

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 3, 2026**

**10:30 A.M 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 weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto: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](http://www.stpaulwilkesboro.org)

E-mail: [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org)

**Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800**

**ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:**



# The Gathering

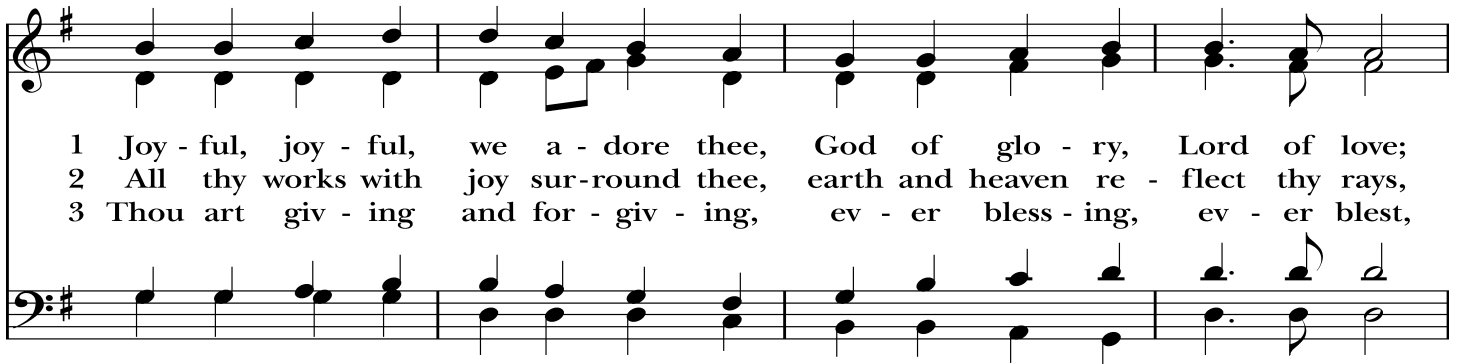
Prelude

Andante

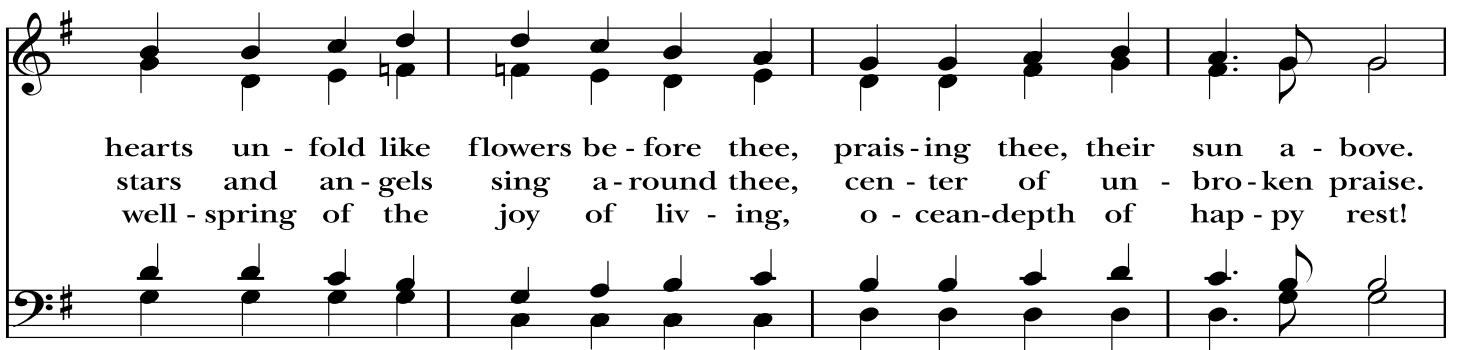
Camille Saint-Saens

## Welcome and Announcements

### Processional Hymn #376 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



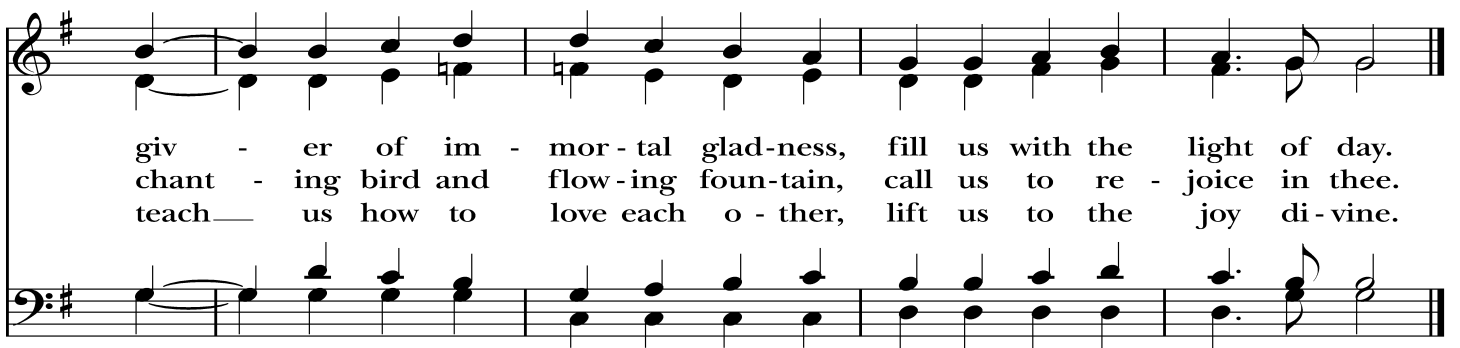
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia, Christ is risen.

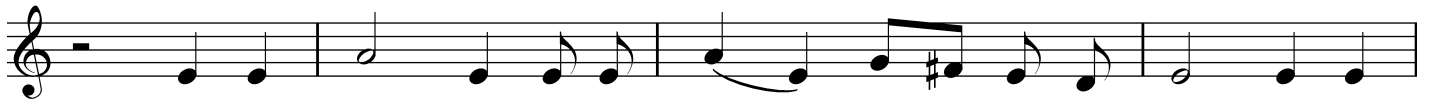
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider Let us pray:

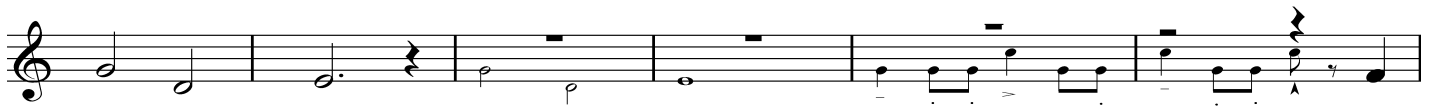
**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

### *In te, Domine, speravi*

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
**deliver me in your righteousness.**

Incline your ear to me; \*  
**make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
**for you are my tower of strength.**

Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
**for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.**

My times are in your hand; \*  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
**and in your loving-kindness save me.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,  
and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

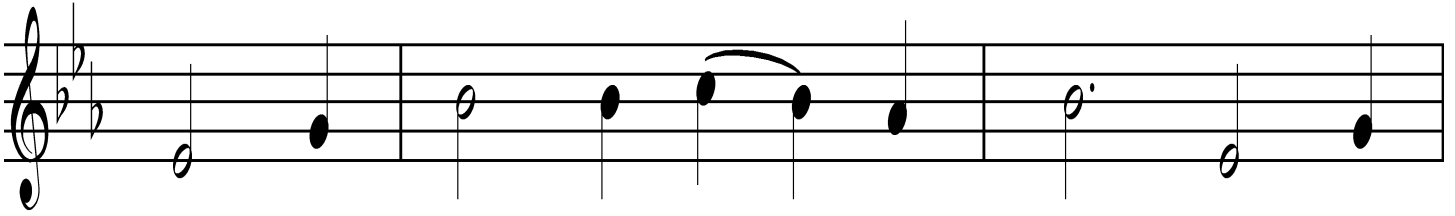
Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

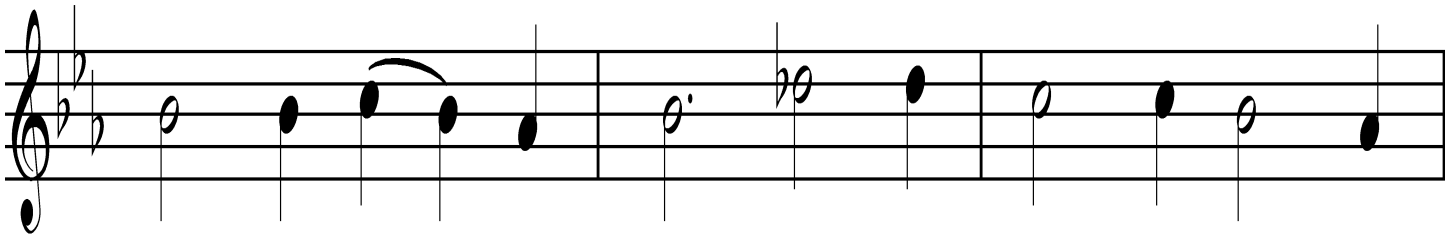
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are most comfortable.*

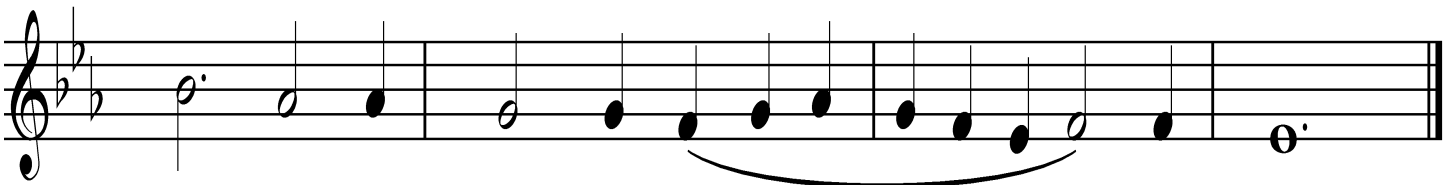
Sequence Hymn #487 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a  
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a  
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.  
length; such a strength as makes \_\_\_\_\_ his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys \_\_\_\_\_ in love.

*Please stand as you are most comfortable.*

## **The Gospel**

**John 14:1-14**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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.*

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that  
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -  
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and  
fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly  
in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for  
died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was  
sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of  
raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God  
break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
right hand. He will come to judge and save.  
last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

## Prayers of the People

Gracious and Holy God,  
joining with all your creatures great and small  
we thank you for your bounty and your goodness;  
for in the abundance of land and ocean,  
the cycles of the seasons,  
and the wonders of each creature,  
you reveal your generosity.

Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy,  
that we may honor each gift as you cherish your creation,  
and praise you in all times and all places.

That all the world may know your grace and truth:

**We pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.**

That we may offer to you our worship and praise along with the work of our hands, serving  
the needs of people we know well and those we know not at all:

**We pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.**

That we may strive for the well-being of all creation, honoring you in our care for your natu-  
ral world.

**We pray in gratitude to you, O Lord.**

That in the pleasures and pains of life,  
we may know the love of Christ and be compassionate:

**We pray in gratitude to you, O Lord.**

That we may always and everywhere give thanks to you, O God,  
for setting us at task that both challenge and delight us:

**We pray in gratitude to you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit,  
in communion with all peoples of the earth,  
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:

**We pray in gratitude to you, O Lord.**

Presider: O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of your Spirit lift us to your presence where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

**Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving**

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**Sing Praise to the Lord**

*arr. Baker*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are most comfortable. Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP page 372*

*Sing.*

**Presider and People:** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**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.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

In the multitude of your saints you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

### S-125

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

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in participation with you, our Creator, we might love and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of his mother Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without fear. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your hope for an end to violence, he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who lived and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with Mary, the mother of Jesus, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, our Patron Saint, Paul, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the love of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem

### Hymn #333 Now the silence, now the peace

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty  
hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea  
Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing  
Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing  
Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful  
cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs  
Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's  
vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - an - y  
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

## The Invitation to Communion

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

People: **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.

## 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.**

## 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 #518 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

(stanzas 1, 2 and 4)

*Descant*

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1856), alt. Music: *Westminster Abbey*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt; desc. James Gillespie (b. 1929). Descant by permission of Church Society, London.

## 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

**Pastoral Symphony**

*Handel*



Altar Flowers Given Today by Ken  
& Devie Asel in memory of their  
daughter Kadie Plummer.



## PRAYER LIST

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

### **Short-term**

Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

### **Long-term**

Dave Walsh, Michael Morrison, Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Dot Beamon, Da'Shon Horton, Rose Andrews

### **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 below, or by contacting the office.**





May 4th—Dot Beamon

May 4th—Carol M. Canter

May 8th—Drew Mayberry

May 8th—Lauren Waterhouse

May 3rd—Bill & Ruth Harris

May 4th—Jim & Shelia  
Burch



**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild: Mike & Mary Southwell, Jim & Shelia Burch**

**Reader: Steve Reid**

**Acolytes: David Shupe, Linda Schneider**

**Usher: Ryan Minick**

**Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley**

**Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody**

**Vestry Lock-Up for May: Scott Jessee**



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

**St. Paul's Vestry 2026**

**Jeff Beard**

**Jim Burch, Jr. Warden**

**Chuck Forester**

**Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden**

**Tana Myers**

**Diane Peabody**

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Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*  
*rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org*

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*  
*office@stpaulwilkesboro.org*

Dean Carlton, *Sexton*