

# Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 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

**Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyl**

*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 9:1-41**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*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**

**Mary Painter**

*A period of silence is observed.*

**Music for Meditation**

**Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyl**

**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

**Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyl**

### 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.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

### The Offertory Music

Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyll

### 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**

**Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyl**

**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.***

**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**

**Angel Cleary, Brey Sloan, and Debbie van Tuyl**

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

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**4 PM Next Sunday 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 will offer a brief introduction to Celtic spirituality Sunday, March 22, 4-5 PM in the Berlin Room. She will touch on this tradition's history, its belief in the goodness of creation, and its modern reawakenings. The session will conclude with a meditative walk through the churchyard. For more information contact Lydia Bliven at [bliven@comcast.net](mailto:bliven@comcast.net).

**6:30 PM Next Sunday Saint Paul's 101— New(ish) to Saint Paul's? Looking to connect?** Join us Sunday, March 22 at 6:30 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.

**The 37<sup>th</sup> season of Tuesday's Music Live concludes with a free concert by the North Augusta High School Concert Choir, March 17, 12:00 Noon.**

**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 Fellowship will gather Wednesday March 18, 7 PM.** 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 at [ebiddy@saintpauls.org](mailto:ebiddy@saintpauls.org).

**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 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact Mandy Harmon ([msamandajoy27@hotmail.com](mailto:msamandajoy27@hotmail.com)) or Melissa Friedman ([friedmanme2@gmail.com](mailto:friedmanme2@gmail.com)) for more information.

**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.



**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](mailto: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](http://saintpauls.org/giving), or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901.



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

<b>MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY</b>	Services Begin at 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, & 5:30 PM Children's Walk Through Holy Week 10:00 AM
<b>MARCH 30 - MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b>	Noonday prayers in the Chapel 12:00 NOON
<b>MARCH 31 - TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel 12:00 NOON
<b>APRIL 1 - WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b>	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel 12:00 NOON
<b>APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	Our Weekly "Mid-Week" Eucharist 11:30 AM Maundy Thursday Children's Service 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
<b>APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY</b>	Good Friday Service 12:00 NOON Children's Stations of the Cross 2:00 PM Stations of the Cross 3:30 PM Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
<b>APRIL 4 - THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER</b>	Service begins outside at 7:30 PM
<b>APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn 10 AM Easter Celebration of the Resurrection 11:00 AM Celtic Evening Prayer Celebration of the Resurrection 5:30 PM

### SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Eric Biddy	Celebrant
Mary Painter	Preacher
Mat Merriman, Robin Merriman	Eucharistic Ministers
Linda Hardy	Vestry Person of the Day
Naila Assad	Altar Guild

### CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector	ext. 205	ebiddy@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Kimberly E. Dunn, Assoc. Rector	ext. 204	kdunn@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Dr. Bill Dolen, Assisting Priest		
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Assisting Priest		
The Rev. Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest		
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries		ahinkson@saintpauls.org
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Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@saintpauls.org
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant	ext. 206	nnieminen@saintpauls.org
Toni Clayton, Assistant for Administrative Projects		
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir		
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita		
Hillary Bryant, Anthony Ellis, James Wheeler; Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual		

