the Presider begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.

All stand in body or spirit.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All Sit

THE FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 58:1-12*

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM *103:8-14*

Lector: We will now read a portion of Psalm 103 in unison.

**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

**For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

**As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

**As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

**For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.**

THE SECOND LESSON *2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10*

Lector: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors,

and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand in body or spirit.

THE GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

The Deacon or other minister readers the Gospel.

Minister: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Jon Mittelstadt,
Lay Preacher in Training

All stand in body or spirit.

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

Presider: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of

the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All Kneeling (Please sit if you are unable to kneel)

Silence is then kept for a time

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Presider: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

Following the imposition of ashes, the service continues

PSALM 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*

The Deacon or other minister reads Psalm 51.

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your Loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *

and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

All Kneeling (Please sit if you are unable to kneel)

Presider: Most holy and merciful Father:

Presider and People:

We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Presider continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***People:* Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***People:* Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

***People:* We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

***People:* We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

***People:* We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

***People:* We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

***People:* We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

***People:* Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us;

***People:* Favorably hear us,
for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

***People:* That we may show forth
your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

***People:* Bring us with all your saints
to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain its mission in creation. It is also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the World around us.

THE PRESENTATION

Presider: All things come of thee O Lord.

People: **And of thine own are 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 him 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

Presider and People: (said)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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, 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

Presider: Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Presider: Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:

People: **Grant us your peace.**

THE INVITATION

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.
You are all welcome and belong here at Christ's Table.

COMMUNION TO THE PEOPLE

Here at St. Paul's all are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited, if you wish, to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing. Blessings are indicated by crossing your arms over your chest when the priest approaches.



THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us all stand in body or spirit
as we pray together.

People and Presider:

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual
Food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that
we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Presider: Look mercifully on this your family,
Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may
be governed and preserved evermore; and the blessing
of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon or other minister offers the dismissal

Minister: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All Alleluias are omitted during Lent

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.
- Only receive bread in your palm if you are skipping the chalice.
- 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.

Blessing Bag Donations Needed: The EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) are collecting items for "Blessing Bags", and we need your help! A blessing bag is a Ziplock bag stocked with food, travel sized toiletries, and other items one might need while living on the street. Tags with suggested donation items are on a tree in the Narthex. Please pick a tag off the tree, buy the items and bring them back to the church by **Sunday, March 9.**