

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

W. ELKINS

OCTOBER 25, 2026

10:00 AM

THE TWENTY-SECOND 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:

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 688 • “A mighty fortress is our God”

Ein Feste Burg

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 gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people, keep us steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to your church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Jeremiah 31:27-34

Lector A reading from the prophet Jeremiah .

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over

them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.” But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

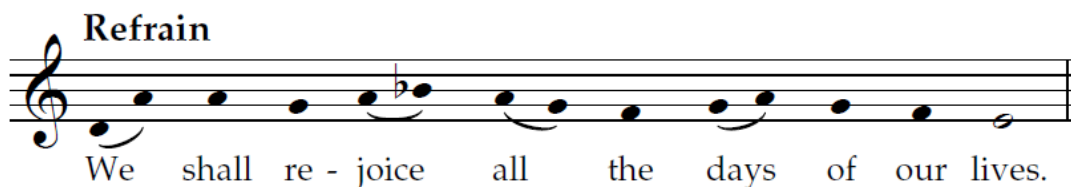
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 90 :1-6. 13-17 *Domine Refugium*

Mode 4

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



Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. **Refrain**

You turn us back to the dust and say, “Go back, O child of earth.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. **Refrain**

You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. **Refrain**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life. Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us and the years in which we suffered adversity. **Refrain**

Show your servants your works and your splendor to their children. May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. **Refrain**

EPISTLE • Romans 3:19-28

Lector A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Romans.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine

forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*Lector
People*

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 529 • “In Christ there is no East or West”

McKee

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 23:1–12

*Celebrant
People
Celebrant*

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*Celebrant
People*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Phyllis 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

Sovereign God, you call us to be your people. You search us out and find us. As would a loving parent, you urge and encourage us to enter into your kingdom, to join you in your glory.

The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: **His mercy endures forever.**

You guide us, Lord, like a shepherd. You have put our feet on a straight path. So lead your church and its people that we may be your servants, doing always your will to the glory of your name. We pray for Sean, our presiding bishop; DeDe, our bishop; Philip, our rector, and the people of St. Paul's.

The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; **His mercy endures forever.**

You have blessed us with a temporal home, filled with beauty and life, and an abundance sufficient to provide for all your children. Yet, there is hunger and deprivation. There is greed and selfishness that lead to conflict and war. Let us not desecrate the sacred gift you have freely given us, or deny to others their basic needs or to future generations their heritage.

The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: **His mercy endures forever.**

In our illness and sorrow, we cry to you and you answer us. Hear the prayers, Lord, of those who are sick, isolated, in anguish or trouble, especially *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: **His mercy endures forever.**

We pray, welcome into your eternal glory those who have faithfully completed their tasks here on earth, especially *n.* and those we name silently or aloud. Comfort those who love them with the knowledge that those who have died continue in the eternal life and joy promised in Jesus' resurrection.

The people add their own prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: **His mercy endures forever.**

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.

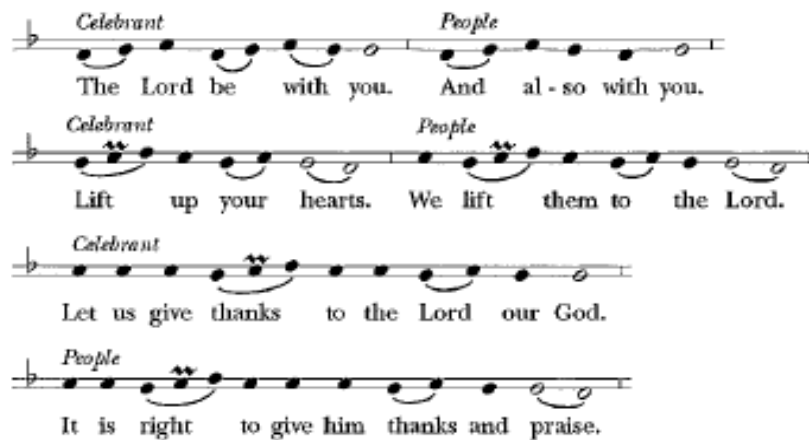
AN ANTHEM:

Stanley Marchant (1883-1949)

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings, with thy living fire of judgment purge this realm of bitter things, solace all its wide dominion with the healing of thy wings. Still the wary folk are pining for the hour that brings release, and the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease, and the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace. Crown, O God, thine own endeavor, cleave our darkness with thy sword, feed the faint and hungry heathen with the richness of thy word, cleanse the body of this country through the glory of the Lord.

The people are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, The Eucharistic 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.

The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM:

Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

If ye love me keep my commandments and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter. That he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

COMMUNION HYMN 336 • “Come with us, O blessed Jesus”

Werde munter

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 680 • “O God, our help in ages past”

St. Anne

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE •

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

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Sue B., Hillary B., Destany W., Jeanne A., and Denise D.

We remember those who have died in recent days: Kristen M.

The decorations on the altar today are given to the glory of God.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: DJ Igelsrud and Betsy Barker

Lay Readers: Catherine Gerard & Laurie Sanderson

Ushers: Barbara Morgan

Flowers: Sandy Wiley & Harriet Averill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Join us for our Fall Parish Clean-up following Worship this morning.

* Today we welcome the Rev. Georgina Hegney as our celebrant and the Rev. Phyllis Palsma as our preacher. Fr. Philip is attending a conference about Paul's Letter to the Romans at Princeton Seminary.

* Next Sunday, November 1st, is All Saints' Day. You are encouraged to bring a photograph or other keepsake for your participation in our All Saints' Liturgy of Thanksgiving.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#24. What is the reason we sing this hymn, called 'The Sanctus', during the Eucharistic Prayer?

Sanctus is a Latin word, meaning 'holy'. Like many parts of our liturgy, our singing of the *Sanctus* is based in ancient Jewish religious practices. The text of the prayer is derived from Isaiah 6. Jesus and the twelve named disciples were Jewish and likely said, or sang, a similar prayer in their gatherings together. The current form of the *Sanctus* is one of the most ancient parts of Christian worship, found in written form in Christian writings within fifty years of the first Easter.

We sing the *Sanctus* partly because this is the most traditional use of the prayer in Christian liturgy, and partly because the text indicates that it is a hymn of praise.

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 +

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Episcopal Church.



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EVENSONG



For All Saints



Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong for All Saints' with the Choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
A recital will follow for flute and piano with Sabine Krantz and Lana Stafford.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 220 East Fayette Street 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

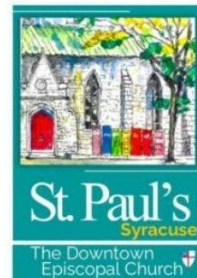
Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
The Ministers of St. Paul's: The entire congregation!
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Custodian: Nicole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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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315 474-6053

www.stpaulsyr.org



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