**ST. PAUL’S**

**ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**VISALIA, CALIFORNIA**

A stained glass window with a red cross

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Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

10:30 A.M

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**Welcome!**

St. Paul’s Anglican Church extends a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers, whether worshiping in person or at home via livestream.

**Visitors’ Guide**

St. Paul’s Church is a parish in the Diocese of San Joaquin of the Anglican Church in North America, which includes both Catholic and Protestant traditions. We accept Jesus Christ as Savior, and we promise to follow him as Lord. We believe in One God,

* the Father who created us and all things,
* the Son who redeems us from sin and death,
* the Holy Spirit who renews and sanctifies us.

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary for salvation, and we accept the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds as essential beliefs of the Christian faith.

All followers of Jesus who are baptized in the name of the Trinity are invited to receive Holy Communion. If for whatever reason you feel you cannot receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate you’d like a blessing by crossing your arms. All people are welcome at the Altar of the Lord.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest book at the entrance table and introduce themselves to the clergy following the service.

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**Opening Hymn: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation**

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Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *People*  **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

Collect for Purity

**People: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.**

Summary of the law

*Celebrant:* Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul

and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us

**Christ, have mercy upon us**

Lord, have mercy upon us

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**and peace to his 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.**

*Celebrant*  The Lord be with you.

**People And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Lesson:** **Isaiah 28:14-22**

Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! 15 Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”; 16 therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ 17 And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.”

18 Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it. 19 As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message.

20 For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in. 21 For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed— strange is his deed! and to work his work—alien is his work! 22 Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord God of hosts against the whole land.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord  
**People: Thanks be to God**

**Gradual: Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength, \*

a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*

and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and swell, \*

and though the mountains shake at its tempest.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*

the holy dwelling place of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; therefore she shall not be moved. \*

God shall help her at the break of day.

6 The nations are in an uproar, and the kingdoms are moved, \* but God has lifted his voice, and the earth shall melt away.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 O come and behold the works of the LORD, \*

what devastations he has brought upon the earth.

9 He makes wars to cease in all the world; \*

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the chariots in the fire.

10 “Be still then and know that I am God; \*

I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.”

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*

the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

**Epistle: Hebrews 12:15-29**

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,

23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” 27 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn: Rock of Ages**

*(Verse 1-2 before Gospel verse 3 after)*

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*Clergy:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

according to St. Luke

**People: Glory to you, Lord God**

**Gospel: Luke 13:22-30**

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ 26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27 But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

*Clergy*: The Gospel of the Lord  
**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

**The Rev. Robert Longbottom**

The Nicene Creed

*The people stand*

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten 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:**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.**

**who 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.**

The Prayers of the People

*The People kneel or are seated if you are unable to kneel*

*The Deacon or other person appointed says these prayers. reader pauses after each bidding, and the people may add petitions, either silently or aloud.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying,

“hear our prayer.”

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For *Stephen*, our Archbishop, and *Eric*, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially *Donald* our President and *Gavin* our Governor.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_].

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_,] in thanksgiving let us pray.

*Reader* Lord, in your mercy:

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

In the St. Paul’s cycle of prayer, we pray for all ministries of Christian education, discipleship and bible study. We pray that through word and deed we might grow closer to the heart and life of Jesus through our study, prayer, fellowship and mission.

*Reader*  Lord, in your mercy:

*People*  **Hear our prayer.**

In the ACNA Cycle of Prayer, today we pray for the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, the Confessing Anglican Diocese in New Zealand, and The Rt. Rev. Jay Behan, Bishop, and his wife, Jaimee.

*Reader*  Lord, in your mercy:

*People*  **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes with this or some other appropriate Collect.*

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

*Deacon* Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has

promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and

with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver

you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give

you rest. *-Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that

whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*-John 3:16t*

The Peace

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**PeopleAnd with your spirit.**

Offertory Anthem

Duet by Ellen Daniels and Jackie Iseman

“tis so sweet to trust in Jesus”

The Doxology

*(Verse 3 only)*

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Offertory

*Celebrant* All things come from you, O Lord,

**People And of your own have we given you.**

The Eucharistic Liturgy

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**PeopleAnd with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**PeopleWe lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**PeopleIt is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and**

**earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The People kneel or are seated if you are unable to kneel*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it,\* and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

**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**

*Fraction*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**PeopleTherefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Prayer for Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,**

**trusting in our own righteousness,**

**but in your abundant and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up**

**the crumbs under your table;**

**but you are the same Lord**

**whose character is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,**

**so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,**

**and to drink his blood,**

**that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,**

**and our souls washed through his most precious blood,**

**and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.**

**Amen**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**have mercy on us**.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**grant us your peace.**

The Ministration of Communion

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.

A sheet of music with notes

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Communion Hymn: Come, Risen Lord**

The Post Communion Prayer

*The People kneel or are seated if you are unable to kneel*

Let us pray.

**Heavenly Father,**

**We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**

**of the most precious Body and Blood**

**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**

**and for assuring us in these holy mysteries**

**that we are living members of the body of your Son,**

**and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have**

**given us to do,**

**to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our**

**Lord.**

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: Tis the Gift to be Simple**

**A sheet of music with black and white text

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*Deacon* Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**St. Paul’s Parish Calendar**

**Sunday August 24 – Sunday August 31**

**SUNDAY, August 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 AM Sunday Fun Day, Youth Room

9:15 AM Catechism Classes, Conference Room

10:30 AM Children’s Sunday School, (Pre-K – 6th Grade)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Church

**MONDAY, August 25**

6:30 PM Women’ s Bible Study, Conference Room

**TUESDAY, August 26**

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

**WEDNESDAY, August 27**

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Chapel

10:15 AM Bible Study, Conference Room

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

**THURSDAY, August 28**

**FRIDAY, August 29**

6:30 AM Men’s Bible Study, Valhalla Restaurant

**SATURDAY, August 30**

**SUNDAY, August 31 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 AM Children’s Sunday School, (Pre-K – 6th Grade)

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Church

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Announcements**

**Meetings after Church Today**

Acolyte interest meeting with Amee Longbottom, Main church

Pastoral Care volunteer interest meeting with Deacon Kashy Rowland-Smith, Conference room

Children’s Sunday School planning meeting with Deacon John Iseman, Youth Room

**Sunday Worship changes beginning Sunday, September 7th**

**Choirs**

Sunday September 7th will be when our choirs and acolytes return to regular Sunday worship. The vocal choir will be in church every Sunday. The Bell choir will once again be led by Brenda Saicoe and will perform anthems on the third Sunday of each month. Our accompanist Marguerite Crownover and our choir director Cyndi Culp will be back with us in church.

**Acolytes**

Acolytes will be in church every Sunday.

**Change in Music for the Liturgy**

Music will be added back into our Sunday liturgy with the singing of the Gloria as well as our regular sung portions of the Holy Eucharist.

**Thank you, Mr. Gabriel Hatcher, for serving as our accompanist this summer**

Mr. Gabriel Hatcher has played the piano for us most Sundays this summer. We are so grateful for his ability to join us, for sharing his musical gifts with us and for his warm and inviting presence. Thank you. Mr. Hatcher is the accompanist for Handford West High school and is looking for more opportunities to serve in the Handford, Tulare, Visalia area. If you believe you know of any opportunities, please reach out to Fr. Rob who can get you in contact with Mr. Hatcher.

**Vocal Choir Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 27, 6:00PM**

**Music Room & Chapel**

The St. Paul’s vocal choir is beginning, and we want to add your voice to the choir. We will be present in church beginning Sunday, September 7. Our Choir Director, Cyndi Culp, would love to talk with you about choir and soloist opportunities on Sunday mornings. Please join us at our first vocal choir rehearsal of the year and learn more about musical opportunities for singers of all levels in choir and the church.

**Acolyte Organizational Meeting**

**Sunday, August 24 after Church in Youth Room**

Acolytes play a vital role in the worship of the church by leading the procession into worship and serving at the Altar. We are inviting our veteran acolytes as well as new recruits for this important ministry in the life of the church. Acolytes can be as young as children going into third grade all the way through high school. Our Acolyte Directress is Amee Longbottom, and she would love to talk with parents and children about this ministry. Please come find out more at the information and organizing meeting or talk with Amee Longbottom at church or call her cell at (470)433-0025.

**Operation Christmas Child, Coordinator: Mark Morales**

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan’s Purse in which local churches help fill special shoe boxes with toiletries and a small Christmas gift for needy children around the world. Shoe boxes with supplies and gifts need to be completed in September so to get in the hands of needy children by Christmas. Our Operation Christmas Child outreach coordinator is Mark Morales. He will be making announcements in church and is available to answer any questions on Sunday mornings at church.

S**t. Paul’s Anglican Church**

Parish Office

6436 W. Hurley Ave

Visalia, California 93291

559‑732‑4821

Office Hours: 8:00 – 4:00

Monday – Thursday

**Worship: Sundays at 10:30AM**

In person: St. Paul’s Anglican Church

Livestream: Link at spvisalia.com

and on our Facebook page

*Please be advised that this service is being recorded for broadcast*

*and/or archival purposes. By attending, you consent*

*to the inclusion of your likeness in these recordings.*

**St. Paul’s Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Robert Longbottom, Rector

*rector@spvisalia.com*

(559)802-2928

The Rev. John Iseman, Pastoral Associate for Family Ministries

*family@spvisalia.com*

Antoinette Horsting, Parish Administrator

[*bookkeeper@spvisalia.com*](mailto:bookkeeper@spvisalia.com)

Marguerite Crownover, Organist and Accompanist

Cynthia Culp, Choral Director

Jackie Iseman, Nursery Coordinator

Shane Motl, Sexton

**Next Week’s Lessons**

Ecclesiasticus 10:7-18

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8

Luke 14:1, 7-14