

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Holy Eucharist August 2, 2026

This morning we welcome the Rev. Georgina Hegney as our celebrant. Joe Russo will preach the sermon. Fr. Philip is away and will return on Monday.

Processional Hymn #680, "O God our help in ages past"

St. Anne

Gradual Hymn #654, "Day by day"

Sumner

Communion Hymn #645, "The King of love my shepherd is"

St. Columba

Recessional Hymn #705, "As those of old"

Forest Green

The Collect

God of compassion, whose heart is with the hungry and destitute, you take our emptiness and transform it to abundance; give us the bread that satisfies, the food without price, that our lives may be freed to share your overflowing love; through Jesus Christ, the breaker of bread. *Amen. Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

Old Testament

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Response

Psalms 17:1-7, 16

Exaudi, Domine

- 1 Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD;
 give heed to my cry; *
 listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.
- 2 Let my vindication come forth from your presence; *
 let your eyes be fixed on justice.
- 3 Weigh my heart, summon me by night, *
 melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

- 4 I give no offense with my mouth as others do; *
I have heeded the words of your lips.
- 5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways of your law; *
in your paths my feet shall not stumble.
- 6 I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; *
incline your ear to me and hear my words.
- 7 Show me your marvelous loving-kindness, *
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.
- 16 But at my vindication I shall see your face; *
when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding
your likeness.

The Epistle

Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Prayers of the People

Lord God, in these chaotic times in which we live, we cherish this hour in your presence when we gather together to worship you, praise you, and thank you for the blessings you have given us. In the stillness of this moment, we draw close to you and raise our heartfelt prayers.

Guide and strengthen your Church throughout the world. May believers, near and far, live as redeemed people who recognize the abundance of your grace, welcome the stranger, and feed the hungry, so that no one is lacking in body or in spirit, and everyone has a seat at your table.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Grant wisdom and courage to all those in positions of authority to govern with justice and mercy, to seek the common good, and to resist violence and oppression of any kind. We pray for those who live in dangerous circumstances, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Instill in all people the desire and commitment to be good stewards of this beautiful earth you have given us, so that there are sufficient resources for generations to come.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Reach out your hand of hope to all who are facing illness or are in distress, so that they know no hardship can separate them from your love. Place your healing touch especially upon (n.) and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

May your Holy Spirit be present with those grieving the loss of a loved one, especially (n.) and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we entrust our whole selves to you so that we may more boldly live the gospel. Give us a heart to share and words to speak with those who do not yet know you.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

The celebrant concludes the prayers with a collect.

The Prayer List

Destany W., Mary S., Jenny T., Mary B., Vince P., and Ruth L.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Fr. Philip and in loving memory of Flora and Gordon Major.

Announcements

* Thank you to everyone who helped with St. Paul's Rummage Sale during the Arts & Crafts Festival! Thanks to Ieva, Anita, Nolan, Heather, Jessica, Kingsley, Beth, Phyllis, Tim, Laurie, Sandi, Sue, Joe, Betsy, Deb, Cathy, Liz, Tom, Catherine, Tina, Isiah, DJ, Sylvia, Marion, Tiffany, Jim....and many more people, but thanks especially to Doug Mouncey for leading our parish in this event!

* The August edition of *The Courier* has been published. Pick up your copy of *The Courier* in the back of the nave, or read it at our website: stpaulsyr.org.

* Due to staff vacations, this week the church office will be open Tuesday and Wednesday.

* Please be careful about opening attachments and electronic invitations contained in emails. In recent weeks members have received suspicious emails and text messages, often with an unusual or unexpected invitation or request. Please contact Fr. Philip or one of the wardens by phone if you receive a suspicious message from someone at St. Paul's.

* Most of our new motion sensor light switches are working quite well. The motion sensor light switches in the Sargent Foyer bathrooms are not working well. Please push the button to turn off the bathroom light when you exit either of these rooms.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#16. People keep talking about 'The Nave'. What is The Nave?

'The Nave' is the main part of the church building, extending from the western wall of the church, forward to the chancel steps and the raised area where the choir, lay readers, eucharistic ministers, acolytes, and clergy are seated.

Nave is derived from the Latin 'navis', meaning *ship*. (Think of *navy* and *naval*.) There are two connections to the idea of a ship. First, the roof above the nave resembles an upside-down ship. Second, a ship is one of the ancient symbols of the church as a whole, the idea being that the group of believers is venturing out across seas that are sometimes stormy, bringing the Gospel of Christ to the world. Many churches in Scandinavian and Baltic countries have a model of a ship displayed in the nave of the church!

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