

Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

January 25, 2026



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255

Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

870-793-2203

Today's Ministers

<i>Officiant:</i>	Brenda Bittle
<i>Chalice bearer:</i>	Steve Massey
<i>Lector:</i>	Cade Archer
<i>Ushers:</i>	Gary Perkey & Tim Dunlap
<i>Choir Director & Organist:</i>	Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	David Taverner
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Judy Purnell & Jo Cargill-Krug

Community Meal (1/28/2026): Team Stalker

The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: Rite Two

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn 533: *How Wondrous and Great Thy Works, God of Praise*

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The people standing (as able), the Officiant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

The Officiant says

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 - Sung (S278)

(BCP 356)

Officiant and People

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.

Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Acts 26:9-21

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Second Reading

Galatians 1:11-24

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

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

There is no procession. The Lector remains at the lectern to read the third reading, using the same form as the first two.

Sequence Hymn 126: *The People Who in Darkness Walked*

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious light;
2 To hail thy ris - ing, Sun of life, the ga - thering na - tions come,
3 To us the prom - ised Child is born, to us the Son is given;
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace for ev - er - more a - dored,
5 His power in - creas - ing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;

1 on them broke forth the heaven - ly dawn who dwelt in death and night.
2 joy - ous as when the reap - ers bear their har - vest trea - sures home.
3 him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, and all the hosts of heaven.
4 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the might - y God and Lord.
5 jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.

Third Reading

Matthew 10:16-22

There is no procession. The Lector reads the third reading from the lectern, using the same form as the first two.

Lector: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Brenda Bittle

Nicene Creed *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

All stand, as the People and Officiant say together.

**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.**

Prayers of the People, Form IV – found on page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer

People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Brenda Bittle (1/26), Mike Mundy (1/31), and John & Susan Dempsey (1/29).

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation **especially:** Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Cindy Perkey, Isabelle Tenace, Dana & Bob Teichart, Mabelle Christiansen, Martha Healey, Mike Mundy, Natalie Molineaux, and Marilyn Smith.

We pray also for family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested: Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Georgina Mosser, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Q, James & Lois Work, Wilma, Edie Knowles, Mitchell Dobson, Sharon Runyan, Eleanor, Ian Young, Shelly & Heath Wooldridge, Walter Hopper, Linda Brewer, Sarah Mosser, Nicole Haskins, Linda Healey Morgan, Ina Bolten, Sandra Coe, the Teague Family, Kera Cook & family, Jacqueline Levy, Gina, Linda, Autumn & Our Father's Table, Hank Pearce, Mike & Debbie Palmer, and Sharon Santangelo.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Officiant adds the following Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession

BCP 360

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant 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.

The Officiant remains kneeling and says

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

Peace

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Officiant may begin the Offertory with the following or another Offertory sentence.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem: *Where Charity And Love Prevail*

Cheshire

Doxology: 43 v.4

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people's offerings of money or other gifts are received. The officiant reverently places the offerings on the altar.

The Officiant opens the tabernacle, reverently places the ciborium containing the consecrated bread on the altar, and pours the consecrated wine from the flagon into the chalice.

The Officiant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Officiant

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Officiant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add

**Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts
by faith, with thanksgiving.**

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

Communion Hymn: *My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread*

After Communion, the Officiant says

Let us pray.

Officiant and People

On 365:

**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.**

Post Communion Hymn 550: *Jesus Calls Us; O'er The Tumult*

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for five voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass) and organ. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and an organ line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The organ part provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult
 2 as, of old, Saint An - drew heard it
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows,
 5 Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies,

1 of our life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his
 2 by the Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 3 of the vain world's gold - en store; from each i - dol
 4 days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 5 Sa - vior, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to

1 clear voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"
 2 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 3 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 4 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 5 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Postlude