September 27, 2026
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are a diverse, inclusive community in the Episcopal Diocese of California, and are welcoming to all who attend in worship.

We're happy to have you with us today. Our worship follows the order of the Book of Common Prayer 1979 (BCP), Rite II, with music from a variety of musical resources authorized by the Episcopal Church: 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) *and* Enriching Our Worship (EOW).

Join the service Live Stream on our YouTube channel here.

THE WORD OF GOD

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the entrance of the ministers.

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 following is said

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

All sit.

THE FIRST READING Exodus 17: 1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78: 1-4, 12-16 *Attendite, populе*

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

**13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.**

**14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.**

**15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

**16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

THE SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

SERMON The Rev. Stephen Tiffenson

A period of silence is kept following the sermon.

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Madyé Seymour*

Heavenly Father, incline our hearts and minds to hear and live your teachings. Remind us that we are one of your many marvelous works–and that you always are at work in us.

Almighty God, our religious leaders empty themselves to pour into congregations and communities. Pour out your blessings onto our Presiding Bishop Sean, our Bishop Austin, our Rector Mauricio, our Priests Christian and Linda, our Archdeacons Carolyn and Gary and Deacon Stephen, and all who answer your call to serve as they humble themselves to praise your power and exalt your name above all names.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

Leaders all over this land are in need of your guidance. Our daily lives are injected with reports of leaders who satisfy selfish ambition at the expense of their citizens. From the highest levels of office human suffering is ignored as self-exaltation is prioritized. Move leaders to humble themselves and prioritize peace. Lead them to your truth.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

Loving God, make the waters stand up like walls. Support and protect your beloved children who are hurting, give spaces of refuge and community for those who seek relief from isolation due to prejudice, religious intolerance, economic inequity, and barriers to healthcare access. Offer healing to those incarcerated in body, mind, and spirit.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Grace Cathedral, San Francisco and Christ Church, Alameda.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

Heavenly Father, your people thirst for water and your word. They struggle to earn a living wage, provide food for their families, maintain physical and emotional safety at home and with their neighbors. Give us a new heart and spirit of kindness and compassion for one another. Revitalize communities and provide opportunities to thrive. Keep our homes and loved ones secure.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

Almighty God, impart in Oakland communities a new heart. Continue to energize us as we advocate for food security and high education standards for our children. Energize us to fight to end gun violence and renew local businesses. Keep our neighbors and neighborhoods safe. Let us be a blessing to all with whom we interact, even when we find ourselves at odds.

The people may add their own petitions, aloud or silently.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

Heavenly Father, welcome the departed to your heavenly kingdom when their time on earth has ended. Offer your peace as we mourn loss. Transform grief into praise and thanksgiving for your everlasting love and promise of everlasting life.

The people may name their beloved, aloud or silently.

It is God who is at work in you,
what wonderful works God has done.

The Celebrant adds the concluding Collect.

All **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon then says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

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

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

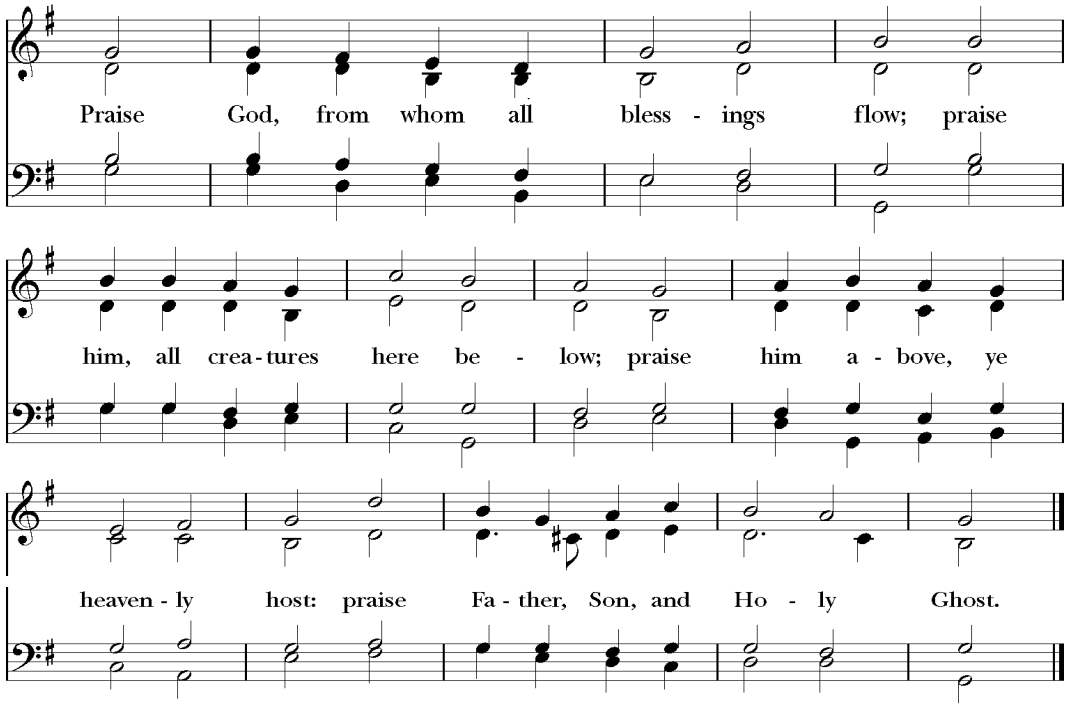
HOLY COMMUNION

Here are ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of the parish:
Text to Give: Text the word "GIVE" to phone number 510-900-7759.
Online giving: Go to https://stpaulsoakland.breezechms.com/give/online or scan this QR Code:

Pay Paypal contribution: scan this QR Code:

All stand as the Celebrant raises the offerings and together sing the Doxology.

THE DOXOLOGY Hymnal 380, verse 3
Music: Old 100th



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Enriching our Worship
Eucharistic Prayer I

The Celebrant says

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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy; for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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
Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with blessed Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant breaks the bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then is said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant invites all to God's table saying

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. To receive Communion in your pew, please ask an usher to notify the ministers on your behalf. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask at the altar rail.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received Communion, people stand or kneel as the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people.

All **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people.

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer requests for you or a loved one may be communicated by placing a note in the offering plate. We will include them in our regular prayer concerns. You may also send prayer requests to admin@stpaulsoakland.org.

Tito Alvarez
Catherine Ann
Kathleen Jean Anthony
Gwendolyn Austin
Anne Barclay
Henry Bell
Aaron A. Benjamin
Lisa Bishop
Jared Blue
Noah Blue
Helena Busquets
Miguel Chamorro
Cheryl Clausen
Sister Rose Coleman
Diana Christel
Martika Crawford
Jonathan Devereaux
Helen Devlin
John Ross Devlin
Victoria Maxine Devlin
Edwina Devlin
Julie Drozdov
Brian Faucette
Claudio Guedes Fernandes
Jewelle Gibbs
Grace Gough
Larry Gray
Londell Guffen
Susan Hagstrom
Vincent Hall
Juna Hunt
Sharon Hyde
Nick Indehar
Gregory Jackson
Elizabeth Jenkins
Kristen Johnson
Peter Johnson
Kathleen Kelly
Alex Krueger
Reginald & Theresa Lane
Vita Lopata
Rafael Martin
Nicole McClain
Bryan Patterson
Roberta Paul
Garrett Petersen
Robert Philips
Sharon Pilmer
Pradia, Bessie
Candelario Ramos
David Raskin
Julie Red Tree
Joel Reyna
Jessica Rojas
James Spencer
Thomas Spitz
Matthew Schooler
Erica Terry-Derryck
Ramona Terry
Cary Virtue
Nancy & William Walker
Renee Walker-Bolden
Robert Wright
Ted Yeider

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Austin Rios
Bishop of California

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson
Rector

The Rev. Christian Harding
Associate Priest Emeritus

The Rev. Linda McConnell
Assisting Priest

The Ven. Canon Carolyn Bolton
The Ven. Gary England
Archdeacons

The Rev. Stephen Tiffenson
Deacon

STAFF

Benjamin Bachmann,
M.Mus., FAGO
Music Director

Philip Saunders, M.Mus.
Assistant Music Director

Jackie Kamakate
Parish Administrator

Joan Clerk
Bookkeeper

Luis Hernandez
Housekeeper

Ramon Zaragoza
Sexton

VESTRY

Class of 2026:
David Anderson
Paula Hawthorn
Doug Jensen

Class of 2027:
Annette Blue
Virginia McManus—Clerk
George Strait

Class of 2028:
Laura Craig
William (Bill) Davis—Jr. Warden
Irene Plunkett—Sr. Warden

Treasurer:
Ann Del Simone

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sundays
8 am Spoken Eucharist
10 am Choral Eucharist

Fourth Sundays
8 pm Compline in the Church

Second Sundays
4 pm Evensong in the Church

Wednesdays
12:10 pm Spoken Eucharist
Livestream

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be scheduled with any priest.

Scan this QR code if you wish to add a name to the prayer list:

Celebrant
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson
Rector

Preacher
The Rev. Stephen Tiffenson
Deacon

Assisting
The Rev. Christian Harding
Associate Priest Emeritus

Deacon
The Ven. Gary England
Archdeacon

Altar Guild
Paula Hawthorne, Erica Terry Derryck, Melanie Blake, Kellie Marie Hickman

Music usage licensing and agreements: Church Hymnal Corporation, New York; OneLicense.net

WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING

Parking is available in the Senior Center/Veteran's Memorial Building lot (across Bay Place from the church) for Sunday services. Street parking is unrestricted on Sundays, but metered/2-hour limit all other days. Additional paid parking is available at Children's Fairyland on Grand Ave. and at lots at 155 Grand Ave. and at W 23rd St. & Waverly (behind 180 Grand Ave.). The nearest BART station is the 19th Avenue stop, a .7 mile walk.

Event Notification: If you would like to receive information on St. Paul's events and ministries, or receive a call from clergy, please fill out the welcome cards in the pews and place in the collection plate or sign the visitor book in the Narthex. **To join our email list, sign up on our website, www.stpaulsoakland.org**

Parishioner Directories are available in either printed or digital form. To request your copy please call or email (510.834.4314 Ext. 501/admin@stpaulsoakland.org).

The Restroom
There are two restrooms available during worship: one at the back of the church in the Mustard Seeds Room, and one in the ambulatory (front of the church) on the epistle (right side facing the altar, through the doorway) side. If you require an accessible restroom please ask an usher for assistance.

Questions?
Don't hesitate to ask an usher for help if you require any assistance.

Our Vision

St. Paul's dares to be an open embracing community; discovering, celebrating, and sharing the Love of Christ.

Our Mission

St. Paul's invites you to a spiritual journey: to love God and your neighbors near and far; to worship, pray and serve joyfully in our community; to strive to become more Christ-like in living out the promises of our baptism that all may know Christ's healing love.

St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

114 Montecito Avenue ▪ Oakland, CA 94610
Office 510.834.4314 ▪ Fax 510.834.0166
Email: admin@stpaulsoakland.org
www.stpaulsoakland.org