



St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

OCTOBER 18, 2026

10:00 AM

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

PRELUDE: *Prelude Pastorale*

Leon Böellmann (1862-1897)

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 629 • “We limit not the truth of God”

Halifax

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant † Blessed be the one, holy, and living God:

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

CANTICAL S-236 • A Song of Praise *Benedictus es Domine*

John Rutter (b.1945)

1. Glo - ry to you, Lord

God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;

glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you

for the ra - di-ance of your ho - ly Name; we will

praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your

tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to

you. _____ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; _____ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

5. Glo - ry to you, _____ be - hold - ing the

depths; _____ in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

you. _____ 6. Glo - ry to you, _____ Fa - ther,

Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; _____ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Exodus 33:12–23

Lector A reading from Exodus.

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.” The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 99 *Dominus regnavit*

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



The LORD is King; let the people tremble; he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

The LORD is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples. Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; he is the Holy One. **Refrain**

"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob." Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; he is the Holy One. **Refrain**

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, they called upon the LORD, and he answered them. He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them. **Refrain**

O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds. Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; for the LORD our God is the Holy One. **Refrain**

EPISTLE • 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Lector

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Lector

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 635 • “If thou but trust in God to guide thee”

Wer nur den lieben Gott

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 22:15–22

Celebrant

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor's.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Celebrant

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Philip Major

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

Joyful God, you have called us to the wedding feast. Now send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may keep doing the things we have been called to do. We pray for the Church: for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Dede, our Bishop, Philip, our Rector, and for all the people of Saint Paul’s. Unite us as one body, that we may glorify you in everything we do.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Hallelujah, Give thanks to the Lord.

God of Peace, father of orphans, defender of widows, and protector of all in need: we pray for the gladness of our people. Bless our neighborhoods, guide those in authority, and strengthen all who work for justice, peace, and the common good. Make us attentive to one another, and generous in service to each other.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Hallelujah, Give thanks to the Lord.

Creator of Heaven and earth, we let our requests be known to you: We pray for this fragile planet, which we inherit from our ancestors, and pass down to our children. Grant wisdom and humility to those who steward her resources, and inspire us to care for your creation with reverence and love.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Hallelujah, **Give thanks to the Lord.**

Compassionate God, you care for us and invite us to cast our anxieties upon you: we pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Surround them with your healing presence, and give courage and strength to those who care for them. We pray for *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Hallelujah, **Give thanks to the Lord.**

Eternal God, in whom we live: we commend to your mercy all who have passed beyond, into the great cloud of witnesses. Receive them into your everlasting arms, and bring us with them into the fullness of your eternal life. We remember especially *n.*, and for those we name silently, or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Hallelujah, **Give thanks to the Lord.**

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

The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.

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.*

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:

16th c. Anon.

Rejoice in the Lord away, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions, be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

The people are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, The Eucharist Prayer is from the Church of South India



Celebrant

Truly it is right and good to glorify you at all times and in all places, by offering you our thanksgiving O Lord. You spoke and the light shattered darkness, order arose from confusion. You breathed into the dust of the earth and we were formed in your image. Through your Holy Spirit you brood over the chaos we create, mothering us and shaping a new creation. You enlighten everyone coming into the world. You inspire prophetic voices to speak the right word at the right time. You liberate, equip and commission your people for the continuance of your mission to make everything new. In Christ Jesus you came to us while we wandered. He met us as a refugee, a threatened child. He called us by name to leave what is comfortable to be his disciples and friends. By his death he destroyed the power of death. By his resurrection he opened the way of eternal life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-129

Robert Powell (1932-2025)

Celebrant

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread and when he had given thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

All

Lord, we commemorate your death on the cross, we celebrate your resurrection, and we await your coming.

Celebrant

† Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we

may become one in him.

May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

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

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-155

Gerald Near (b.1942)

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. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both. Prayers for healing are offered at the Peace Altar.

COMMUNION HYMN 711 • “Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

Seek Ye First

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 594 • “God of grace and God of glory”

Cwm Rhondda

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins (1862-1942)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Hillary B., Destany W., Jeanne A., Denise D., and Kourtney C.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Andrew Bessemer by Tim Cassavaw.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Georgette & Tim Schmidt

Lay Readers: John Woodman & Tom Cantwell

Ushers: Willson Cummer

Flowers: Tim Cassavaw & Jim Potts

Announcements

* Our members take care of each other! If you ever make phone calls, or home visits, or send cards of encouragement to your sisters and brothers at St. Paul's you are encouraged to join Fr. Philip for our next Pastoral Care meeting, today at 11:30 in the Brewster Room.

* Bring your friends and neighbors today to the next event in our Bicentennial Series: The Hohenfels Trombone Quartet today, Sunday, October 18th at 4 p.m. This is a light concert of silent film music, classical arrangements, fun songs and more. Admission is free, with an offering being taken to support Friends of Music.

* Join Debbie Bogan and the YMCA team this coming Wednesday, October 21st at 10:30 for our Fall Social event with the residents of the YMCA Senior Apartments.

* Sunday, October 25th is 'bring your leaf blower to church day!' Wear your favorite work clothes, bring your work gloves, your favorite yard and clean-up tools, and join us for our Fall Parish Clean-up following Worship.

* Fr. Philip will be attending a conference about Paul's Letter to the Romans, October 23-25, at Princeton Seminary. The Rev. Georgina Hegney and Rev. Phyllis Palsma will lead our worship service on October 25th.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#3 What is the reason the priest and other worship leaders wear robes during worship?

Our simple white robes are intended to imitate the most basic clothing worn by people during the times when the Old and New Testaments came into being. The white robes worn by worship leaders might look fancy or unusual to us, but simple unbleached linen or cotton robes were the least expensive, most common garments for people during Jesus' time. They are fastened with cotton ropes because in Jesus' time zippers, snaps, and velcro had not been invented, and it was far too much work to make button holes by hand.

The robes we wear at St. Paul's are called 'albs', which means 'white'. The priest and other worship leaders wear robes during worship so that the focus of attention during worship will not be on the clothes they have chosen to wear that particular day. During the hottest weeks of the summer worship leaders do not wear robes in order to stay cool, but you might notice that when they are not wearing robes they try to wear clothes in neutral colors that will not be distracting.

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 +



**HEARING LOOP
INSTALLED**

Switch Hearing Aid to T-Coil

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

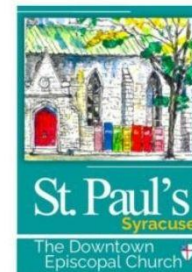
Staff

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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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www.stpaulsyr.org



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