

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



~ Washing Feet, by He Qi, China.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

6:00 PM 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 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

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

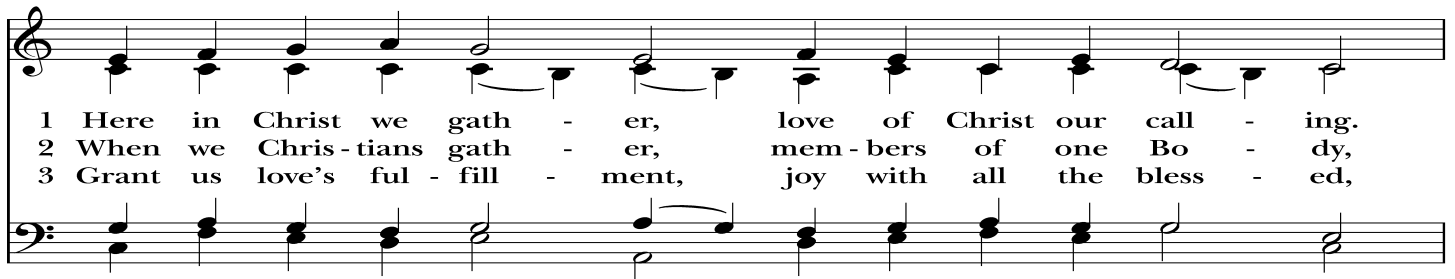
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Processional Hymn #577 God is Love and Where True Love Is

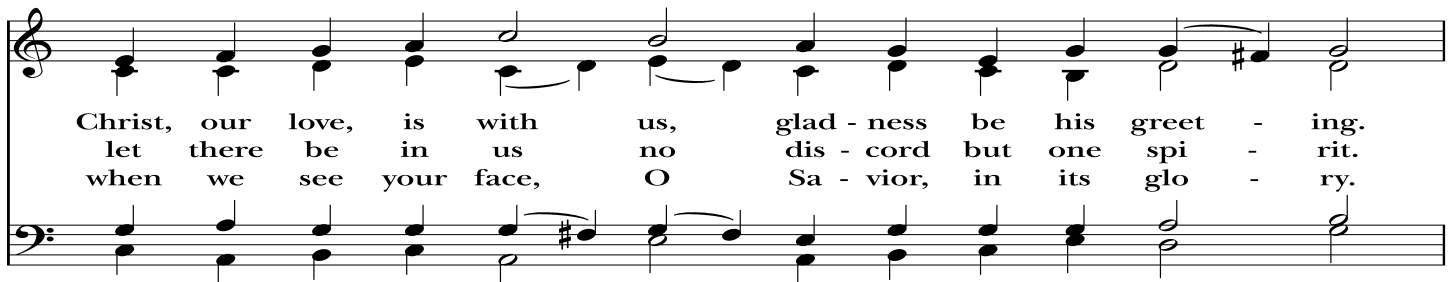
Refrain



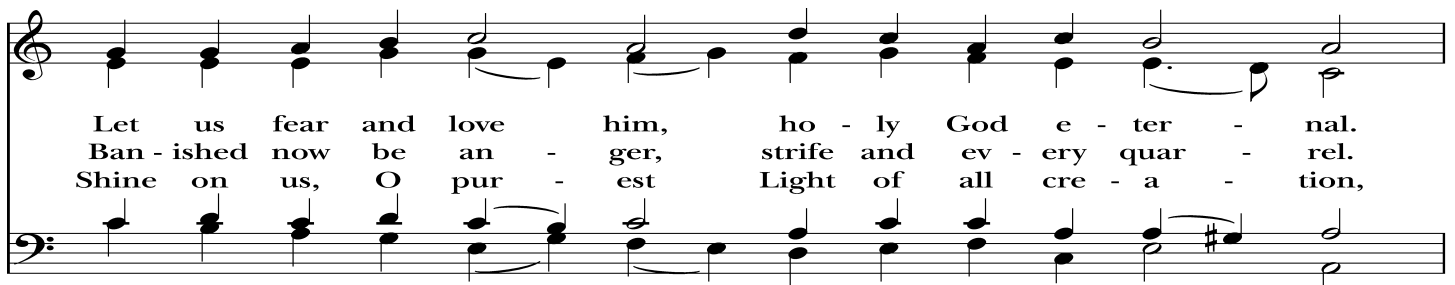
God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.



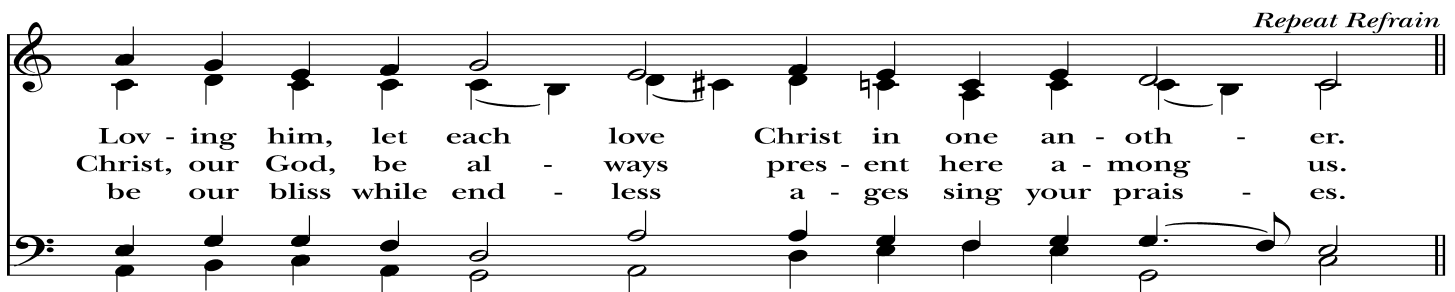
1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, mem - bers of one Bo - dy,
3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,



Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.



Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,



Repeat Refrain
Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.**

Chant 2 Times Sung By All

*Paths intertwining, shadow and light,
All is touched by grace; be not afraid.*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Collect

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because God has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things God has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all God's people,

In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #676 Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to make the wound - ed
whole, there is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to
heal the sin - sick soul. soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you

think my work's in vain, but then the Ho - ly
can - not pray like Paul, you can tell the love of

Repeat Refrain

Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.
Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Balm in Gilead*, Afro-American spiritual; acc. David Hurd (b. 1950).

The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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

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

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the religious authorities so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

A time of silence follows the sermon.

The Holy Command: Washing One Another's Feet and Hands

Presider Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of loving service. He taught us that strength and growth in the kingdom of God come not by power, authority, oppression, or even miracle, but by such loving, compassionate service. On this sacred night, as we contemplate such service, we will wash each other's feet or hands. We hold fast to the vulnerability of washing one another's feet or one another's hands, bringing this loving act of service into modern custom. Therefore, whichever you choose, we are all invited, as a sign and sharing of our loving participation in Christ, to come forward, that we may follow the example of Jesus, remembering the new commandment that he gave this night, "Love one another as I have loved you. By this the world will know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Hymn #602 Jesu, Jesu

Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their

- 2 Neigh-bors are rich___ and poor, neigh-bors are black___ and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
love. All___ are neigh-bors to us and you.
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

Words: Ghanaian; tr. Thomas Colvin (b. 1925), alt. Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Chereponi [Jesu, Jesu]*, Ghanaian folk song, adapt. Thomas Colvin (b. 1925). Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Bob Moore (21st century)

Ubi caritas, et amor,

Deus ibi est.

Where there is charity, where there is love,

God is there.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Create in us a clean heart, O God. and put a new and right Spirit within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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 all people, friend and enemy, and serve the common good. We pray especially for the health of the human family and for all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation; inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

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.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Presider: O God, you know our need of your grace; find us where we need healing, inspire us to deeper compassion so that we might share your love and hope for our world. **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.*

Peace be with you.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When Jesus Wept

William Billings (1746-1800)

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound.

When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 2, pgs. 60-61

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.

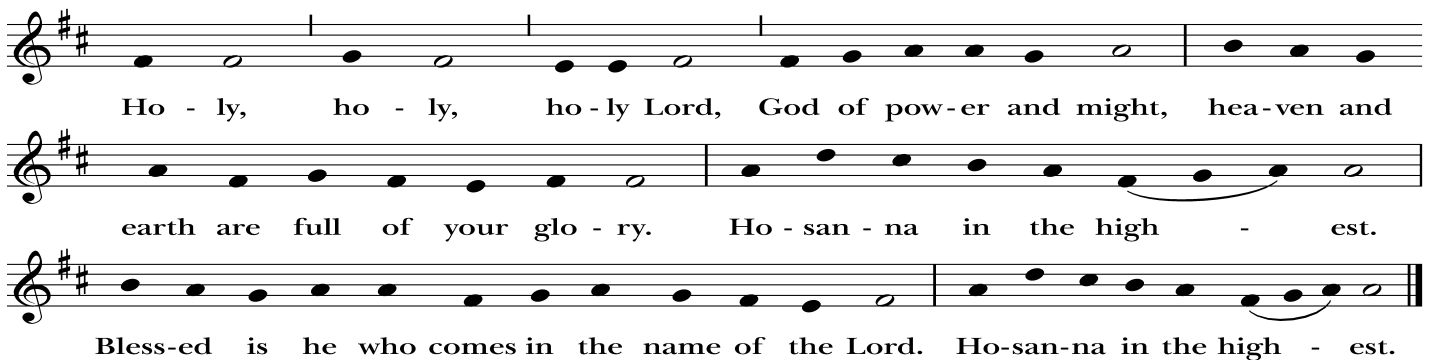
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a good mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



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.

Presider *continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the gift of giving his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, as he lived, as he died, and as he rose, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, 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

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.

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.

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.

Stripping and Washing of the Altar

“Tarry here” is read. Afterward, altar linens, candles and decorations are all removed, as Psalm 22 is chanted, recalling the stripping of Christ. The altar will then be washed, and the sanctuary will remain bare until Easter .

Presider Tarry here, and watch with me.
Blood and body proffered now;
to satisfy the peoples will.
From warmth and comfort driven now,
to that most bitter cup.

People And as he pled, we slept.

Presider Tarry here, and watch with me.
Bowed by sin yet unredeemed,
in sorrow even unto death.
They will, not mine, be done this night.
In agony he prayed.

People And as he bled, we slept.

Presider Tarry here, and watch with me.
Friends, as stone’s throw distance kept;
succor sought by angels given.
A kiss, betrayal, and a cross.
The hour is at hand.

People And as it fled, we slept.

Deus, deus meus

Chanted by Nancy Scroggs and Russ Stinson

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? **

and are so far from my cry

and from the words of my distress?

*O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; **

by night as well, but I find no rest.

*Yet you are the Holy One, **

enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

*Our forefathers put their trust in you; **

they trusted, and you delivered them.

*They cried out to you and were delivered; **

they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

*But as for me, I am a worm and no man, **

scorned by all and despised by the people.

*All who see me laugh me to scorn; **

they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

*"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; **

let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

*Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, **

and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

*I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; **

you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

*Be not far from me, for trouble is near, **

and there is none to help.

*Many young bulls encircle me; **

strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

*They open wide their jaws at me, **

like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water;

*all my bones are out of joint; **

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;

*my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; **

and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Packs of dogs close me in,

*and gangs of evildoers circle around me; **

they pierce my hands and my feet;

I can count all my bones.

*They stare and gloat over me; **

they divide my garments among them;

they cast lots for my clothing.

*Be not far away, O LORD; **

you are my strength; hasten to help me.

*Save me from the sword, **

my life from the power of the dog.

*Save me from the lion's mouth, **

my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

*I will declare your Name to my brethren; **

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

*Praise the LORD, you that fear him; **

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;

all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

*neither does he hide his face from them; **

but when they cry to him he hears them.

*My praise is of him 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 him.

*For kingship belongs to the LORD; **

he rules over the nations.

*To him 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 him;

*my descendants shall serve him; **

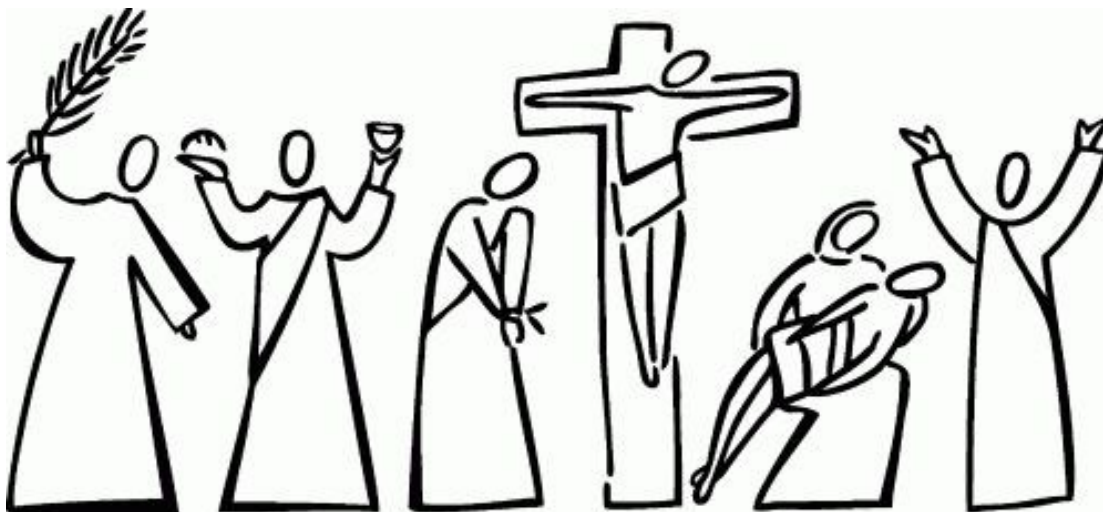
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

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

the saving deeds that he has done.

Depart in silence.

All who wish may take time to remain and pray.



Please join us during the upcoming Holy Week Events:

Good Friday, April 3rd **6:00 PM**

Easter Sunrise Service, April 5th **6:45 AM**

Easter Service, April 5th **9:30 AM**

Easter Reception, April 5th

(The Good Friday and Easter Service will be in the Church. The Easter Sunrise Service is in the Wilkes Pavilion. The Easter Reception will be in the Commons at the conclusion of the 9:30 service.)

PRAYER LIST

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

Short-term

Ray Jameson, Rick Morat, Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

Michael Morrison, Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Kaye Hall, 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.





April 2nd—Patrick Zander

No Anniversaries.



Serving Today

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

Reader: Mary Southwell

Acolyte: Linda Schneider

Usher: Ryan Minick

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for April: Diane Peabody



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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Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*
office@stpaulwilkesboro.org
Dean Carlton, *Sexton*