

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Conversion of Saint Paul

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Opening Acclamation

The people's responses are in bold.

Blessed be God, who is the light of the world.

**Blessed is the One who scatters the darkness before us,
that we may walk in newness of life.**

O God of love, you are the true sun of the world, evermore risen and never going down: We pray you to shine in our hearts and drive away the darkness of sin and the mist of error. We pray that we may this day and all our lives long, walk without stumbling in the way you have prepared for us, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.** —*Erasmus of Rotterdam, 15th c.*

Song of Praise

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)
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The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lesson *Acts 26:9-21*

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

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

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choir*

Sancte Paule Apostole praedicator veritatis et Doctor gentium,
intercede pro nobis ad Dominum, qui te elegit.
Paule, vir egregie, Dei vas electionis,
fac nos tuis precibus coeli frui donis, amen.

*Saint Paul the Apostle, proclaimer of truth and Doctor of the faithful,
intercede for us to the Lord who has chosen you.
Paul, admirable man, God's instrument of choice,
help us by your prayers to delight in the gifts of heaven, amen.*

words: Vesper Antiphon for The Conversion of St. Paul
music: Adrian Willaert (c. 1490-1562)

The Gospel *Matthew 10:16-22*

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed and Baptismal Covenant

Creed is translated "I believe" though it is rooted in an ancient word for heart, and carries the sense "I give my heart to." Ours is more than a statement of mental or doctrinal belief; this is an invitation to embrace the mystery of divinity in all things, the flow of the Trinity's self-giving love at the heart of all creation.

In Epiphanytide this year we will use the Church's earliest creed, the Apostles Creed, which was used in the primitive church especially at baptisms, as it still is today. As part of our weekly credal statement we will include the baptismal promises that follow it in the prayer book, which articulate our intention to live our lives following the way of Jesus.

As we renew this covenant during the six weeks of Epiphanytide, allow it to lead you more deeply into your own self offering, and ponder specific ways God may be calling you into further action through this renewal.

The Celebrant says

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

Our version of the Prayers of the People this week is adapted from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Commitment Card" for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.

The intercessor says

Grant, Almighty God, that we be united in your truth, as we walk and talk in the manner of love; for God is love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, that we may honor one another and serve the common good, observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy and sacrifice personal wishes as our lives are used by You so that all may be free.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide us as we strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health and comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and for all the departed.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; eradicate the violence of fist, tongue, or heart; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Bring to mind always that the non-violent movement seeks justice and reconciliation — not victory.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The people add their own prayers aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

The Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Your light has shone throughout the world and brought all nations to feast at your Table. Daily we are baptized into new life; daily we see your miracles among us. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven 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.

setting: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)
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The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, for the birth of creation. Blessed are you, in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you, for the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you, for signs and wonders we see of your work in the world. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We rejoice in the miracle of God-with-us.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people; fill us with your light. Bring us the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall - oved be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

The Communion

Bread of life, nourish our souls.

Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

Hymn at the Communion *Commissioned in honor of the 275th anniversary of St. Paul's (2012)*



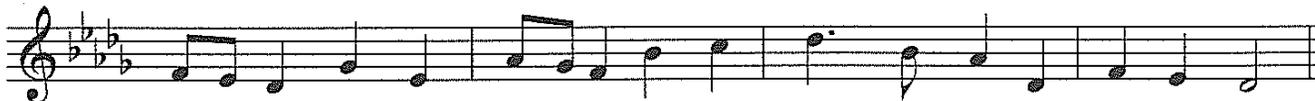
1. God, who gives us grain and grow - ing, food, and shel - ter from the storm,
2. Pow - er, An - i - mat - ing Spir - it, wis - dom through the tests of time.
3. Set a - blaze all hu - man know - ledge, Spark of Ma - jes - ty di - vine;
4. Nour - ish now God's new cre - a - tion, with these gifts and fruits di - verse.



comes to us as one who suf - fers, takes on stri - ving hu - man form.
Send us heal - ers, po - ets, paint - ers, gifts of God to us sub - lime.
Flame that burns a - way old think - ing, leave us skins to hold new wine.
Let your lov - ing, think - ing, sing - ing, sound through - out the un - i - verse.



One re - jec - ted now is ru - ler of God's jus - tice yet to be:
Nur - ture love that lives im - mor - tal, joins us here and con - quers death.
Doubt will not de - stroy our wor - ship of the God who gives us faith.
Break the chains of un - just hun - ger, top - ple ty - rants, con - quer fear.



Je - sus, feed our ev - 'ry long - ing, help us set your peo - ple free.
Soul of Souls and Hope of A - ges, breathe through us e - ter - nal breath.
Ques - tions o - pen doors to free - dom, hon - or the Cre - a - tor's grace.
Give thanks al - ways to the Spi - rit, Christ, Cre - a - tor: meet us here.

words: Chris Wogaman (b. 1976)
music: *St. Paul's, Norwalk*, Vince Edwards (b. 1968)
words © 2012 Chris Wogaman
music © 2012 Vince Edwards

After a period of silent reflection the Celebrant prays the following

O God, in love you have called us out of darkness into light, and in love we have shared this holy meal. By it, rekindle the flame of your love in our hearts, and may its light guide us on our journey and shine out in our lives, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Light of Christ be in our hearts: the small light that becomes a burning flame; the warm light that grows into a great love; the bright light that leads us on our way.

And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world to share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Maestoso – Fuge* by Wilhelm Müller (1793-1859)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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