

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## 2nd Sunday after Christmas

### Holy Eucharist

January 4, 2026



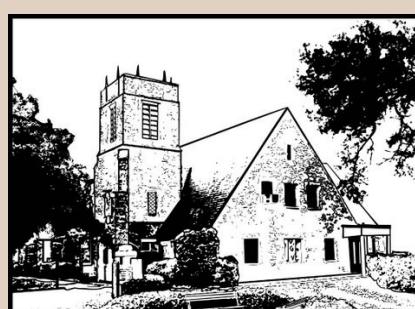
Matthew 2, 1-12

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  
2026 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** *The First Noel* The Hymnal 109

## 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.

Gloria

*Glory to God in the Highest*

S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### 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.*

**The First Lesson:**

READER: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

*(See Readings Insert)*

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm:**

READER: The psalm appointed for today is the Psalm 84  
We will read responsively by whole verse

*(See Readings Insert)*

**The Second Lesson:**

READER: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians

*(See Readings Insert)*

READER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand for the Gradual Hymn*

**Gradual Hymn**

*As with Gladness, Men of Old*

**The Hymnal 119**

*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 2:13-15, 10-23**

*(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 Doxology*

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

The Hymnal 107



Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all ye creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving-Eucharistic Prayer B

*The Book of Common Prayer p. 367*

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 him thanks and praise.**  
CELEBRANT: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

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:

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE:

**Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

**S 130**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

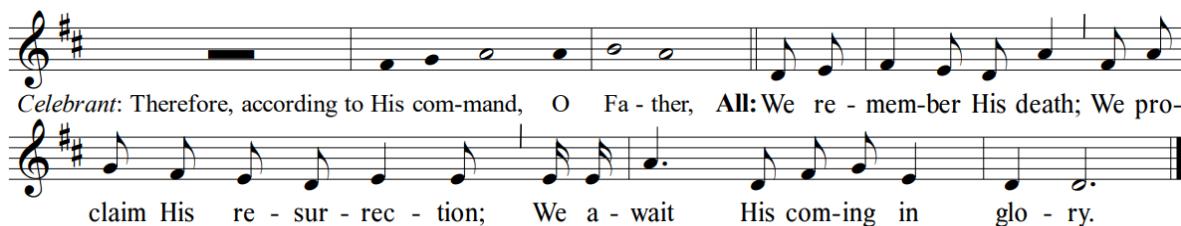
The people stand or kneel.

CELEBRANT: 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 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



Celestial: Therefore, according to His command, O Father, All: We remember His death; We proclaim His resurrection; We await His coming in glory.

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 [ ] 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

#### Fraction Anthem:

CELEBRANT: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us



Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

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:

*What Star is This?*

*Earth has Many a Noble City*

*We Three Kings*

*The Hymnal 124*

*The Hymnal 127*

*The Hymnal 128*

**Post Communion Prayer**

The Book of Common Prayer p. 365

**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**

*God Rest Ye Merry*

*The Hymnal 105*

**The Dismissal**

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Sunday, Jan. 4</b>	2nd Sunday after Christmas 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Margaret Light 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. Book Study with Mother Meg and Deacon Margaret Light 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II service with Mother Meg
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 6</b>	Breakfast Bunch will eat at 9:00am at IH –10 Dinner
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 6</b>	The Epiphany Service at 5:30Pm in the parish hall.
<b>Wednesday, Jan 7</b>	No Art Class
<b>Thursday, Jan 8</b>	Game Group will meet at 10:00am
<b>Sunday, Jan. 11</b>	1st Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word, with Deacon Margaret Light 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. Book Study with Mother Meg and Deacon Margaret Light 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II service with Mother Meg

## Happy Birthday

Houseman, Janson	1/14
Cheek, Mackenzie Rae	1/15
Peterson, Donna Kay	1/15
Quebodeux, Keely	1/15
Howland, Mrs. Arlene	1/16
Hall, Mr. Miles, III	1/19
Geis, Clayton	1/24
Morphis, Katrina	1/24
Jones, Allen	1/25

## Happy Anniversary

Duos, John & Teri	1/17
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### 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](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsorangetx.com).

St. Paul's Epiphany Service is Tuesday, January 6 at 5:30pm in the parish hall.  
A light supper will be after the service.  
Everyone is welcome to come.

2nd Sunday after Christmas January 4, 2025	1st Sunday after the Epiphany January 11, 2025
Lectors / Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors / Eucharistic Ministers
10:00 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 or 84:1-8	10:00 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29
EM 2nd Readings, Prayers, Chalice Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a  Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 Or Matthew 2:1-12 Deacon Margaret Light Rev. Meg Lovejoy	EM 2nd Readings, Prayers, Chalice Acts 10:34-43  Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 Deacon Margaret Light Rev. Meg Lovejoy
Acolytes: Sr. Acolytes Vestry Person: Becky Rutledge Ushers: David & Myra Michaelis Altar Guild: Earl & Pat Geis Delores Sterling Peggy Delafosse	Acolytes: Sr. Acolytes Vestry Person: Ray Hancock Ushers: Earl & Pat Geis Altar Guild: Becky Rutledge Eric & Annie Reeves
Flower Guild: Poinsettias	Flower Guild: Peggy Delafosse

**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.

## 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.”

## Outreach Sunday

The loose plate offering will be for Outreach on Sunday January 4. If you write a check, please mark on the memo line what it is for.