



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Eight o'clock in the Morning

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

We are glad you are here. 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.

TO ALL OUR VISITORS & GUESTS

About Worship

If the liturgy (worship) of the Episcopal Church is unfamiliar, then we hope you will find this information helpful.

You are welcome in the Episcopal Church, and so the first and best resource we offer are your neighbors in the pews. Just say, "I'm visiting," and they will gladly help.

The worship of the Episcopal Church is rooted in the practices of ancient Christianity. The structure of our services, the architecture of our building, the music, our physical postures, and participatory responses ALL hold rich meaning about our beliefs and are intentional expressions of our relationship with God.

- In this bulletin you will find:

Responses spoken by the people are printed in bold italics.

Directions for the people are printed in italics.

- We encourage families with children to sit at the front of the Nave so that children can easily see and hear the liturgy. We are delighted to offer activity bags for families to help keep little hands busy and engaged during worship services. Feel free to pick one up at the entrance!
- Episcopalians customarily pray either standing or kneeling, so please do what you find most comfortable.
- Notify an usher if you require an assisted listening device or any other assistance.
- Restrooms are located in the parish hall. An usher will direct you.

About Receiving The Holy Communion

ALL who come in faith are invited to receive Holy Communion at Saint Paul's.

- During communion, the people form two short lines in the center aisle, sorting themselves according to how they would like to receive. Those who come to the "pulpit side" (east) will be given bread and offered a common cup of wine from which to drink. There is no intincting/dipping on the pulpit side of the altar rail. For those on the lectern side (west, the big eagle), the minister will dip the bread in the wine for the people, and offer a piece of bread that has already been "intincted." All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please, no one may dip their own bread in the wine.
- For those who may prefer not to receive communion at the main altar, a communion station is provided on the main floor. If you are unable to receive at either station, the clergy will bring the bread and wine to your pew. Please notify an usher before the service begins.
- To receive a blessing without receiving Communion, cross both arms over your chest, palms on your collar.
- If your children are in the nursery, you are invited to bring them to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Connect with Us

We invite you to share your contact information on a connect card, located in each pew. Hand it to one of our clergy after church. Please feel free to fill out as much or as little information as you'd like so we can connect with you.

Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

Our Service Begins in the Book of Common Prayer

The people are invited to stand.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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Kyrie eleison and Gloria

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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings.

Old Testament

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 129 Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130 ***When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.***
- 131 I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
- 132 ***Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your Name.***
- 133 Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 ***Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.***
- 135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- 136 ***My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.***

The Epistle

Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The People are invited to stand.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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

People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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The Confession and Absolution

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The People are invited to stand.

The Peace

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

Parish Greetings & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presentation of the Offering

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People ***And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer I

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The Lord's Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Agnus Dei

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion

All who come in faith are welcome at the Lord's table.

The Post-Communion Prayer

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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

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The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy
Jason Massie
Becky Wright
Martin Schwerzler
Bobbie Ingenito

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frances Grammer Stevenson, John Dudley Stevenson, Lucien Williams, Sr., Kathleen Knotts Ewell, and Nancy Travers Ewell, by Ann and Anthony Ewell and were arranged by the Flower Guild.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially Sandra Mashburn, Betsy Rollins, Kisha Seals, Yvona Myrna, Francis O'Shea, Ann Kilpatrick, Lois Hand, Ricie Eubanks, Dorine Smith, Wayne Matthews, Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau, Samm Fusselle, Katie Delaigle, Susan Keithley, Margaret Lodi, Gary Crotteau, Louis Walker, Jimmy Dykes, Greg Maxie, Bill Houghton, the Woods-Bates family, Jim Sealock, Charles Courtney, Laura Luther Medved, Drew Sandbach, Rhett Baker, Ed Moody, Mitch Wyatt, Susan Wyatt, David Hawkins.

For those serving our country at home and abroad; especially, Kirk Ring, Sam and Lara Powell, Jim Ring, Bennett Ivey, Isaac Mikell, Zach Nevard, Jackson Smith, Brandon Walker.

For all who have died; especially Melvin Deese, Rob Rice, Mary Lynn Ford.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following this service— Please join us for a continental breakfast in Tyler Hall, then at 9:30 AM at the Sunday Forum, Fr. Bidy will explore the rise, fall, and legacy of the Social Gospel movement, letting its insights and mistakes ask questions that still matter to how we live our faith today.

Next Sunday, August 2, 11 AM, Back-to-School Blessing—We're sending our students and educators back to school with our prayers and blessings. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends to join us for this special service. All students, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to bring book bags, briefcases, or laptops to be blessed for the new school year.

The new year for our ministries with our partner school, Hornsby Elementary, begin this week with several opportunities to be involved. To volunteer or for more information, contact Barbara Coleman at barbaracolem@gmail.com or call (706) 495-1884.

- ***Help us serve breakfast to teachers on their first day back, July 29, 8 AM.*** It's a simple breakfast of biscuits, doughnuts, juice and coffee—minimal fuss and lots of fun (no cooking required).
- ***School starts August 5th. Be a first day greeter at Hornsby Elementary*** and start students' year on a happy note. All you have to do is show up at Hornsby at 8:30 AM and greet kids as they arrive for school.
- ***Our Backpack and School Supply Drive for the children at Hornsby Elementary continues through August.*** A supply list from Hornsby is available in the Narthex and in Friday's *Weekly Postings*. If you prefer, gifts may be made for our back-to-school supplies, and we'll do the shopping for you. Use the Giving QR code below.

Mark your calendar for our fall program year kick-off, Sunday, August 9: our formation programming for parishioners of all ages begins, the choir returns from their summer break, and we'll "Gather by the River" following the 11 AM service for a parish meal. Details to come.

ERD Offering—The Outreach Committee has voted to send \$1000 to Episcopal Relief and Development to support those affected by the Earthquakes in Venezuela. If you would like to add your gift, please make your check payable to Saint Paul's Church with a notation ERD International Disaster Fund. Online gifts may be made using the Giving QR code below or on our website.

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.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:45 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - TYLER HALL
9:25 - 10:00 AM	CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS (returns August 9)
9:30 - 10:30 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS
10:00 - 10:45 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH (returns August 9)
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite II
Following the 11:00 AM Service	LEMONADE ON THE LAWN
5:00 - 7:00 PM	EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY) (returns Early August)
5:30 - 6:15 PM	CELTIC EVENING PRAYER & COMMUNION WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Nursery care offered in the Children's Ministry Center (CMC) 9:20 AM - 12:30 PM.
The 11 AM service is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube at Saint Paul's Church-Augusta
and by radio at WGAC 580 AM Radio and 95.1 FM Radio. Listen live on-line at <http://wgac.com>

VESTRY

Linda Hardy, Sr. Warden	Charlie Tudor, Jr. Warden	Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor	Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry	

Vestry Term Expires 2027

Kathleen Chandler
Patsy Davis
Melissa Friedman

Vestry Term Expires 2028

Jerry Ashmore, III
Katherine Ferrara
Tom Robertson

Vestry Term Expires 2029

Will Badger
Summer Bell
Martin Schwerzler

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey	Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson	Daughters of the King – Kathleen Fickling
Endowment – Monty Osteen	Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt
Finance – Cameron Nixon	Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson
Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery	Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman
Interior Design – Julie Badger	Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jackie Pingel & Dianne L'Heureux
Lectors & LEM – Robin Merriman	Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon
Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham	Outreach – Marilyn Grau
Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt	Stewardship – Kitty Gordon
Ushers – Rex Teeslink & Cindy Shafer	W.E.E.M. – The Rev. Kimberly Dunn & Summer Bell

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector	ext. 205	ebiddy@saintpauls.org
The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn, Assoc. Rector	ext. 204	kdunn@saintpauls.org
The Reverend Dr. William K. Dolen, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Ted H. Clarkson, Assisting Priest		
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries		ahinkson@saintpauls.org
Keith Shafer, Director of Music	ext. 215	kshafer@saintpauls.org
Catherine Stuckey, Liturgy and Parish life	ext. 203	cstuckey@saintpauls.org
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@saintpauls.org
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant	ext. 206	nnieminen@saintpauls.org
Toni Clayton, Assistant for Administrative Projects		tclayton@saintpauls.org
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		

