

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Half-Past Five o'clock in the Evening

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church.

We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for over two hundred seventy-five years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion

WELCOME. *We are glad you are here. We are aware that many who attend this service come from other churches and faith traditions, and we are delighted to have many who consider Saint Paul's to be their second church home. The mixture of faith traditions represented at this service makes up a community we especially cherish.*

Prelude

Celeste Ray

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. At the sound of the bell, all stand.

Opening

Canticle Q
A Song of Christ's Goodness
Anselm of Canterbury

Leader Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

The Confession

All ***Forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there.***

The Absolution

Celebrant Heavenly Father you sent your Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved: send your saving power upon all who turn to you and seek new life in your name. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Evening

Celebrant Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth
you did not consider
heavenly equality,
though that was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant,
and in humility
and obedience
allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh
for the sake of our salvation.
And so it is
that we acknowledge you
as Lord of all,
to the glory of God the Father,
Son, and Spirit, Three in One.

Please be seated. A period of silence is observed.

The Holy Gospel

John 4:5-42

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from

the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Reflection

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Celeste Ray

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray for ourselves and others.

Leader We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of the departed may rest in peace.

[The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.]

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them.

[The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.]

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, support the sick, the dying, and all for whom this night will be a trial. And as you look upon us this evening, may the light of your countenance pass beyond our sins, even to the depths of our hearts: and bring to birth there a deep and trustful love, that we may be instruments of your peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

THE HEALING SERVICE

Celebrant Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; 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.**

All are invited to come forward to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil in prayer for healing for yourself, for others, for our world.

Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Please sit.

During the instrumental music and anytime hereafter, you may come forward to light votives as a symbol of your prayers. After lighting a votive, please fully extinguish the lit taper and return it to the holder.

Music for Meditation

Celeste Ray

The Grace

Celebrant Love your enemies, and do good, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Eric Biddy

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The alms basin is not passed at this service, but stands in front of the Baptismal Font.

The Offertory Music

Celeste Ray

Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand.

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.***

Celebrant All things are yours, O God of all creation,

People ***And so we return our gifts to you.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made;

People ***May it become for us the bread of life.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;

People ***May it become for us the cup of blessing.***

Celebrant Receive these gifts, dear God, and accept in them the sacrifice of ourselves.

People ***In life and in death, may we be an offering to you for ever.***

Great Creator, from whom all life comes forth, here we gather again with bread and with wine, seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished, hungering for wholeness in our lives, for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.

People ***Here we gather with bread and with wine, but with more than bread and wine.***

Celebrant Here we gather with creation's elements all around us. With earth, air, fire, and water still expanding through the universe, with the glory of the sun, the whiteness of the moon, the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.

People ***Here we gather with bread and with wine, but with more than bread and wine.***

So with everything that we see and sense around us, with visible and invisible energies that pulse with life, we join our souls in the song that vibrates throughout the whole of creation.

All ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, your glory knows no bounds, and your love is without end. Blessed is Jesus, who in life and death revealed your glory and lived in your love. He taught his friends that to find life was first to lose it, and he spoke of the suffering that would be his.

Celebrant On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his friends, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Come upon us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and upon this bread and this wine, that we may be renewed once again, and that as the whole of life is made new, we may find your peace within and around us. We ask this in the Name of God who creates us, who redeems us, and who sustains us. **Amen.**

All ***Bread of life, nourish our souls. Light of the world, shine in our hearts.***

The Lord's Prayer

All Stand

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

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 and Fraction Responsory

A period of silence is observed when the bread is broken.

Celebrant Behold what you are.

People ***May we become what we receive.***

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

You are welcome to stand or sit until you come forward.

Music during Communion

Celeste Ray

After Communion

All Stand.

Celebrant 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.***

Sending out of the Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All ***We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.***

The Blessing

Celebrant May you recognize in your life the presence,
power, and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that you may wander without being lost,
that in the deep rhythms of your life
there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

And may you learn to see yourself
with the same delight,
pride, and expectation
with which God sees you in every moment. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go out into the world and be not daunted by the enormity of the world's grief, but do justly now, love mercy now, and walk humbly now with the Holy Spirit. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Music for Meditation

Celeste Ray

Please feel free to remain seated or depart, as you wish, during the closing music.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn
Ellen Nesbitt, Naila Assad
Kathleen Chandler
Naila Assad, Linda Schaufert
Ann Pendarvis

Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Person of the Day
Altar Guild
Eucharistic Visitor

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendar for our next gathering of W.E.E.M. (Women's Enrichment and Empowerment Ministry), March 10, 5:30-7 PM. This month, our guest speaker is Cheryl Yvette Willis, founder of Cheryl's Courtesy Academy: Refined Grace for Everyday Living. Invite a friend and join us in Tyler Hall for heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. For more information, contact Mtr. Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org) or Summer Bell (summerfin@gmail.com).

Make plans to attend the Friday Night Fish Fry, March 13, 6 PM in the River Room. Dinner of fish, fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw from 6-7 PM. Bring your own beverage; tea and water available. As always, we appreciate your gift of time to serve on a parish life team. **A RSVP is required before midnight March 11 for this dinner.** Use the QR code to the right or the direct link to RSVP and to serve available in Friday's *Weekly Postings* and on our website.



This year's Rose Sunday Concert will be performed by Keith Shafer at 4 PM on Sunday, March 15 and features two newly discovered pieces of music written by Johann Sebastian Bach. Also on the program will be Four Pieces in Jazz Style by the Canadian composer, Denis Bédard, the Pastorale by Cesar Franck, and Mozart's famous Fantasie in F Minor, K. 608. The concert is free and a reception follows in Tyler Hall.

The Parish Life & Hospitality Committee invites you to make or purchase a dessert or beverage for the Rose Sunday Reception immediately following the concert at 4:00 PM, March 15 in Tyler Hall Sign up to bring an item and to serve on the hospitality team to set up or clean up using the QR code to the right or the direct link in Friday's *Weekly Postings* and on our website.



The Annual Episcopal Visitation is next Sunday, March 15. Bishop Logue will preside at the Holy Eucharist at both 8 AM and 11 AM with the rite of Confirmation and Reception at the 11 AM service. Please plan to join us in the Berlin Room for a "Conversation with the Bishop" at the Sunday Forum at 9:30 AM and share a few moments following the service with our Confirmands in the Churchyard.

Join us for our next Senior Lunch, March 18, 12 Noon in Tyler Hall. While gearing to retirees, anyone is welcome. No agenda; just a relaxing social time. Lunch is provided but donations welcome. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or use the direct link in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.

Common Ground Common Ground Fellowship will gather Wednesday March 18. This group is our "common ground" for adults in their 20's to 40's to gather in fellowship, service, and deepening faith, whether single or partnered. (Note: these events do not include childcare.) For more information contact Fr. Eric.

Help us package our next set of Snack Packs, Saturday, March 21, 9 AM in Tyler Hall. Snack Packs are small bags of food containing some type of protein, cracker, water, etc., to help sustain someone until their next meal. Two ways to help: Donate items for our snack packs, especially protein (example: tuna pouches, Vienna sausages with a pull tab, meat sticks, meat jerky) and/or help us pack bags on the 21st. Contact Mandy Harmon (msamandajoy27@hotmail.com) or Melissa Friedman (friedmanme2@gmail.com) for more information.

Saint Paul's 101— New(ish) to Saint Paul's? Looking to connect? Join us Sunday, March 22 at 12:15 PM in Tyler Hall to connect with Saint Paul's parishioners, clergy, staff, and lay leaders. These bi-monthly events are a great chance to familiarize yourself not just with the people but the facilities and ministry opportunities that make this church come to life. Light snacks will be provided. Contact the Parish Office with questions.

Spiritual Explorations—Please join us for our next class in our new formation series exploring ways to know God and ourselves through the heart. Kitty Gordon, leads "Sacred Earth" Sunday, March 22, 4-5 PM in the Berlin Room. For more information contact Lydia Bliven at bliven@comcast.net.

If you would like to contribute toward the cost of Easter music, or give an Easter lily or flowers, please return the form found in your bulletin to the Parish Office. Requests may also be made using the direct link available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, no later than Tuesday, March 24.



Save the Date —Our Neighborhood Partner School, Hornsby Elementary, will celebrate Field Day April 17 and has asked for volunteers to help with set up and break down. Come, cheer and encourage, and celebrate with our friends from Hornsby. Details forthcoming.

More information about these announcements and other events is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, including registration and contact information. A copy is available in the Narthex and on our website; or join our email list by signing up on the website or contacting the parish administrator, at mailbox@saintpauls.org.

Make a gift— "All that we are and all that we have comes from God. In gratitude, we honor him by giving of ourselves and our gifts to care for his world." Gifts can be made using the QR Code to the right, on-line at saintpauls.org/giving, or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901. Thank you for your generosity.

