

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Alton, IL



The Feast of Independence Day

Choral Evensong

Rite I

July 4, 2026
at 5:00 p.m.

The Rt. Rev. Brian K. Burgess, DD
XII Bishop

Daily Evening Prayer: Rite I

The Order of Service

Opening Voluntary

Battle Hymn Tribute

arr. J. Behnke

Procession Hymn

God of our Fathers, whose almighty hand

Hymn 718

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

Confession of Sin

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

***Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.***

The Bishop alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

The Invitatory and Psalter

All Stand

p. 63/S-26

Preces

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us.

People

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

Except during Lent, may be added:

Al - le - lu - ia.

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Phos Hilaron

O gladsome Light, O grace

Hymn 36

Psalms 34

Benedicam Dominum

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,*
and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim*
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands;*
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes;*
some wandered in the wilderness;
some wandered in the land of the enemy;
some wandered in the land of the foe.

they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

They were hungry and thirsty; *
their spirits languished within them.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He put their feet on a straight path *
to go to a city where they might dwell.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

For he satisfies the thirsty *
and fills the hungry with good things.

Some sat in darkness and deep gloom, *
bound fast in misery and iron;

Because they rebelled against the words of God *
and despised the counsel of the Most High.

So he humbled their spirits with hard labor; *
they stumbled, and there was none to help.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them out of darkness and deep gloom *
and broke their bonds asunder.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

For he shatters the doors of bronze *
and breaks in two the iron bars.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Some went down to the sea in ships *
and plied their trade in deep waters;

They beheld the works of the Lord *
and his wonders in the deep.

Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose, *
which tossed high the waves of the sea.

They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths; *
their hearts melted because of their peril.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards *
and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper *
and quieted the waves of the sea.

Then were they glad because of the calm, *
and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people *
and praise him in the council of the elders.

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.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Micah

4:1-5

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Woodlands

Hymn 438

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is

among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Song 1

Hymn 499

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Prayers

The Salutation and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages A

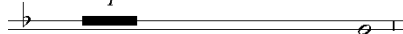
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Cantor or Officiant

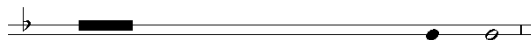


V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

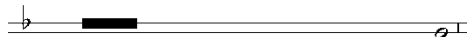
People



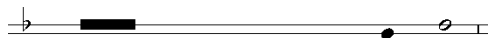
R. And grant us thy salva-tion.



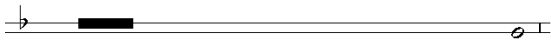
V. Endue thy ministers with right-eous-ness;



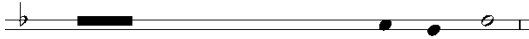
R. And make thy chosen people joy-ful.



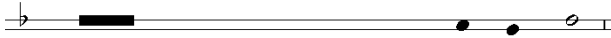
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;



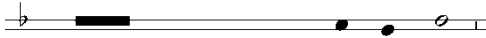
R. For only in thee can we live in safe - ty.



V. Lord, keep this nation un - der thy care;



R. And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.



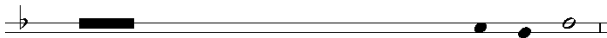
V. Let thy way be known up - on earth;



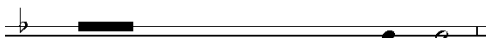
R. Thy saving health among all na - tions.



V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgot - ten;



R. Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.



V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;



R. And sustain us with thy Holy Spi - rit.

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The Collects

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant, we beseech thee, that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain these liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and that day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love.

Amen.

O God, who dost manifest in thy servants the signs of thy presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another thine abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Please sit.

Anthems

Duet *Let There be Peace on Earth* J. Miller

Solo *Patriotic Medley* Bill Kodros

Welcome from the Bishop & Organ Blessing

Hymn *My country, 'tis of thee* Hymn 717

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we thine unworthy servants

do give thee most humble and hearty thanks

for all thy goodness and loving-kindness

to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for thine inestimable love

in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,

for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,

give us that due sense of all thy mercies,

that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;

and that we show forth thy praise,

not only with our lips, but in our lives,

*by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

Concluding Versicle and Response

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Cantor or Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude (Bob Dial) *Bishop's Promenade*

N. Coke-Jephcott (1893-1963)

After the Service, join us for a few minutes in the Choir Loft to learn from Bob Dial about all the new additions and upgrades that were made to the Organ!

Participants in the Liturgy

Officiant: The Rt. Rev. Brian K, Burgess, DD
Assisting Clergy: The Rev. Garron C. Daniels, OCS
Organist & Choirmaster: Gay Anderson, M.M.
Assisting Organist: Bob Dial, M.M.
Soloist: Bill Kodros
Duet: Ruth Spencer & Robbie Cupp
Choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alton
Thurifer, Chuck Drennan
Crucifer, Dereck Cook
Torch Bearer #1, Destiny Drennan
Torch Bearer #2, Donna Fisher
Lector, Susan Lukasik
Greeters, Nathalia Baum and Meg Dorris
Altar Guild, Nancy Weiss-Hayes

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The Episcopal Parish of Alton

Welcome to the Episcopal Parish of Alton (EPA), a historic family-sized Anglo-Catholic parish founded in 1836 and located along the Mississippi River just north of the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. We are a member of the Springfield Diocese and a Eucharistic Community with two worship sites serving the Riverbend of Illinois – St. Paul's Church, located in downtown Alton on the corner of Market & Third Streets, and Trinity Chapel located at 1901 State Street in North Alton.

Services on Sundays are held at 8:15 a.m. at Trinity Chapel and 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's.
We hope to see you again soon!