

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina



**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 22, 2021**

*Open doors. Open hearts. Open hands.
We will welcome all to live God's mission, teach Christ's love
and transform our community by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Eucharist

Voluntary

Pastorale

Alec Rowley

Processional Hymn 405

All things bright and beautiful

Royal Oak

*Celebrant
People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

Gloria

Glory be to God

Lauda anima

Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven, songs of
Lamb of God, who on you shoul - ders bore the
You, O Son of God, are ho - ly, you we
joy and peace we bring, thank - ful hearts and voi - ces
load of this world's sin, on - ly Son of God the
praise with one ac - cord, none in heav'n or earth is
rais - ing, to cre - a - tion's Lord we sing: Lord, we thank you,
Fa - ther, you have brought us peace with - in: Lord, have mer - cy,
like you, on - ly you are Christ the Lord with the Fa - ther,
Lord, we bless you, glo - ry be to God our King,
Christ, have mer - cy, now your glo - rious reign be - gin.
and the Spi - rit, ev - er wor - shipped and a - dored.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people may be seated.

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel:

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:15-22

Benedicam Dominum

- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.

A Reading from Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn 642 Jesus the very thought of thee

St. Agnes

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 6:56-69

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: As we proclaim the gospel of faith, let us pray in the Spirit for the desperate needs of all peoples, saying Lord have mercy.

Intercessor: For this holy gathering, for the people of God in every place, and for all who seek the Lord. For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding bishop, Rob our bishop, and all ministers of the gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For mercy, justice, and peace among all peoples, especially those suffering from natural disasters and political unrest. For the people of Haiti and Afghanistan, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For students and educators, and all those returning to their studies. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the sick and the suffering, travelers and those on vacation, prisoners, captives, and their families, and all those in danger and need. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our city and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead. That they may find perfect fulfilment and peaceful rest, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, God of Israel, whose words are spirit and life. Hear the prayers we offer this day and feed us with the bread of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

The Blessing of the Backpacks

Students and educators come forward with their backpacks and bags

Youth Intercessor: God of all wisdom and knowledge, pour out your blessing on the schools represented here today, that they may be lively centers for sound learning and new discovery; and grant that those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, as a reminder of our baptism; and as this water is sprinkled on these students and educators, and on their backpacks, may they be strengthened in memory, reason, and skill. And grant that these tags, carried on their backpacks, may remind them of your love and presence throughout the day as they learn. *Amen.*

The Celebrant asperges the students, educators, and their belongings as he says

Beloved children, God bless, guide, and preserve you in your return to school. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

All: May Jesus, who calls us each by name to follow him, give you the courage and confidence to be his disciples, wherever you may be, at school, at work, and at home. May the gifts God has given you be a source of blessing for you and for others. *Amen.*

Anthem

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Carl F. Mueller

Presentation Hymn

Doxology with Alleluias

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

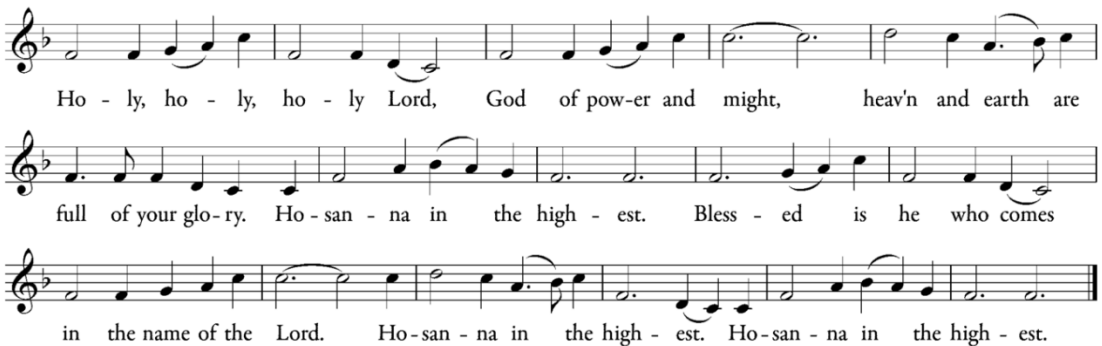
Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Land of Rest



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father now and for

ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

A period of silence is kept.

Cantor or Choir
 My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
 deed, says the Lord. *All* My Lord. *2 Cantor or Choir* Those who eat my
 flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. *All* My
 flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn 458

My song is love unknown

Love Unknown

Communion Hymn 383

Fairest Lord Jesus

St. Elizabeth

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deanery Confirmation Service Hosted at St. Paul's – October 3

On *Sunday October 3rd* at 3:00 pm, St. Paul's will be hosting a deanery wide service of Holy Eucharist with Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. Bishop Skirving will be presiding. If you desire to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church, reaffirm your baptismal vows, or simply want to know more about the process please contact Fr. Caleb at rector@spechurch.com.

Help Needed with our Blessing Box

In any community, there are those who could use a helping hand, and St. Paul's is blessed with so many folks who are willing to provide love and support to our neighbors in need. One of the ways we do that is through our Blessing Box. This little free pantry is always open for business and provides people in need a bit more privacy. *How can you help?* The next time you are at the grocery store, buy an extra couple of cans of tuna, or a box of cereal or a couple of jars of peanut butter. Place them directly in the Blessing Box, located on the corner of 16th and Princess Streets OR you can place them in the storage receptacle in the hallway. Feel free to contact Bob Swindell with questions at bob.kayswindell@charter.net.

Children's Ministry Calendar

Meet and Greet - On *Sunday, September 12*, our Children's Ministry Team will host a Meet and Greet Breakfast for Sunday school teachers, children and their parents from 9:30 – 10:15 am upstairs in the Children's Wing.

Sunday School Kickoff - On *September 19* at 9:30 am will kick-off the beginning of Sunday school as we Grow Together in Faith. Teachers and students are asked to "Mask UP!" each week. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Meaghan Thomas at speckids@spechurch.com

Sunday Morning Hospitality Begins Again September 12

On September 12, St. Paul's will begin its ministry of hospitality by offering breakfast following the 8 am service and a reception following our 10:30 am service. Things will no doubt look a little different than our pre-COVID offerings, but the spirit of welcome, fellowship and food will still be the main ingredients. Breakfast food will be served from the kitchen instead of buffet style. Reception food will be served by our hospitality team members, who will be masked and gloved, offering individual servings.

Stewardship Book Study – September 14

Please join us September 14 at 7:30 AM or 7:00 PM for a discussion of A SPIRITUALITY OF FUNDRAISING by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Both sessions will be in the church library. This program is part of St. Paul's Year-Round Stewardship Program. Henri Nouwen says, "Fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry." All participants are invited to read this short book prior to the discussion, which will be led by St. Paul's Vestry Member Steve Martin. It is available at christianbook.com or amazon.com as a Kindle, audiobook or paperback.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event – September 18

We are looking for 60 – 75 volunteers for a Rise Against Hunger Packing Event on Saturday, *September 18* from 10 am to 1 pm in the Parish Hall. Register or donate on the secure link on St. Paul's website. Questions? Contact Don Brainard at dabrainard12@gmail.com

Service Participants

8:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher - The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Verger – Jeffrey Hughes

Altar Server and Lector – David Tousignant

10:30 AM

Celebrant and Preacher - The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Verger – Jeffrey Hughes

Crucifer – Cheryl Wagoner

Altar Server – Dot Erway

Gospel Book Bearer – Chip Carter

Lectors – Teresa Singer, Katie Rose Sanders-Park

Intercessor – Spencer Weig

Youth Intercessor – Riley Peers

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Sadeo Watanabe, *Jesus and the Children*. Stencil, 1981

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Bulletin submissions: bulletin@spechurch.com (Deadline Mondays, 5:00 p.m.)

E-news submissions: e-news@spechurch.com (Deadline Mondays, 5:00 p.m.)

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop
The Rev. Caleb J. Lee, Rector
The Rev. Richard Banks, Priest Associate
Ronnie D. Wise, Director of Music and Organist
Richard Rhoads, Assistant Director of Music and Organist
Diane Matz-Kane, Bookkeeper
Louise Buck, Interim Parish Administrator

St. Paul's Vestry

Layne Dupree

Ruth Gates

Angela Green

Matt Langley

Steve Martin

Joan Rosko Miller

Sally Pope

Teresa Singer (Sr. Warden)

Tom Sramek (Jr. Warden)

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