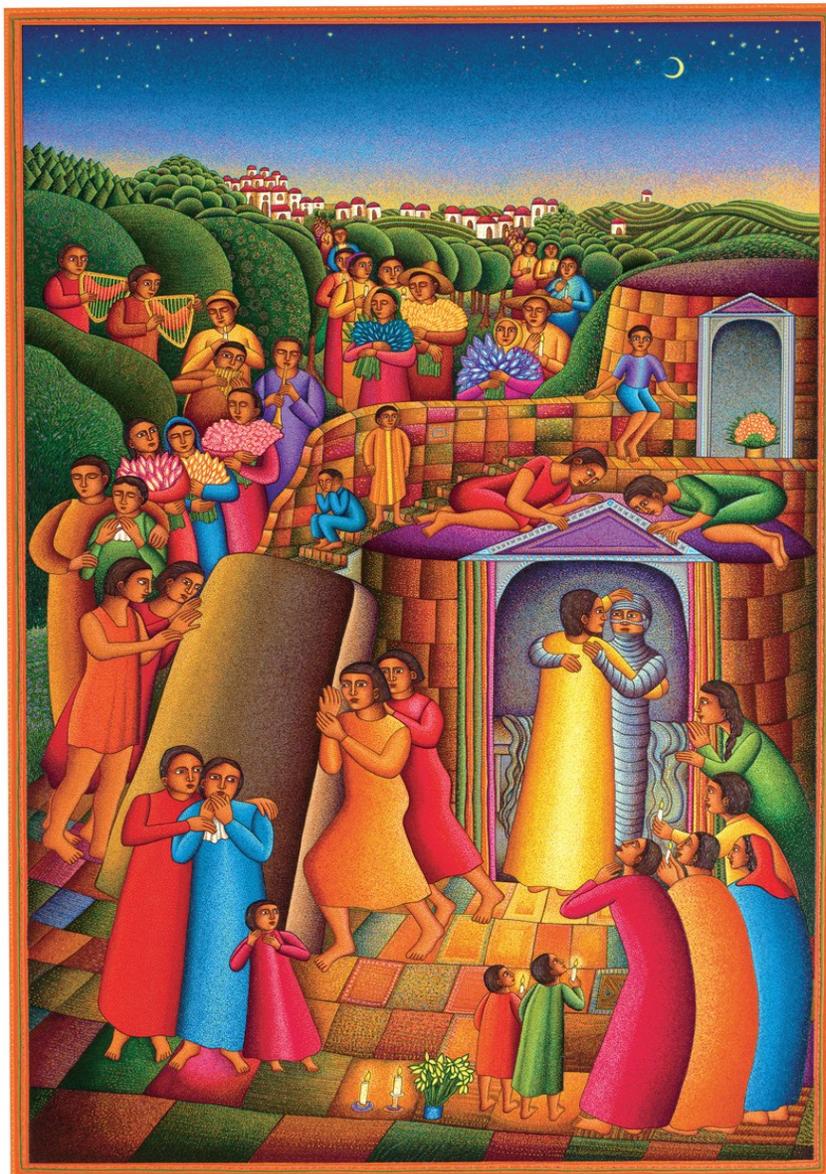


SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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

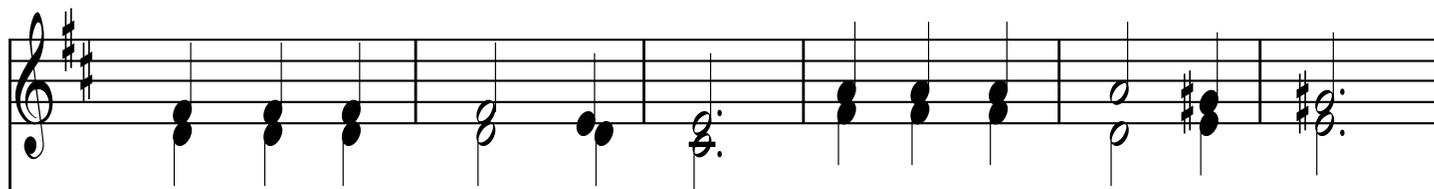
Prelude

Prelude for Lent

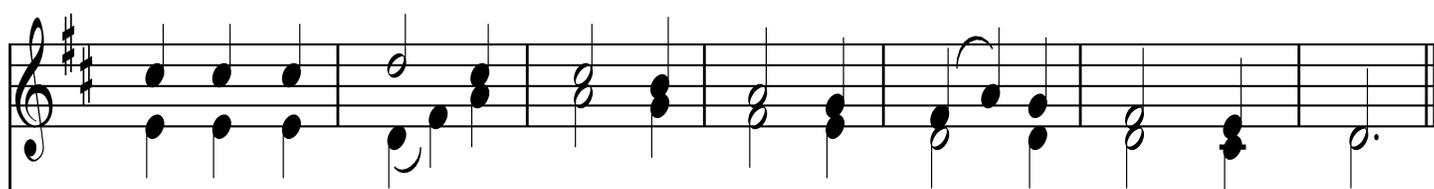
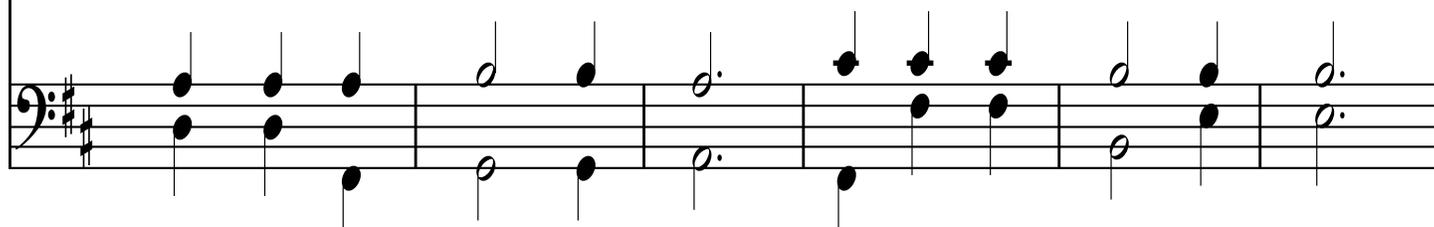
Brian Solomon (20th cent.)

Welcome and Announcements

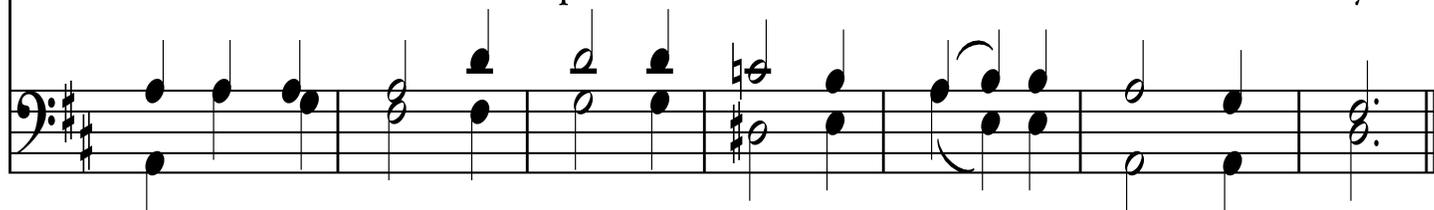
Processional Hymn #508 Breathe on me, Breath of God



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.



Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), alt. Music: *Nova Vita*, Lister R. Peace (1885-1969).

Please remain standing as you are most comfortable.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Presider: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14, 16

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable.

The New Zealand Prayer Book, page 479

Presider: In God there is always forgiveness.

**Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.**

**Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask pardon.**

Presider: God forgives us; be at peace.

Moment of silence observed.

Presider: Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is forgiveness and reconciliation for all the human race.

**We shall all be one in Christ,
one in our life together.
Praise God who has created us,
praise to God who has accepted us,
praise to God who sends us into the world. Amen.**

Remain standing or kneeling.

Bless The Lord, My Soul

(sing twice)

Bless the Lord, my soul

And bless God's holy name

Bless the Lord, my soul

Who leads me into life

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,” says the LORD.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 95

De profundis

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice; *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore you shall be loved.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits longingly; *

in God’s word is my hope.

My soul waits for the LORD,

more than watchmen for the morning, *

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
With God there is plenteous redemption, *
and God shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #512 Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

1 Come, gra - cious Spi - rit, heaven - ly Dove, with light and
 2 The light of truth to us dis - play, and make us
 3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing Way, nor let us
 4 Lead us to heaven, that we may share full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove; be thou our guard - ian,
 know and choose thy way; plant ho - ly fear in
 from his pre - cepts stray; lead us to ho - li -
 joy for ev - er there; lead us to God, our

thou our guide; o'er ev - ery thought and step pre - side.
 ev - ery heart, that we from thee may ne'er de - part.
 ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God.
 fin - al rest, to be with him for ev - er blest.

Words: Simon Browne (1680-1732), alt. Music: Mendon, melody from *Methodist Harmonist*, 1981; adapt. and harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

The Gospel

John 4:5-42

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

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the religious authorities were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many from the temple had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Temple authorities who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and those who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the people said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the people therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

The Affirmation of Faith

The New Zealand Prayer Book, page 481

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader In peace, we pray to God.

Silence

Leader Deepen our gratitude for all you have given us:
the beauty of creation, love given and received,
and the sacred calling to share your grace with
a hurting world

Silence

Leader Grant us a lively hope in your mercy and deliver
us from weariness in our struggles, from
despondency in failure, and from an
overburdened sense of unworthiness.

Silence

Leader Save us from all unwise haste, from the impatient or arrogant
retort of irritation, the taunt of sarcasm, and
from all the idle words that wound.

Silence

Leader Lead us away from strife, partisanship, and division, from
magnifying our certainties, condemning all differences,
and from building systems that unduly punish the vulnerable.

Silence

Leader Inspire those who hold authority and influence in the nations
with your vision for a compassionate world and give them the
wisdom and humility to work for the common
good and dignity of all people.

Silence

Leader Give to the leaders of the Church, the faithfulness of learners
and the courage of believers and rescue us all from the easy
arrogance that seeks wisdom in our own opinions and
salvation through our own efforts

Silence

Leader Comfort with your healing grace all those who suffer in body and spirit; both those whose suffering is clear to us and all those whose suffering is hidden; especially those suffering from cognitive decline, and loneliness. I invite your additional prayers at this time either silently or aloud.

Silence

Leader We pray for all who have died.
Let Light perpetual shine upon them.

Silence

Presider O Lord our God, we know that you accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, you look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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

Offertory Anthem

I Hear the Voice of Jesus Say
(for text, see Hymn #692)

Thomas Tallis (1685-1750)

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 1, pgs. 57-59

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. 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.**

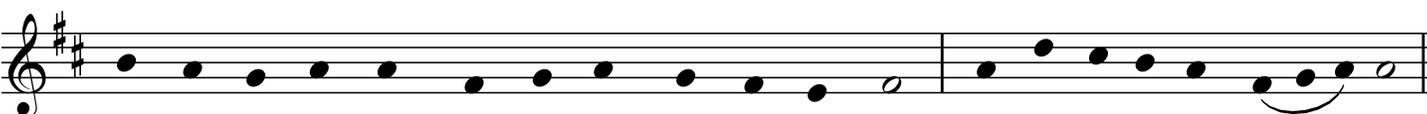
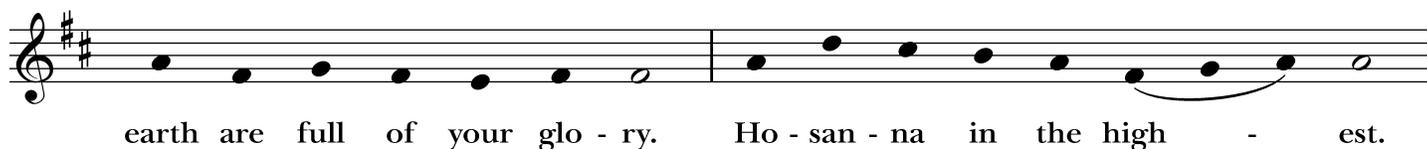
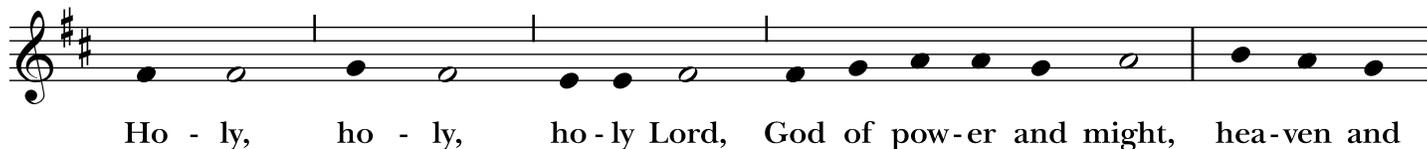
Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus—S124

Holy, holy, holy



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*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his life, death, and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of all of your children that with our Patron, Paul, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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

Taste and See

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/8. The lyrics are written below the notes.

of the Lord. — O Taste and see. Taste and

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/8. The lyrics are written below the notes.

see the good - ness of the Lord, — of the Lord. Fine

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/8. The lyrics are written below the notes. The word "Fine" is written at the end of the system.

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 able.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

People: Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you with an everlasting love. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

~Saint Clare

Recessional Hymn #635 If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Unison or harmony

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt. Music: *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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 Moretz, 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.





March 22nd—Alison Collins
March 23rd—Sherry Griffith
March 23rd—Johnny Johnson
March 26th—Jacob Adams

No anniversaries this week.



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Pam Mayberry, Drew Mayberry

Reader: Cindy Smith

Acolytes: Linda Schneider, Drew Mayberry

Usher: David McNeill

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for March: 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

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*