

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 AM in the Church

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to our Church

WELCOME

to

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter. Email the church office at office@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org

E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:

The Gathering

Prelude

Simple Gifts

arr. Copeland

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #292

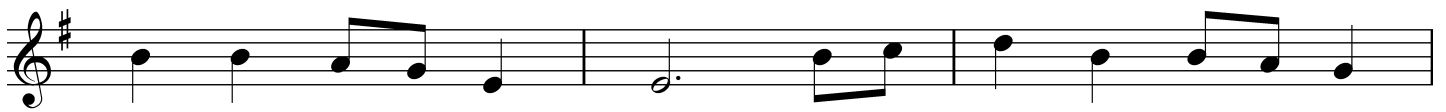
O Jesus, Crowned with all Renown



1 O Je - sus, crowned with all re - nown, since thou the earth hast
2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be
3 that we may feed the poor a - right, and, gath - ering round thy



trod, thou reign - est and by thee come down hence -
given; all fos - tering power, all in - fluence sweet, breathe
throne, here, in the ho - ly an - gels' sight, re -



forth the gifts of God. Thine is the health and
from the bount - eous heaven. At - tem - per fair with
pay thee of thine own: That we may praise thee



thine the wealth that in our halls a - bound, and
gen - tle air the sun - shine and the rain, that
all our days, and with the Fa - ther's Name, and



thine the beau - ty and the joy with which the years are crowned.
kind - ly earth with time - ly birth may yield her fruits a - gain:
with the Ho - ly Spi - rit's gifts, the Sa - vior's love pro - claim.

Words: Edward White Benson (1829-1896), alt. Music: *Kingsfold*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider Let us pray:

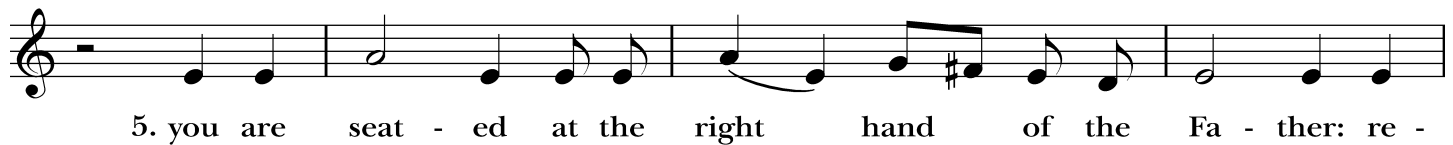
**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria S-278

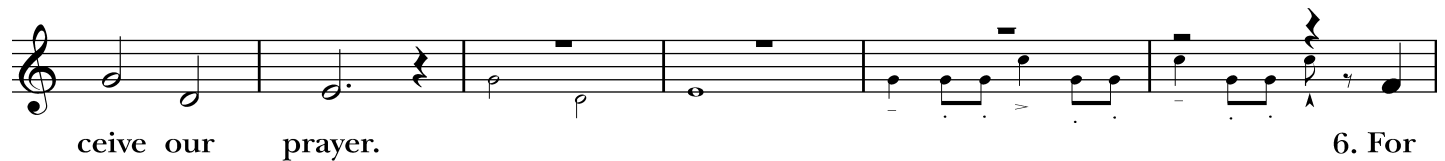
1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



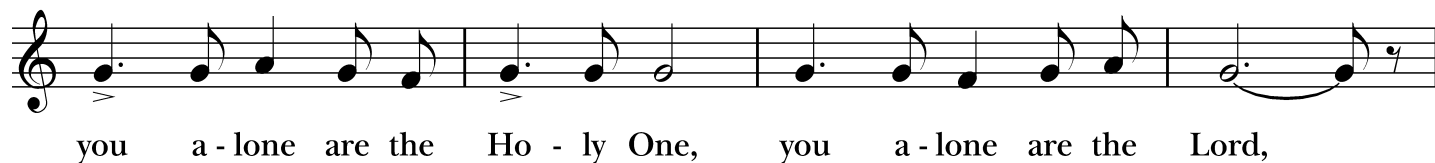
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



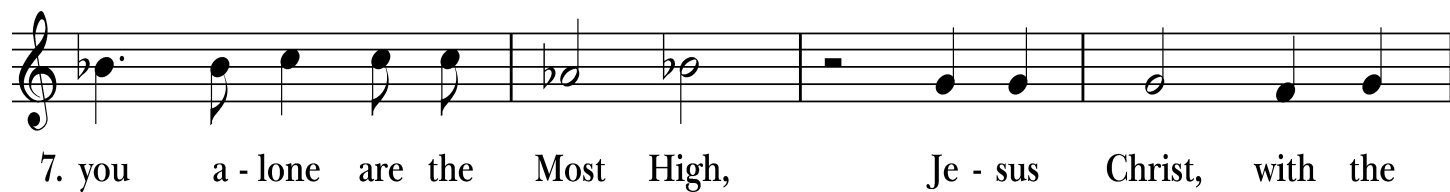
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



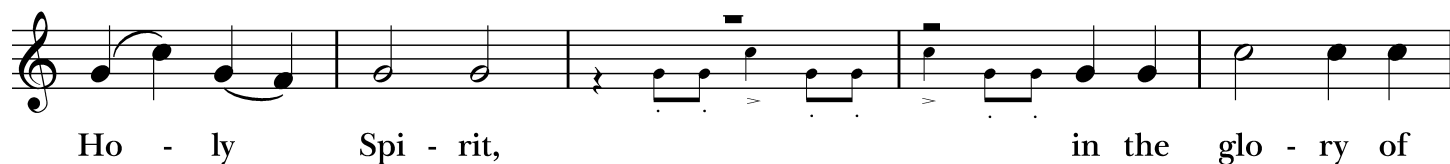
ceive our prayer. 6. For



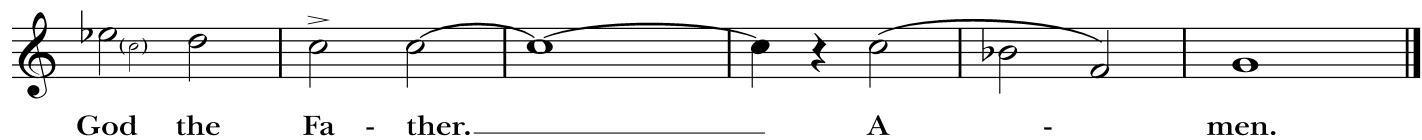
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Response

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meu

My praise is of God in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

For sovereignty belongs to the LORD; *

God rules over the nations.

To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for God;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that God has done.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are most comfortable

Sequence Hymn #529

In Christ There is no East or West

Unison or harmony

The musical score is written for unison or harmony. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The first system covers measures 1-2, the second system covers measures 3-4, and the third system covers measures 5-6. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in
2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-
3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

3
him no South or North, but one great fel - low -
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

6
ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Hymnal 1982 529

Words: John Oserthum, (1872-1941), alt.

Music (McKEE, CM): Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated

The Sermon *The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

A time of silence following the sermon.

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

**People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the
prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers of the People

Today we say Alleluia, for what was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us with all confidence bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of resurrection. Give all God's people hope; for love has triumphed:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

In this season which proclaims hope to all the world, may we commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the human family so that wars and hunger shall be no more.

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whom society shames and in whom we deny the image of God, that they may feel seen and loved:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

For all who have need of the gift of new hope and new life; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; and for all of those listed on our Parish Prayer List.

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

May this community here gathered have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

May all who have died be received at your heavenly banquet and may we be one in faith with all of them, for our life is hid with Christ in God:

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

Presider: Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your love and justice becomes the way of all people. **Amen.**

The Peace

✧ "The Peace" is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, "Peace be with you." "The Peace" may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God's house model what we are called to do in the world.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory

With a Voice of Singing

Shaw

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP page 367

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb. By his death he has destroyed death, and by rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Now is the time to stand or kneel as you prefer

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 his mother, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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.

e 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, reconcile all peoples to your grace and love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with our Patron, Paul, and 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our father in heaven

hallowed be your Name,

Your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in Heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil,

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...

God's holy food for God's holy people.

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

In one kind--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.

In two kinds--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice. Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Communion Music

Prayer of Saint Gregory

Hovhanness

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray,

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.

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable

The Blessing

When the table is set, **alleluia!**

When the bread is broken, **alleluia!**

When the hungry are fed, **alleluia!**

When peace is celebrated, **alleluia!**

When communities are brought together, **alleluia!**

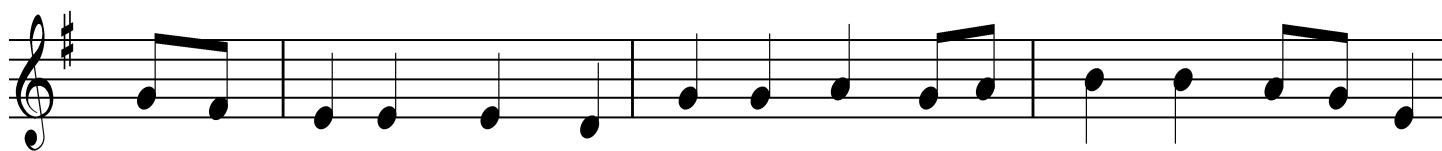
When neighbors love one other, **alleluia!**

When the stone is rolled away and the tomb is empty, **alleluia!**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #344

Lord Dismiss us with Thy Blessing



1 O Je - sus, crowned with all re - nown, since thou the earth hast
2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be
3 that we may feed the poor a - right, and, gath - ering round thy



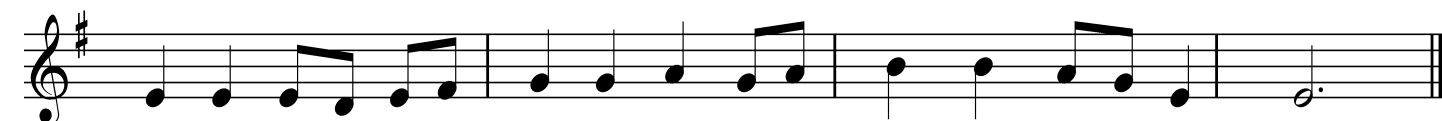
trod, thou reign - est and by thee come down hence -
given; all fos - tering power, all in - fluence sweet, breathe
throne, here, in the ho - ly an - gels' sight, re -



forth the gifts of God. Thine is the health and
from the bount - eous heaven. At - tem - per fair with
pay thee of thine own: That we may praise thee



thine the wealth that in our halls a - bound, and
gen - tle air the sun - shine and the rain, that
all our days, and with the Fa - ther's Name, and



thine the beau - ty and the joy with which the years are crowned.
kind - ly earth with time - ly birth may yield her fruits a - gain:
with the Ho - ly Spi - rit's gifts, the Sa - vior's love pro - claim.

Words: Edward White Benson (1829-1896), alt. Music: *Kingsfold*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth rejoicing in the name of the risen Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Trumpet Song

Smith

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Short-term

Dick Sloop, Buddy Forester, Jeff Crutchfield

Long-term

Bev Cook, Beckie Mullins, Chris Privette, Ridley Martin and Family, Dennis Johnson, Jacqui Quick, Craig Freas, Emily Asel, Hannah Gray, Mary Iva Gray, Don Dorsten, Aletha Johnson, Hannah Everson, Mike Orlando, Steve Jackson, Ryan Marlow, Dot Beamon, Ken Asel, Julius Parks & Family

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code, or by contacting the office





April 29—Jonathan Norman

April 30—Teri Canter

April 30—Stella Brockner

May 01—Claude Faw

May 02—Beverly Cook

May 04—Dot Beamon

May 04—Carol Canter

May 03—Bill & Ruth Harris



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mike Southwell, Mary Southwell

Reader: Jeri Martin

**Acolytes: Drew Mayberry, Amelia Minick, Matthew
Minick**

Usher: David McNeill



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

St. Paul's Vestry

2024/2025

Carol Canter
Joe Fesperman, *Sr. Warden*
Gwen Temple

2025/2026

Doug Merritt, *Jr. Warden*
Ruth Harris
Julie Koch

2026/2027

Tana Myers
Scott Jessee

Bill Harris, *Secretary*
Drew Mayberry *Treasurer*
The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org
Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*
Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*
Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*
Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*