

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Holy Eucharist – July 5, 2026

You are welcome to take this insert home with you. Please leave the cover at St. Paul's.

Processional Hymn #719, “O beautiful for spacious skies”

Materna

Gradual Hymn #692, “I heard the voice of Jesus say”

The Third Tune

Communion Hymn #325, “Let us break bread together”

Let Us Break Bread

Recessional Hymn #657, “Love divine, all loves excelling”

Hyfrydol

The Collect

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The Response

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away."

The Epistle

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Prayers of the People

Let us give thanks to God on the occasion of the two-hundred-year celebration of our community, St. Paul's Church. We pray for the welfare of all of our members, that we may be faithful stewards of our parish buildings and possessions, and that we exhibit the love of God and of our neighbor which Jesus has commanded us to do.

We pray for the Church, in the West and in the East, particularly where Christians may be persecuted. We remember the call to unity, that we may all be One. May our leaders be filled with grace and act wisely, especially our Presiding Bishop Sean, our own Bishop Dede, and our Rector Philip.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Help us keep your commandments; **By loving you and our neighbor.**

I ask you to remember those in authority; our President and the Houses of Congress; our Governor and the New York Legislature; our county and city executives. As in all times, we pray for our leaders to turn away from the common sins of arrogance, greed, untrue claims and exploitation, and to follow your way of righteousness. We pray for truth to be told, and for decisions that support the Common Good.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Help us keep your commandments; **By loving you and our neighbor.**

Recall that our well-being and continued existence are linked to this Earth, our local environment, and the care of the world beyond Central New York. We pray to care for God's creation.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Help us keep your commandments; **By loving you and our neighbor.**

We pray for the countless victims of war and violence, in Ukraine and Gaza, and here in the US where domestic attacks and gun violence are all too common. Seek freedom, dignity and safety for us all. I ask your prayers for all who suffer from any kind of illness, from depression, poverty, imprisonment, injustice or cruelty, for those on our Prayer List *n.*, and for those you want to name aloud or in your heart.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Help us keep your commandments; **By loving you and our neighbor.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those known only to God, may they have rest where there is no pain or sorrow, but rather life eternal. We pray *especially for n. and* for those you name aloud or in your heart.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Help us keep your commandments; **By loving you and our neighbor.**

The celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect.

The Prayer List

Destany W., Mary S., Marilyn A., Bob W., Mary B., Ruth B., Vince P., David M., and Ruth L.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God.

Announcements

* The Syracuse Arts and Crafts Festival is coming up: July 24-26th. For the first time since 2019 St. Paul's will hold a rummage sale during the Festival. We need volunteers to help with sorting, pricing and working the rummage sale each day of the week, from Sunday, July 19th-Sunday, July 26th. We also need volunteers to serve as greeters and hosts, to give people directions and welcome them into the building July 24th-26th. If you are able to help, please talk to Doug Mouncey or sign up during Fellowship Hour.

* The deadline for articles for the August edition of *The Courier* is July 15th. Please send the final draft of your Courier article as an attachment using *Word* or *Pages* or other software to Judy at jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#41 What is the Collect for Purity? What happened to the Canticle we were singing each Sunday at the beginning of worship?

When our choir is helping lead worship we incorporate a sung canticle into the entrance rite. During the summer months, we use *The Collect for Purity* as part of our entrance rite, in place of the canticle.

The Collect for Purity is one of the ancient prayers of our liturgy, dating from 10th century. The Sarum missal, a Medieval era church manual from the ancient town of Sarum, directed priests to say this prayer as they were preparing to lead worship services. When the first editions of *The Book of Common Prayer* were written during the 16th century *The Collect for Purity* was incorporated into the worship service itself, and was said by the priest.

In recent years at St. Paul's, as in many other Episcopal congregations, the congregation is invited to join in saying *The Collect for Purity*. In this way we continue a broad movement toward greater participation. Greater participation of the congregation has been made possible by the fact that many more people are able to read, as compared with the low levels of literacy in ancient times.

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