

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
4th Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
December 21, 2025



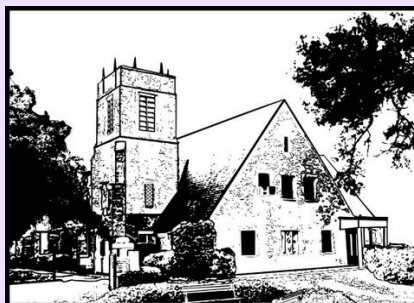
Fourth Sunday of Advent

To All who are weary and need rest;
To All who are lowly and want friendship;
To All who mourn and need comfort;
To all who pray and all who do not, but ought;
To All who sin and need a Savior, and to whomsoever
will come...

The Church opens the door and says in the
name of the Master

Welcome to St. Paul's

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle,
Bishop of Texas
2025 VESTRY
Senior Warden –
Rebecca Rutledge
Junior Warden – Ray Hancock
Clerk - Bill Smith
Arlene Howland
Jay Todd Cleaver
Joe Maglothin
Anne Breitenstein
Organist/Choir Director–
Don Ball, Jr.
Parish Administrator
Kelly Guillot



WELCOME VISITORS!

We are glad you are here! Please sign
the visitor's book located in the back of
the sanctuary. Let us know how we can
make your experience at St. Paul's more
joyful. You can call our office at
409-883-2969 or e-mail us at
stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1401 W. Park Ave. Orange, TX 77630
409-883-2969
stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com
Liturgy of the Word 8:00am
Holy Eucharist 10:00am
Also shown Live Stream on Facebook.
Office hours Monday-Thursday
9:00-3:00pm
Baptism, Confirmation or Wedding:
Contact the Church office
stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com
409-883-2969

Holy Eucharist; Rite Two

The service is in the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP), a blue book.

Hymns are in *The Hymnal*, a maroon book. Hymn numbers beginning with "S" are at the front of *The Hymnal*.
Or *LEV, Lift Every Voice and Sing II Hymnal Or Renew Hymnal*

We are glad that you are worshipping with us today!

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Ps 122:1

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.

Celebrant: The Rev. Meg Lovejoy
Deacon: Deacon Margaret Light
Preacher: The Rev. Meg Lovejoy

Hymn *Angels From the Realms of Glory* The Hymnal 93

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity *The Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

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

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

CELEBRANT: 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.

Trisagion (*Sung by all.*)

The Hymnal S 100

Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

Collect of the day

(*See Readings Insert*)

ALL: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Anthem *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Donna Hall and Bill Smith

Duet

The First Lesson:

READER: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(*See Readings Insert*)

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Page 2

The Psalm:

READER: The psalm appointed for today is the Psalm 80 (See Readings Insert)
We will read responsively by whole verse

The Second Lesson:

READER: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (See Readings Insert)

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand for the Gradual Hymn

Gradual Hymn

Lo, How a Rose

The Hymnal 81

Please remain standing for the Gospel reading. (See Readings Insert)

CELEBRANT: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

PEOPLE: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 (See Readings Insert)

After the Gospel

DEACON: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, all stand and say **The Nicene Creed**

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People

(See Readings Insert)

Confession of Sin

BCP, 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says .

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**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.**

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

The Peace

The Book of Common Prayer p. 360

(All stand.)

CELEBRANT: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 PEOPLE: And also with you.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

The Snow Lay on the Ground

The Hymnal 110

Doxology on the First Nowell



Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Him, all ye crea-tures here be-low.
 Praise Him a - bove, ye heav-en-ly hosts. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A-men.

The Book of Common Prayer p. 367

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:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

S 130

The people stand or kneel.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks 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.”

Memorial Acclamation, Prayer B

CELEBRANT: 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 [] and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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 forever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer
People and Celebrant

The Book of Common Prayer p. 364

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

Anthem:

CELEBRANT: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

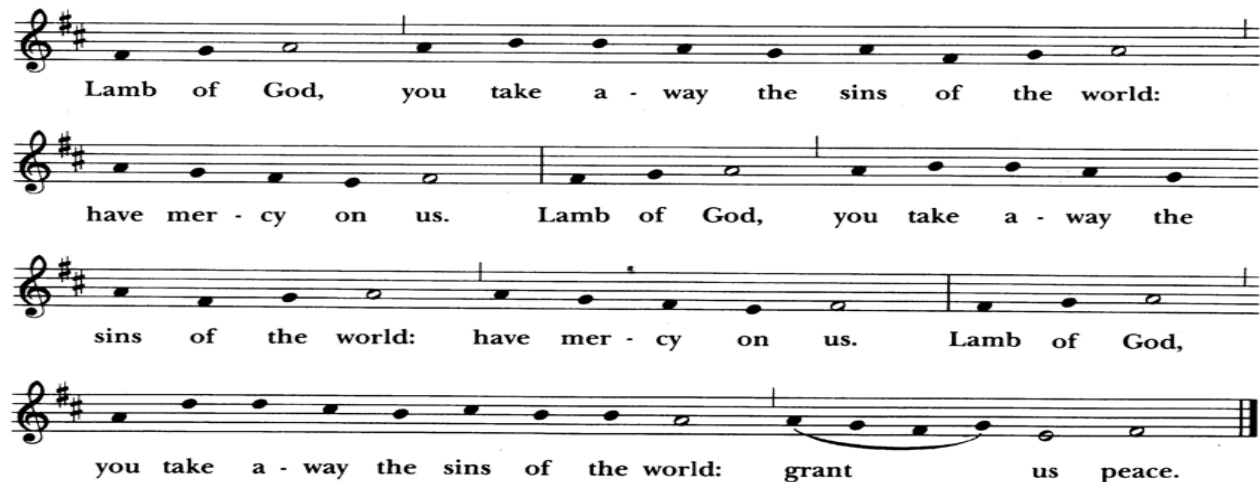
PEOPLE: *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

CELEBRANT & PEOPLE:

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

The Hymnal S 161



CELEBRANT: 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.

*We joyfully invite all baptized Christians to join us at the table of our Lord.
If you prefer to receive communion in the pews, please let the ushers know.
If you do not wish to receive communion, but instead wish to receive a blessing,
come forward and stand or kneel at the altar, crossing your arms over your chest.*

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **(Amen.)**
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **(Amen.)**

Communion Music:

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
In the Bleak Mid-winter
Love Came Down at Christmas*

*The Hymnal 82
The Hymnal 112
The Hymnal 84*

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Sending Forth

Once in Royal David's City

The Hymnal 102

The Dismissal

DEACON: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.



Concerning the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent. The Advent wreath originated as a domestic devotion, as an opportunity for family prayer, with no roots in public worship. Instead, it functioned as a simple countdown-timer for the passage of Advent; the attribution of allegorical meaning or names to particular candles is a very recent innovation that distracts from the purpose of the symbol. Overall, it is disruptive to the liturgy to turn a minor symbol into a major focus of the attention.

Therefore, when it used in the church, no special prayers or ceremonial elaboration beyond what is described on page 143 of the Prayer Book (in the Order of Worship for Evening) is desirable. At morning services the appropriate number of candles is lighted before the service begins, and no special prayers or ceremonies should be added.

When used in private homes, the Advent Wreath provides a convenient focus for devotions at the time of the evening meal. The short form of An Order of Worship for the Evening, Prayer Book pages 109-112, is recommended. In place of the Short Lesson of Scripture provided in the Order, one of the readings from the Daily Office Lectionary may be used, in whole or in part. Alternatively, the following may be used:

Week of 1 Advent

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (*Matthew 24:42-44*)

Week of 2 Advent

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (*Luke 3:2b-6*)

Week of 3 Advent

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. (*Luke 3:15-16*)

Week of 4 Advent

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (*Luke 1:39-42*)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec. 21	4th Sunday of Advent
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Margaret Light
9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
9:15 a.m.	Advent Book Study with Mother Meg and Deacon Margaret Light
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II service with Mother Meg Festival of Lessons and Carols", St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont at 5:00pm.
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Breakfast Bunch will eat at 9:00am at IH –10 Dinner
Wednesday, Dec 24	Christmas Eve service-Holy Eucharist at 9:00PM with Mother Meg
Thursday, Dec. 25	Christmas day Morning Prayer at 9:30AM with Deacon Margaret Light
Sunday, Dec. 28	1st Sunday after Christmas
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Margaret Light
9:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
10:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Margaret Light
Save the Date:	The Epiphany service is Tuesday, January 6.
Feast Days	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
Dec. 27	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Dec. 28	Holy Innocents

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are glad you are here! Please sign the visitor's book located in the back of the sanctuary. Let us know how we can make your experience at St. Paul's more joyful. You can call our office at 409-883-2969 or e-mail us at stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com.

Happy Birthday

Houseman, Garrett	12/02
Gilbeaux, Mr. Troy	12/06
Jackson, Yolanda	12/06
Michaelis, Tomy	12/08
Darby, Craig	12/10
Cleaver, Jay Todd	12/15
Michaelis, Cedric	12/20
Geis, Mrs. Pat	12/22
Bean, Monica	12/23
Breitenstein, Robert	12/28
Delafosse, Pierre	12/28
Hagen, Mr. Matt	12/29
Hollier, Mr. Gavyn Edward	12/31

Happy Anniversary

Reeves, Eric & Annie	12/31
Quebodeux, Bay & Keely	12/31

Ministries

If you would like to join a ministry for 2026. Please let me know at 409-883-2969 or stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com. Everyone is welcome to join.

4th Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025	1st Sunday after Christmas December 28, 2025
Lectors / Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors / Eucharistic Ministers
10:00 AM 1st Reading and Psalm Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Ruth Hancock	10:00 AM 1st Reading and Psalm Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147 or Psalm 147:13-21 Sandy Bell
EM 2nd Readings, Prayers, Chalice Romans 1:1-7 Becky Rutledge Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25 Deacon Margaret Light Rev. Meg Lovejoy	EM 2nd Readings, Prayers, Chalice Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 Allison Maglothin Gospel: John 1:1-18 Deacon Margaret Light
Acolytes: Sr. Acolytes Vestry Person: Anne Breitenstein/ Jay Todd Cleaver Ushers: Anne Breitenstein/Teri Duos Altar Guild: Bonnie Blanchard Anne Breitenstein Sherlon Jones Haley Morris Allison Maglothin	Acolytes: Sr. Acolytes Vestry Person: Joseph Maglothin Ushers: Ray & Ruth Hancock Altar Guild: Ray & Ruth Hancock Bill Smith
Flower Guild: Pat Geis	Flower Guild: Poinsettias

Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2025

Lectors / Eucharistic Ministers
10:00 AM 1st Reading and Psalm Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Anne Breitenstein
EM 2nd Readings, Prayers, Chalice Titus 2:11-14 Arlene Howland Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) Deacon Margaret Light Rev. Meg Lovejoy

St. Paul's Epiphany Service is Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00pm. A light supper will be after the service. Everyone is welcome to come.

LANDSCAPING PROJECT

"Exciting news! We want to build on what Pierre & Peggy Delafosse started with the new plantings along the sidewalk between the parking lot and the church. We will soon have a watering system installed to the various beds around the church. We will need new plants for both the front and back. Your monetary contributions will be greatly appreciated to help defray the costs of both the watering system and plants. Please denote on your donation "landscaping" so we will know it is designated specifically for this project."

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Our annual stewardship drive is under way. Please prayerfully consider your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. You should be receiving your pledge cards soon. We will be blessing them on December 28 so please return them as soon as possible.

We have our Chrism tree in the back of the church. If you would like to place an ornament on the tree, please be sure and write your name on the back. If you have any questions email the office at stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com or call 409-883-2969.