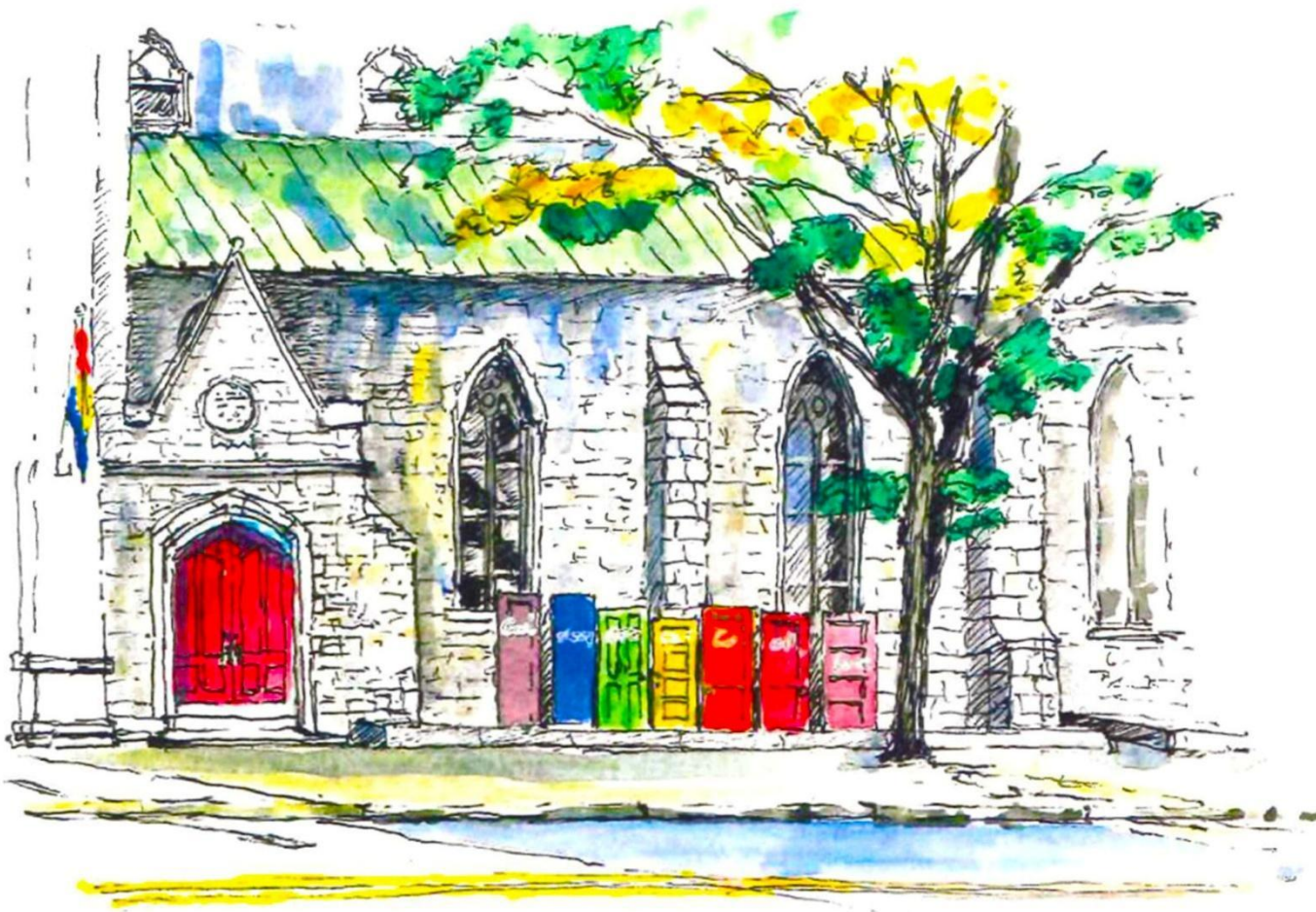


St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE
9.19.19

W. ELKINS

MAY 3, 2026
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10 A.M.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#12. Is it a problem if I don't say the right words or don't hold my hands the right way when I am receiving the communion bread?

No. Questions like this were put to rest about 400 years ago. During the English Reformation different groups in the church attacked others for their use of vestments, candles, words, and other elements of worship. Statues and stained-glass windows were destroyed. People were burned at the stake for their religious practices.

One of the priests who endured this time of hostilities thought it was important to identify the things necessary for salvation, as compared to the things that are not necessary for salvation. He observed that most things we do in the church are not necessary for salvation. He used the term *adiaphora* to describe the things we do that are not necessary for salvation.

Most of our customs and practices fall into the category of *adiaphora*, in other words, they are not necessary for our salvation. This includes practices like the words we say as we receive communion, or the way we hold our hands, or whether we sit, stand or kneel to pray. The only thing that is truly necessary for our salvation is to allow God's love to be in the center of our lives.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN VOLUNTARY •

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 525 • “The Church’s one foundation”

Aurelia

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

CANTICLE •

Festival Canticle

Antiphon

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

3 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion. [Ant.]

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Generous God, whose way is love, whose truth is searching, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord; as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share the work of peace; through Jesus Christ, the image of God.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Acts 7:55-60

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

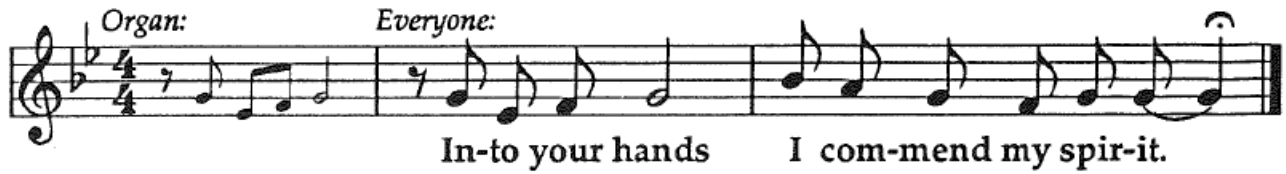
Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

PSALM • 31:1-5, 16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

The Antiphon is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.



In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. **Antiphon**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. **Antiphon**

Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me." **Antiphon**

EPISTLE • 1 Peter 2:2-10

Lector A reading from the first letter of Peter.
 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”
 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”
 They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 487 • “Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:”

The Call

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • John 14:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

Celebrant Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

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

The people are invited to be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Nolan Palsma

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, translated here as “we believe.” Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be “we give our heart,” “we trust,” “we rely upon.” Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two thousand years,

and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All

**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.

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord God, we pray for your church and those who follow you and serve the world in your name. May they be strengthened and comforted by the knowledge of your constant love.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who serve and govern in this nation. May they act wisely with compassion, mercy and selfless concern for all people.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world, for the sustenance of the earth and its creatures and resources, for the eradication of disease, for those who suffer persecution, homelessness, hunger and oppression, so that all may be made well. We pray for peace and an end to all war, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the suffering and those in trouble, for those who are anxious, for those who face danger in their work. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the dead and for those who are dying that the love of God may be their comfort in their time of need and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. We pray especially for *p.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own petitions, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

The people are invited to stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All

AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

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

The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-154

From *New Plainsong*; (b.1950)

The people are invited to be seated.

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. We are not dipping the bread into the wine at this time. Our understanding is that the sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

^s *During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.*

HYMN AT COMMUNION 339 • “Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,”

Schmücke dich

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant

Let us pray.

All

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.

BLESSING

HYMN 410 • “Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;”

Lauda anima

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Prelude & Fugue in G Major*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Any music reprinted in the leaflet and streamed is under ©OneLicense A-72637

Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W., Ann D., Mary S., Betsy E., Marilyn A., & Paul A.

We remember those who have died in recent days:

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God in memory of Harry Lewis, father and friend of Sylvia Lewis.

Announcements

* St. Paul's will celebrate our Bicentennial with a Worship Service and Dinner, Friday, May 22nd, beginning at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited!

* St. Paul's will hold a public celebration of our Bicentennial, Saturday, May 16th, at 3 p.m. Special guests include the Rt. Rev. Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe and Mayor Sharon Owens. Bring your friends and neighbors and join in the celebration!

* The May edition of *The Courier* has been published. Print copies are available in the back of the Nave.

Please Join Us!

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1826-2026



SATURDAY
MAY 16TH 3:00 p.m.

- ◆ CELEBRATORY WORSHIP
- ◆ COMMEMORATIONS
- ◆ RECEPTION

Free and Open to the Public

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

220 EAST FAYETTE STREET • DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



STPAULSYR.ORG



www.stpaulsyr.org

ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

Bicentennial DINNER

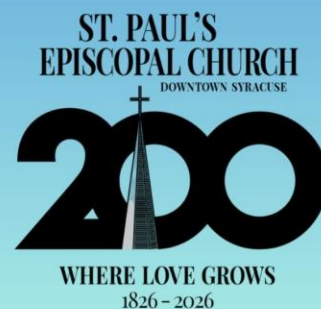
Worship • Fellowship • Dinner & Program

Please join us for a Bicentennial Dinner celebrating the very day, 200 years ago, when leaders of our emerging congregation signed incorporation documents.

FRIDAY MAY 22
5:00 P.M.

\$25 per person

Tickets available during Sunday
coffee hour beginning
April 12 from Ieva Doyle.
Contact Ieva at 315 278-5807
Email: ieva.doyle@gmail.com
Get your tickets by May 10!



220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse

Officers

2026

Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

Vestry & Team Leaders

2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Isiah Lavender, Tim Simmons
2028: Joseph von Souder, Amy Mangram, Catherine Gerard
Finance Committee Chairperson: Joe Moorman
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Liz Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

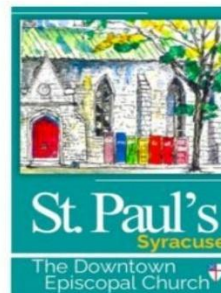
Staff

Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Technology Specialist: Mark King
Security: Derek Lane



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

220 E. Fayette St. (street address)
310 Montgomery St. (mailing address)
Syracuse, NY 13202
315 474-6053



www.stpaulsyr.org



Church office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.