

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

Praise Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

On ZOOM: Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3FcKREH> Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013 Password: 308693
Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

Welcome to All

St. Paul's is a theologically diverse community seeking 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.

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner
Bishop of Nevada

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.

Creation Care At St. Paul's

At St. Paul's we love God, and we love God's world. As a parish, we do a great number of things to express our love. The Creation Care journey is a long one. Where should we start? A bulletin board has been set up outside of the parish hall. Look here for upcoming community events which support loving God's world. Ecopaliains will keep us updated with the latest ways to help protect the environment. The next Creation Care planning session is **May 4, 2025**, at 11:30 am in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome. We'll be talking about next steps/projects. If you have questions, please contact
Deacon Mike
mgoodmarge@gmail.com or
Robin Towne
robinatowne@yahoo.com.

Wine, Grape Juice, and Gluten Free

We offer both wine and grape juice during Communion as well as a gluten-free wafer option. The chalice with the grape juice will be identified. All chalices are intinction only. If you are in need of a gluten-free Communion wafer, mention it to the priest when you come up, and you will be offered one.

Prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands

On Sundays when a Healing Minister is present, they will offer special prayers for healing immediately after receiving Communion. They will be located at the stools on the south wall in the back of the church. All prayers are kept confidential.

Guests and Visitors

We are especially pleased to have you here with us today. Please take the time to sign the guest book located on the Welcome Wagon near the south entrance. If you have any questions about St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church, please don't hesitate to visit with one of our clergy, either today or during the week.

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.
- When you come up for communion, the priest will place the bread on your open palm. You may then proceed to the chalice and dip (intinct) the edge of the wafer in the grape juice or wine.
- Please do not drink from the cup. Intinction only.
- There is a designated chalice on the north side, that has **grape juice**.
- If you desire 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.

PRELUDE: "Come into His Presence"

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSION: "Alleluia Give Thanks"

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE "I Will Sing Alleluia"

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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 Acts 5:27-32

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 150

Lector: We will now read Psalm 133 in unison.

Hallelujah!

**Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.**

**Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.**

**Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.**

**Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.**

**Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.**

**Let everything that has breath *
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND LESSON Revelation 1:4-8

Lector: A reading from the Revelation to John.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31

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

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the

mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Rev. Rick Millsap, Priest

THE NICENE CREED (*Said in unison*)

Please stand as you are able.

**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.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us be Christ's voice in the world proclaiming the resurrection by saying:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

O God, we give you thanks for the goodness of creation, for your victory in the resurrection, and for the grace of our salvation. May the Church, as we celebrate the great 50 days of Easter, bring the light of Christ into the world as we proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

We pray that the newly baptized may grow in their love of you and never lose the hope of your saving embrace, as together we proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Bring trust and understanding between the peoples of the world. Make all the nations into one household with many rooms. In the Spirit of the resurrection, we proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

We pray for all who are blind to the gift of Easter; for all who journey from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to comfort, from loneliness to love and especially for those we now name...
(Pause)

Blessing of the Quilts (*If there are Quilts to bless, they are done at this time, after which the Leader continues.*)

As we celebrate the healing power of the Spirit, let us proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for all whose lives reflect the light of Christ, and help guide us on our way as we proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

O God, guide your Church in all things and confirm in your truth all the baptized, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth, our Bishop, and for all clergy, and teachers of the faith.

We pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian

Ocean, St. George, Austin; and Crosswinds Assembly of God, Sparks

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

We pray for Mark, Sean, Aden, Bradley, Alex, Suzanne, and the all men and women, both in our neighborhoods and worldwide, who with courage wake each day to keep the peace and protect humanity.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

O God, increase in us the gifts of affection, compassion, and joy. Magnify our love for you and each other, so that we can see more clearly where you would have us go, as we proclaim:

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Alleluia, Alleluia!

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Presider: Lord of light and life: We thank you for your loving kindness, and for shaping us through the journey of the resurrection. Accept the prayers we now offer, and give us the strength to continue the Easter celebration every day of our lives; all this we ask through Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

Offer on another some sign of Christ's peace.

THE OFFERING

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

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:



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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Lifesong"

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION SONG "All that we have"

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Presider: All things come of thee O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Prayer A

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. 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:

SANCTUS: Praise Team

The people remain standing.

Presider: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 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: Alleluia!
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION

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 TO THE PEOPLE

If you are new to receiving Holy Communion, there are some helpful hints on the front page.

COMMUNION SONGS: Praise Team
"Take Me to the Cross" & "Let us Break Bread Together on Our Knees"

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us all stand as you are able
as we pray together.

People and Presider:

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his goodness.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL SONG "I Am the Bread of Life"

THE DISMISSAL

Minister: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

** The double Alleluias are specifically used during the fifty days of Easter until Pentecost.*

POSTLUDE: Praise Team *"I am the Resurrection"*

Episcopal Women's Spring Tea

May 3 at St. Paul's in Sparks from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
The cost of the tea is \$20. There will be fun activities, a hat contest and prettiest table contest.
For reservations email Margaret Bouzek at
margaret.bouzek@gmail.com

UNITED THANK OFFERING 2025 **MAY 4 - NOVEMBER 2**

The United Thank Offering Blue Box offers each one of St. Paul's parish members a chance to express their Gratitude for blessings large or small. By dropping pennies, dimes, dollars in the Blue Box we thank God for blessings in our lives: a loved one's birthday, a sunny day or a rainy one, a new job, for healing. "Every penny given is then given away in grant funding to missions and ministries to live Jesus' way of love."* These funds may turn into kitchen equipment for a homeless shelter, a school in Uganda, family counselling, vans for doctor's appointments. More than 5,300 grants have been awarded for a total of \$160 million to support missions and ministries throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

*UTO The Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Gratitude Campaign will begin May 4 and May 11 with UTO Boxes featured in the Narthex and culminating on Ingathering Sunday May 2.
Any questions, please contact Kathie Dixon
775-846-9751.