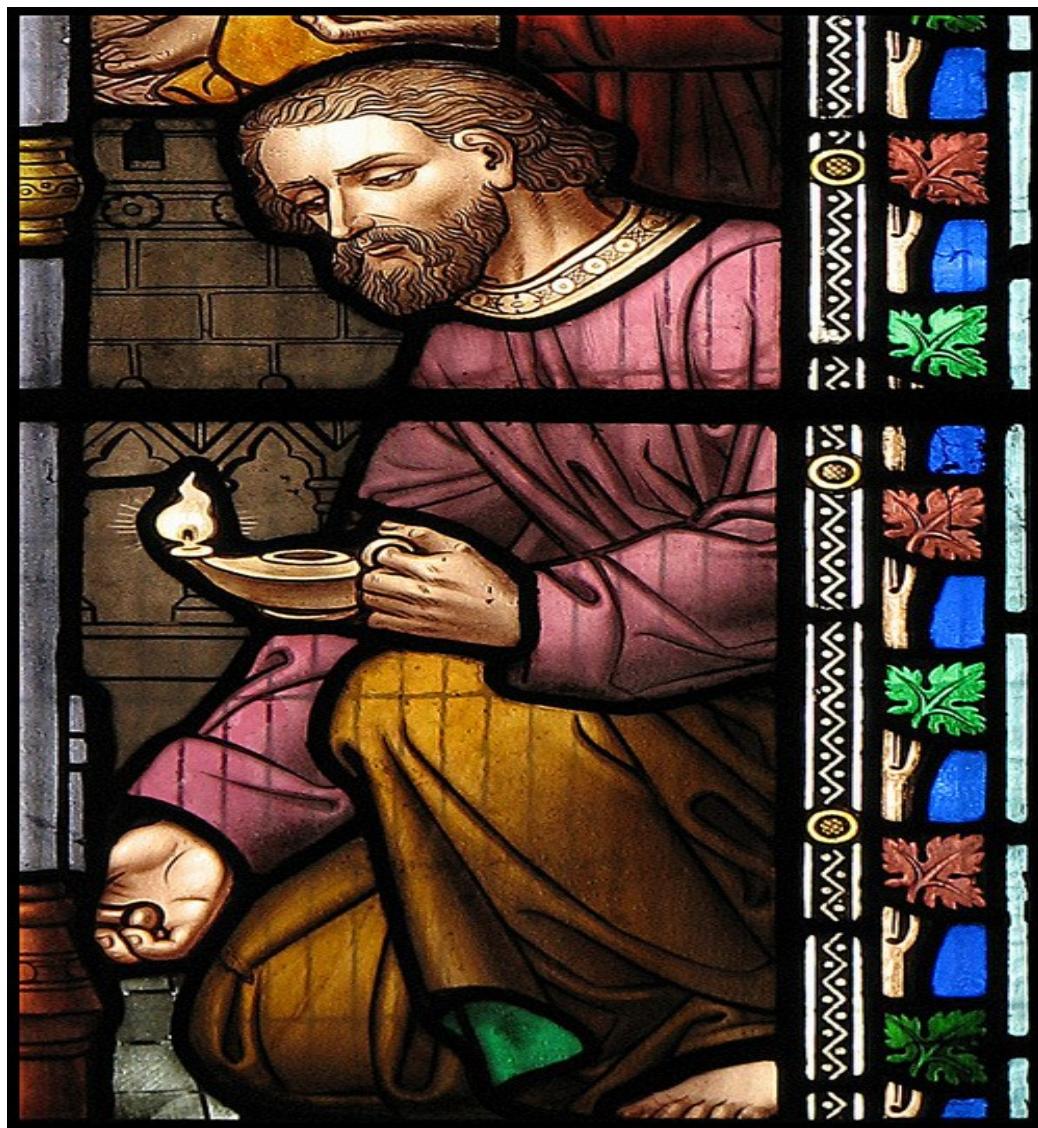


SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8th 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 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

O Light of Light

Cary Ratcliff (b. 1953)

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Processional Hymn #126 The People Who in Darkness Walked

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

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

Words: John Morison (1749-1798), alt.; para. of Isaiah 9:2-7. Music: *Dundee*, melody *The CL Psalms of Davis*, 1615; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (1592-1635?), alt.

The Gathering
Welcome and Announcements

Opening Acclamation

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

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Gloria S-280

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: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 112:1-9, (10)

Beatus vir

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in God's commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.]

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

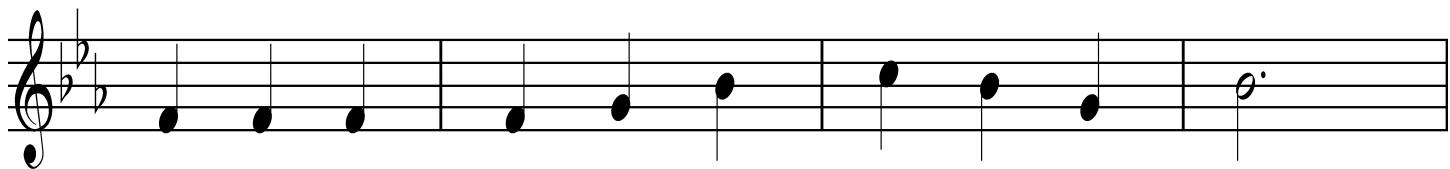
Please stand as you are most comfortable.

SEQUENCE HYMN #488 Be Thou My Vision



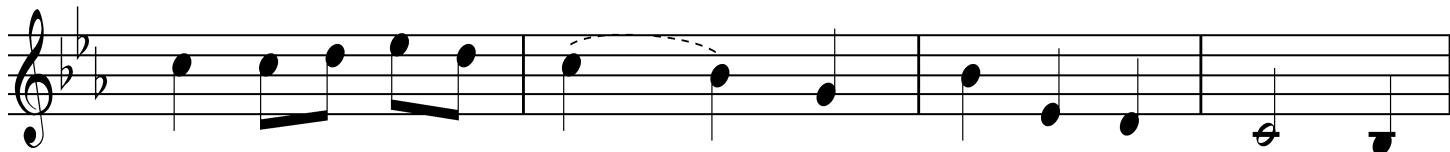
1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of heaven, when victory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—

I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,

thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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 Decalogue

Presider: Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Love the lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: love your neighbor as yourself.”

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

May it be so.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

May it be so.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

May it be so.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

May it be so.

Honor your father and your mother.

May it be so.

You shall not commit murder.

May it be so.

You shall not commit adultery.

May it be so.

You shall not steal.

May it be so.

You shall not be a false witness.

May it be so.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

May it be so.

Presider: Let the great love to which God calls us dwell within us and may that same love guide us into hope, joy and peace. **Amen.**

Please stand or kneel as desired.

Prayers of the People

Ever living and ever loving God,
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

Come, Holy Spirit,
take and transform our societies—
that broken people find healing;
that lonely people find love;
that bitter people find peace;
that fearful people find hope;
that angry people find grace.

Make us instruments of your healing

Come, Holy Spirit,
take our world's leaders and governments and bring repentance—
that communication can be open;
that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate;
that a hunger for justice heals the wounds caused by sanctioned violence.

Make us instruments of your hope.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill your church—
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;
that prayers will change our minds
instead of trying to get you to change yours;
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.

May we choose the fast that you choose.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill our lives with your presence—
so that more and more every day,
all that we do and say and hope
will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,
to the glory of your name.

May our lives reflect your call for courage.

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World, grant us courage to be reflections of your Love, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all hostilities, especially those perpetrated in your name would end. **Amen.**

— *Adapted from Prayers, Book of Common Worship U.K*

Remain standing or kneeling as desired.

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable

New Zealand Prayer Book

God has promised forgiveness
as a gift of freedom and grace.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Moment of silence observed.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

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

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob (from *Christus*)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*There shall a star come out of Jacob,
And a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation.
Thy word, o Lord, radiance darting,
Truth imparting, gives salvation,
Thine be praise and adoration!*

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP page 367

Sing

Presider *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. A-men.*

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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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-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.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Presider *continues*

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 Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. 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, 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.

We 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

(S-154)

This setting is not used in Lent.



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.

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

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.

Please stand or kneel as desired.

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

May you, in God's holy mercy, increase in love for one another;
May you follow Christ Jesus and learn how to live in God's ways;
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness, as you move out into this beautiful and fractured world. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please rise as comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #381 Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness
(stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at thy speak - ing.
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and.
3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own.
4 God the Fa-ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and.

it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,

while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le -
breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le -
and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le -
praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho-ly Spi-rit, Light-Re -

lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor-tals, an-gels,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.

Words: Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976). From *Worship Supplement*. Copyright © 1969, Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Music: *Ton-y Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

attr. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please note that neither Mother Stephanie nor St. Paul's will ever send out an e-mail or text communication requesting money, gift cards, etc. If you receive any suspicious communications like this, please ignore and delete these communications. Contact the Parish Office at any time with questions or concerns regarding possible scams.

PRAYER LIST

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

Short-term

Doug Merritt. Shannon Ryan, The Albalil Family, Jamie Tate, Rose Andrews

Long-term

Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Kaye Hall, Dot Beamon, Da'Shon Horton

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.





February 11th—Tyler Icenhouse

No anniversaries this week.



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Pam & Drew Mayberry

Reader: Denise Sturdivant

Acolytes: Julie Koch, Drew Mayberry

Usher: Ron Myers

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley



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

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*

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Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*

office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Dean Carlton, *Sexton*