

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**  
**Foley, Alabama**  
**December 8, 2024**

**HYMNS**

<b>Hark a thrilling voice</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #59</b>
<b>Comfort ye</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #67</b>
<b>What is this crying at Jordan</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #69</b>
<b>On Jordan's banks</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #76</b>

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**LESSONS**

**A reading from Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

## **Canticle 16** *Read responsively by whole verse*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our  
enemies, \*

from the hands of all who hate us.

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **A reading from Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help

you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

*7:30 am Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go.

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, 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.'"

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*For healing:* Adriene, Al, Amber, Amy, Arlene, Becky, Bev, Carol, Charles, David, Debbie, Dennis, Diedre, Donna, Doug, Earl, Elsie Claire, Gwen, Helen, Jake, Jan, Jerry, Joan, Joanna, Joey, John, Judith, Judy, Julie, Karen, Kate, Kay, Kirsten, Larry, Lee, Leigh, Linda, Lisa, Lulu, Lynn, Margaret, Marie, Massey, Meg, Mickey, Mike, Milton, Morgan, Ralph, Rebecca, Rita, Ron, Rosellen, Sally, Sandy, Sarah, Sherry, Stan, Stephanie, Steve, Tim, Tony, Tracie, Vera, Wayne and those who care for them.

*For those serving in the military:*, Gerromy, Noel, Taylor, Wayne & those serving with them.

*For those in prison:* for the prisoners, staff and families of prisoners and staff at Calhoun County Jail, Blountstown, FL.

## **SAINT PAUL'S THIS WEEK**

### **TODAY**

- 7:30 am Holy Eucharist
- 9 am Formation Class
- 9 am Choir Practice
- 10 am Holy Eucharist
- 7 pm NA Meeting
- Noon Holy Eucharist II with Healing
- 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm Children's Choir Practice
- 5 pm to 6 pm Choir Practice
- 7 pm NA Open Meeting

### **MONDAY**

- Noon NA Meeting
- 8 pm AA Meeting

### **TUESDAY**

- 11 am ECW Luncheon

### **WEDNESDAY**

- 10:30 am Pastor Brent's Bible Study

### **THURSDAY**

- 10 am Galilean Meeting
- Noon NA Meeting
- 8 pm AA Open Meeting

### **SATURDAY**

- 10 am AA Meeting

## **SIGN UP SHEETS TO SERVE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

### **ARE IN THE PARISH HALL**

**Services are December 24, Christmas Eve 4 and 6 pm  
December 25, Christmas Day 10 am**

### **ECW CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00am. It will be catered by Gelato Joe's in our Parish Hall. Cost of the lunch is \$20.00. Make reservations by calling Helen Lambard at 251 213-3471. The group would love all the women of St. Paul's to join us in this festive occasion. There will be a short meeting and then lunch of "Salads" from Joe's finest assortments.

**ADVENT OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**Join your St. Paul's friends to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of our church from 3 to 6 pm at the home of Jennifer Lawrence, 8393 Forest Lane. Bishop Russell Kendrick will be with us to help us mark this milestone event.**

**CHRISTMAS ANGELS ARE HERE**

**Both children & seniors are located in the Parish Hall on the large bulletin board to the left of the door to the door to the hall going to the church. Be sure to sign the form below in the proper slot. Must be returned to Parish Hall by December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**REMEMBER EMI WHEN YOU SHOP**

Cereal, Oatmeal, Grits, Syrup, Seasonings

***BLESSING BOX***

Our Blessing Box is in need of donations of food and toiletries. Drop off on Sunday's in the Parish Hall or in the office during the week. You are always welcomed to put food & supplies directly into the Blessing Box

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Foley, AL**  
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*Hark a thrilling voice is sounding – public domain*

*Comfort ye, comfort ye*

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*Hark, a thrilling voice-public domain*

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