



# St. Paul's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

The Rev. Dr. James Weldon, Jr.,  
Celebrant & Homilist

HOLY EUCHARIST  
9:00 A.M. SERVICE  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

### Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

Please stand as you are able.

### The Processional Hymn

"The Church's one foundation"

The Hymnal 1982 #525  
Aurelia

## The Word of God

### The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People **And blessed be God's 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 Song of Praise: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

The Hymnal 1982 #390  
Lobe den Herren

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a tion; O my soul,  
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him! All that hath  
praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion; join the great throng,  
life and breath come now with prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men  
psal - ter - y, or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
sound from his peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

### The Collect of the Day

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

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

### Children's Processional

"I want to walk as a child of the light" (v.1)  
Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

The Hymnal 1982 #490  
Houston

## The First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

A Reading from Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 114, *In exitu Israel*

Robert Knox Kennedy (b.1945)



- 1 Hallelujah!  
When Israel came out of / Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people of / strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's / sanctuary \*  
and Israel his do / minion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and / fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went / back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like / rams, \*  
and the little hills like / young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you / fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned / back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like / rams? \*  
you little hills like / young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the / Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of / Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of / water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing / spring.

## The Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **The Gradual Hymn**

"Celtic Alleluia"

Finton O'Carroll (1922-1981)

*Choir sings first time, congregation joins second time.*



### **The Gospel**

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospeller       The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Gospeller       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*People remain standing until the homilist invites all to be seated.*

### **The Homily**

The Rev. Dr. James Weldon, Jr.

*A moment of silence follows the homily.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

***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

Form IV (adapted)

BCP 388

People's Response: **Hear our prayer.**

### Confession & Absolution of Sin

BCP 360

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Celebrant and People say*

**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 Celebrant 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.**

### The Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

### Welcome, Announcements, & Offertory Sentence

*If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found here or 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.*



## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory: O How Amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*St. Paul's Choir*

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!  
 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts  
 of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,  
 And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
 Even the altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:

They will be always praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:  
 Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

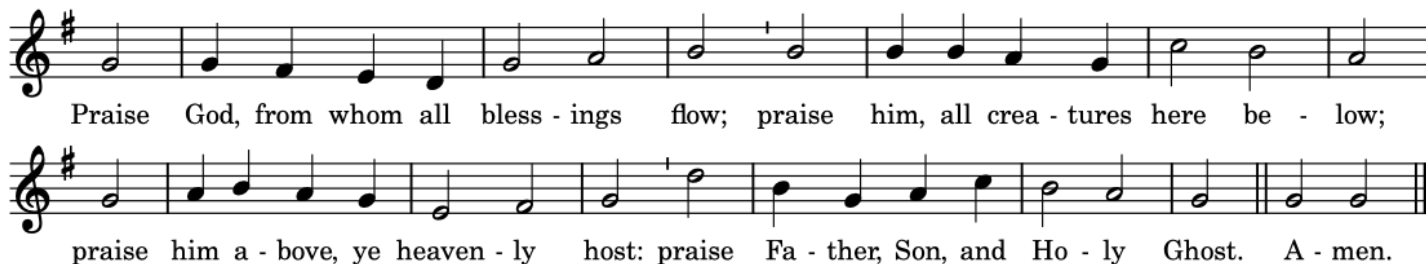
O prosper thou our handiwork.

O God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
 And our eternal home.

Please stand as you are able while the offering is presented.

**The Offertory Response: The Doxology**

Old 100th



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;  
praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer A**

BCP 361

*The People remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**The Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy**

The Hymnal 1982 #S130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_\_  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,\_\_\_\_  
hea - ven and earth are full,\_\_\_\_ full\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho -  
- san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

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 for ever. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

**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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God**

*The Hymnal 1982 #S164*

Je - sus lamb of God: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er  
of our sins: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re -  
- deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

## The Presentation & Invitation

*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 a gluten-free host, extend your hands palms down. 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 with a pottery chalice. If you would like to drink from the chalice directly, please consume the bread first and a communion server will offer you the silver chalice (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 a priest will offer a blessing or a deacon will offer a prayer. A person may be 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.*

## Music During Communion

"My God, thy table now is spread"

*The Hymnal 1982 #321  
Rockingham*

"Where true charity and love dwell"

*The Hymnal 1982 #606  
Ubi Caritas*

"Strengthen for service, Lord"

*The Hymnal 1982 #312  
Malabar*

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

## The Post-Communion Prayer

*Enriching our Worship (EOW) 69*

*Celebrant and People*

***God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

## The Blessing

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Retiring Processional

"Go forth for God"

*The Hymnal 1982 #347  
Litton*

## The Dismissal

*BCP 366*

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Carol Yeargin, Organist*

*The Altar Flowers are offered to the glory of God and in celebration of Cassidy's birthday  
by Aleta and Neil McClenney.*

St. Paul's Brass Ensemble  
Emery Anderson & Melissa Raasch, trumpets  
Barbara Prillaman, horn  
Russell McKinney, bass trombone  
*All brass arrangements by Russell McKinney*

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***Worship. Serve. Grow.***  
**Church Phone: 919-467-1477 Website: [www.stpaulscary.org](http://www.stpaulscary.org)**

The Rev. Dr. James Weldon, Jr., Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Erica Ridderman, Deacon, Assistant Rector for Children, Youth, & Family Formation  
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon  
The Rev. Nathaniel Lee H.K. McKinney, Deacon  
Russell McKinney, Director of Music Ministries  
Carol Yeargin, Organist

x 13 | [jweldon@stpaulscary.org](mailto:jweldon@stpaulscary.org)  
x 39 | [erica@stpaulscary.org](mailto:erica@stpaulscary.org)  
[candy.snively@stpaulscary.org](mailto:candy.snively@stpaulscary.org)  
[hkmckinney@stpaulscary.org](mailto:hkmckinney@stpaulscary.org)  
x 15 | [rusty.mckinney@stpaulscary.org](mailto:rusty.mckinney@stpaulscary.org)  
[carol.yeargin@stpaulscary.org](mailto:carol.yeargin@stpaulscary.org)