

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast**  
**Foley, Alabama**  
**December 15, 2024**

**HYMNS**

<b>Blest be the God of Israel</b>	<b>Renew Songbook #128</b>
<b>There's a voice in the wilderness</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #75</b>
<b>Savior of the nations come</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #54</b>
<b>Rejoice, rejoice believers</b>	<b>Hymnal 1982 #68</b>

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**LESSONS**

**A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

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

**Canticle 9** *Read responsively by whole verse*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

**And on that day you shall say, \***

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

**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 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*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 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." 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." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*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, Blountsown, FL.

**St Paul's Centennial Celebration December 21st & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Make plans to attend.**

**Our Bishop, the Right Rev. Russell Kendrick, will make his annual Visitation and preside at the celebration of St. Paul's Centennial on Sunday, December 22nd at 10:00 am.**

**The festivities begin on Saturday the 21st with a gala social event at the home of Jennifer Lawrence from 3 to 6 pm at 8393 Forest Lane.**

**Bishop Russell Kendrick will be with us to help us mark this milestone event.**

## 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
- 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

### WEDNESDAY

- 10:30 am Pastor Brent's Bible Study
- Noon Holy Eucharist II with

### THURSDAY

- Noon NA Meeting
- 8 pm AA Open Meeting

### SATURDAY

- 10 am AA Meeting

## CHRISTMAS ANGELS DUE IN TODAY

**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**

**REMEMBER EMI WHEN YOU SHOP**

Powdered milk, canned fruit, cereal, grits, canned chicken and shampoo.

***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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**December 15, 2024**

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