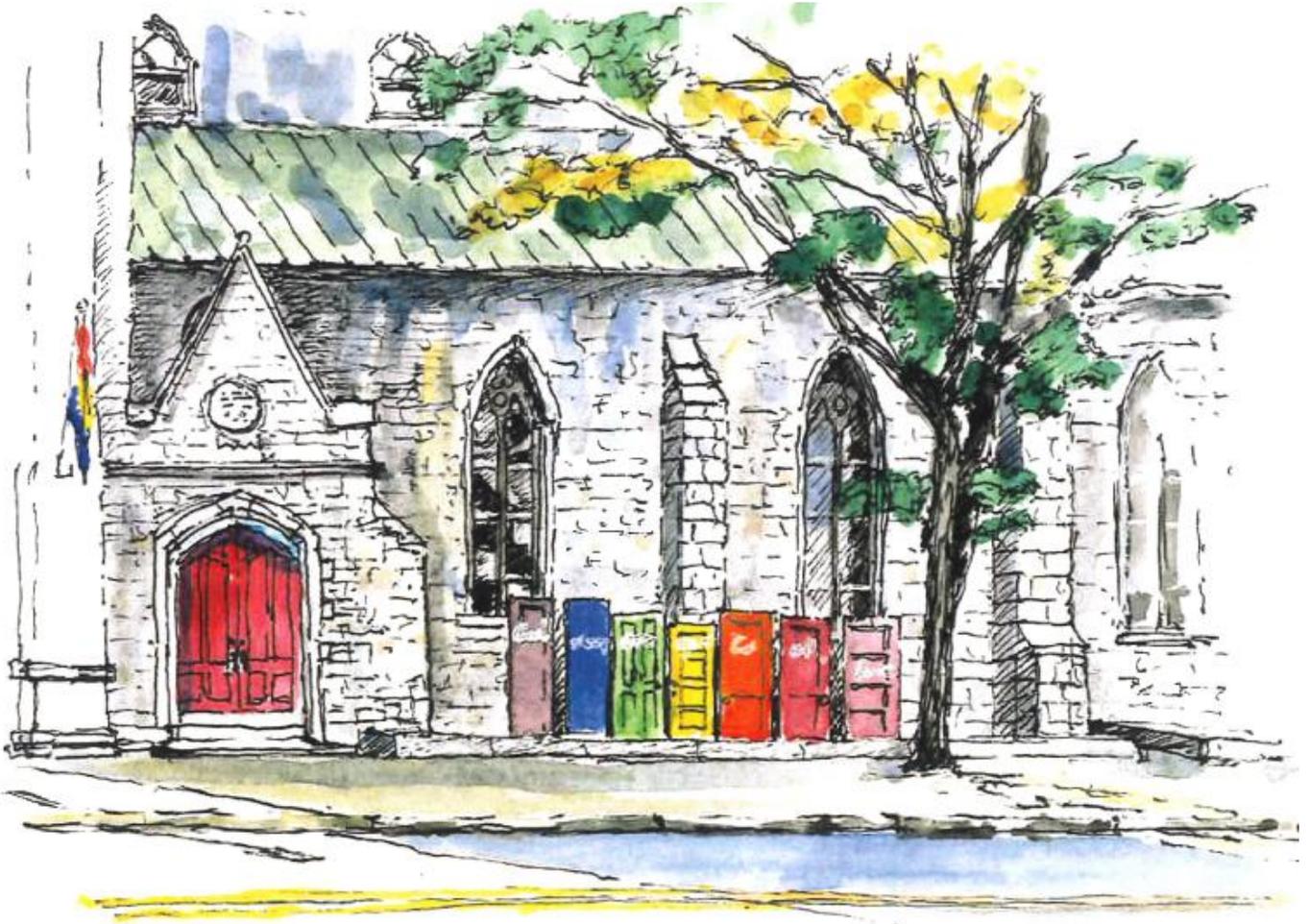




St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELLINS

MARCH 1, 2026
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
10 A.M.

Our morning worship begins with the first note of the organ prelude and your silent prayers. Please refrain from conversations during this time.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Elegy*

Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)

The people are invited to stand

HYMN 401 • “The God of Abraham praise”

Leoni

Celebrant † Blessed be the God of salvation:
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

CANTICLE • “Sing praises, all you peoples” (*Sung three times*)

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord. Sing

da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num! Lau -
prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord! Sing

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE LESSON • Genesis 12:1-4a

Lector A reading from the Book of Genesis.
The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

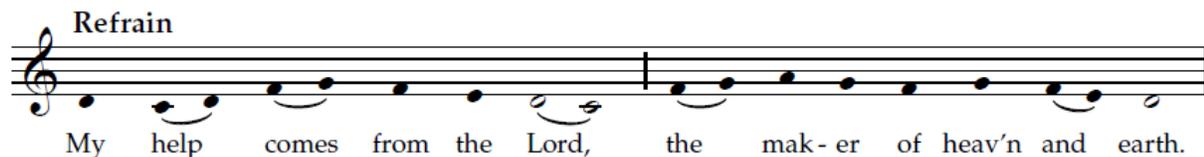
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 121

Levavi oculos



I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. **Refrain**

He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; **Refrain**

The LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand, So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. . **Refrain**

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. . **Refrain**

THE EPISTLE • Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Lector A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans.
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand

GRADUAL HYMN 489 • “The great Creator of the worlds”

Tallis’ Ordinal

Please remain standing

THE HOLY GOSPEL • John 3:1-17

*Celebrant
People
Celebrant*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*Celebrant
People*

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Joseph Russo

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

Let all people, no matter where they live, or the creator they believe in, follow your commandment to love one another.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Let our government leaders work to satisfy those in need.

Let our faith leaders provide us with the spiritual nourishment we require.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us appreciate the blessings of the earth and faithfully till it and keep it.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us the path to peace for all nations and a just resolution to the conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us the face of the hungry, the homeless, and the suffering, and how best to provide comfort.

We pray especially for *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us how to console the grieving. Let angels come and wait on those who have been taken from us.

We pray for those who have died, especially *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

CONFESSION

The people are invited to sit / kneel.

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The people are invited to stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*



The people are invited to stand as the offering is brought forward

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM

John Stainer (1840-1801)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent out His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. God so loved...

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Celebrant

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*All
Celebrant*

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Ruth and Mary, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*All
Celebrant*

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 symbolizes 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 saying the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-161

from New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

The letter 'S' before a music selection indicates it will be found in the front section of the hymnal, known as the Service Music.

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. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the communion minister. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee, ah! thou friend of man, restore me! On thy loving grace relying, for the bread of life I'm sighing. Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease, fill my heart with joy and endless peace. When the breath of life has left me, may my soul be blended with thee.

COMMUNION HYMN 315 • "Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray"

Song 1

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 379 • "God is Love, let heaven adore him"

Abbott's Leigh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • Dialogue for Reeds and Flutes

John G. Barr (1938-2024)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Destany W., Sandi Y., Sylvia L., Patty G., and Christian M.

For those who have died:

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Georgette & Tim Schmidt

Lay Readers: Laurie Sanderson

Ushers: Willson Cummer

*Any music reprinted in the bulletin and streamed is under ©OneLicense A-72637
Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.
The Collect of the Day is taken from "Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009."*

Announcements

- * Beginning tomorrow, March 2nd, the floors in the Hansen and Brewster Rooms will be refinished. From March 2nd-6th, access to the Parish House, aside from the Choir Room, will be restricted.
- * There will be no Bible Study tomorrow, March 2nd and the church offices will be closed both Monday and Tuesday.
- * This afternoon at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's *The Syracuse Orchestra* will perform a concert of classical music inspired by folk music of Romania, Hungary and Czechia. Learn about this and the rest of their season at syracuseorchestra.org.
- * Each Wednesday in Lent our lay leaders host a Noonday Prayer worship service in the Chancel at 12:10. Please enter through the Parking Lot door.
- * Next Sunday, March 8th we welcome our own Erin Boswell as presenter for our Adult Forum series. Erin will present information about in-home health care services. The program runs from 11:45-12:45 in the Brewster Room.
- * Full color copies of the March edition of *The Courier* can be found in the back of the nave. You can also read *The Courier* on our website stpaulsyr.org.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#27. What is the reason the priest wears a purple stole and the altar is covered with a purple cloth during Lent?

Many people think purple is a penitential color. Let's notice our tendency to our focus on ourselves and on our mistakes, rather than on God's grace, creativity, and power in our lives.

In ancient times purple cloth was extremely expensive, because the dye used to make purple was expensive. So in ancient times, the only people who wore purple cloth were extremely wealthy people and members of the royal family. In the church we use purple cloth during Lent because our attention is focused on Jesus, the one we call the 'king of love'. We use purple colors during Lent because we are preparing for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the most important day of the year, Easter, the day of the resurrection.

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 +

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

