

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Priest – The Rev. Jason M. Miller

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***January 12th, 2025 – First Sunday after Epiphany:
Baptism of Christ***

10:00 AM Bulletin

Thank you for joining us today!

*If you are new or visiting, please fill out a card from the pew
and place it in the collection so that we may follow up.*

***Coffee and conversation take place after the service in the
parish hall. Follow the hallway at the right front of the
church to the right and past the kitchen.***



*There are three bathrooms located in the hallway
between the church and the parish hall.*



*Please be advised that we livestream our church
services online through various electronic means
such as Facebook and YouTube. These broadcasts provide
valuable information to visitors to our site and those planning
to attend our services in person. We may use any recorded
media in materials produced by and for our church.*

Congregational responses are in bold type.

Serving Today

Officiant	The Rev. Jason M. Miller
Organist	Rob Boccaccio
Music Director	Kerrykate Abel
Readers	Mike Elkan, Sarah Goodyear
Acolytes	Colin Matthews, Ben Gerstung

Notices

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Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please rise in body or in spirit and join in singing.

🎵 Hymn 76 vv. 1,2,3 – “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

♪ Hymn 135 v. 1 – “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

The Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

The Response

Psalm 29

Please remain seated and pray the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

The Sequence Hymn

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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The Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Please rise in body or in spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God.

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop and all Bishops and other ministers.

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Lu Ess, Mona Gaddis, Malinda Gay, Marje Hagberg, Barbara Harrison, Susan Lee, Gail Michaels, Anna Moran, Sue Petherick, Toni Spence, Guy Walser, Kim Walser, Norman Zaccagnino, Jim and Kathy Zigrossi and those we now name aloud or silently in our hearts.

Time is given for the people to name those for whom we pray

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom;

Silence or the people may add their own petitions

Lord let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**
Please greet one another with a visible sign of God's peace.

Announcements

Please be seated for a brief list of announcements. You may also wish to take a printed copy of our weekly e-mail announcement list found where you picked up the bulletin.

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness offer our gifts to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

Please rise in body or in spirit and join in singing.

♪ **Hymn 121 – “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”**

Please rise in body or in spirit and join in singing.

♪ *The Doxology – Hymn 380, verse 3*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," an - gel hosts arc sing - ing. "Ho - ly, ho - ly,
"San - to, san - to, san - to," can - tan se - ra - fi - nes. "San - to, san - to,

ho - ly is the Lord our God. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is God, the Lord of
san - to, Dios es el Se - ñor. San - to, san - to, san - to es fuer - te nue - stro

might. Your glo - ry fills the heav - ens, your glo - ry fills the
Dios. Tu glo - ria lle - na los cie - los, la tie - rra lle - na es -

earth." Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na is our song.
tá." Ho - sa - na en las al - tu - ras, ho - sa - na la can - ción.

Words: based on *Isaiah 6:3*, English paraphrase Bert Polman, 1985.
 Music: *Merengue*, Spanish; harm. AnnaMae Meyer Bush, 1985 © 1987 CRC Publications, 2850 Kalamazoo Avenue Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49560 [www.crcpublications.org].
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We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your

Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thank to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: 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 for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant, Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please come forward to receive communion one row at a time. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms when approached with the bread.

Communion Music

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, 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

♪ **Hymnal 616 vv. 1-3 – “Hail to the Lord's Anointed”**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting Notice

In accordance with New York State Religious Corporation Law (NYS RCL Chapter 51, Article 3, §43.4), the Annual Meeting for St. Paul's will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall at 4275 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. At the meeting, there are three (3) three-year terms for vestry members and one (1) two-year term for warden up for election. Convention delegates for the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York will be elected. In addition, there will be a vote on two proposed amendments to the bylaws.

School 6 –Book Drive

We did it again! Congratulations to everyone for helping in this very important book drive! We were able to collect 641 books (one for each student) at School 6. Thank you all for your book and monetary donations!! If you still have books to donate, please bring them in since we are trying to build a library for School 6 so the kids have books to read throughout the year!

Convention Delegates Needed

2025 will be a particularly important year in the life of our Diocese, with a major decision to be made regarding our current Diocesan Partnership. Those who are willing to put their name in the running for Convention Delegate will be asked to attend two conventions this year: a Special Convention on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at St. Luke's Church in Jamestown, NY for the purpose of deciding the future of our partnership, and the joint Annual Convention on Friday, October 10, 2025, and Saturday, October 11, 2025, in Niagara Falls.

In general, delegates can vote their own conscience and in the way that they feel moved by the Spirit. The Vestry will weigh in on the Special Convention Resolution and provide guidance based upon conversations within the congregation. Both conventions are an opportunity to connect with other Episcopalians in our region and to make new friends or reconnect with old ones. Please prayerfully consider if you may be called to put your name in the running.

If you are interested in running, please let the office know **NO LATER THAN Thursday, January 23, 2025**, so that your name may be placed on the ballot for consideration at our Annual Meeting.

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