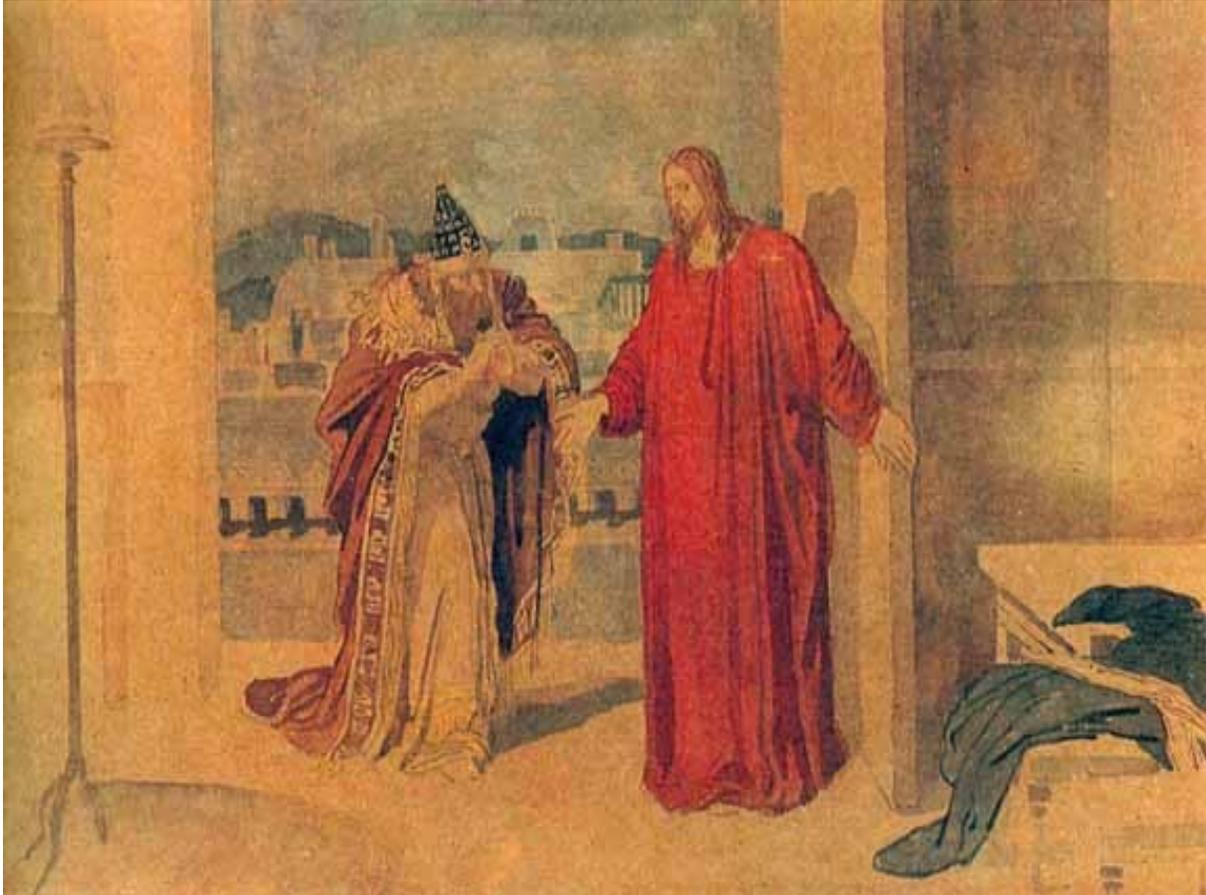


SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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

As Pants the Heart

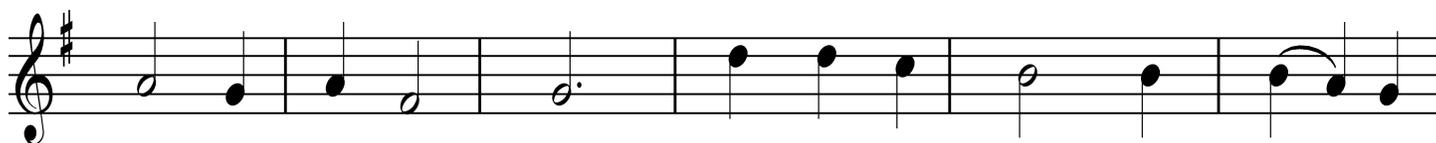
J. Robert Powell (20th cent.)

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #148 Creator of the Earth and Skies



1 Cre - a - tor of the earth and skies, to whom the
2 We have not known you: to the skies our mon - u -
3 We have not loved you: far and wide the wreck-age
4 For this, our fool - ish con - fi - dence, our pride of
5 Teach us to know and love you, Lord, and hum - bly



1 words of life be - long, grant us your truth to make us
2 ments of fol - ly soar, and all our self - wrought mis - er -
3 of our ha - tred spreads, and e - vils wrought by hu - man
4 know-ledge and our sin, we come to you in pen - i -
5 fol - low in your way. Speak to our souls the quick - ening



1 wise; grant us your power to make us strong.
2 ies have made us trust our - selves the more.
3 pride re - coil on un - re - pent - ant heads.
4 tence; in us the work of grace be - gin.
5 word, and turn our dark - ness in - to day.

Words: David W. Hughes (1911-1967), alt. By permission of J. Donald P Hughs. Music: *Uffingham*, melody and bass Jeremiah Clarke (1670-1707), alt.; harm. *Songs for Liturgy and More Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, 1971.

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: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God 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. There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

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.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Levavi oculos

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved *
and God who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, the one who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The LORD watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is God who shall keep you safe.

The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #687 A Mighty Fortress is Our God



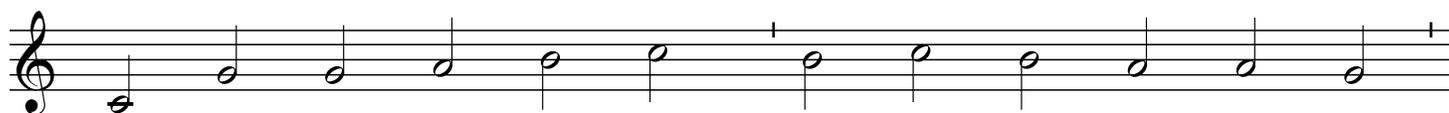
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to



nev - er fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
 would be los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
 to un - do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
 them, a - bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
 the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?
 his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
 through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546); tr. Frederic Henry Hedge (1805-1890); based on Psalm 46. Music: *Ein feste Burg*, melody Martin Luther (1483-1546); harm. Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612), alt.

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

The Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him.

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able EOW, Eucharistic Prayer 1, pgs. 57-59

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 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.

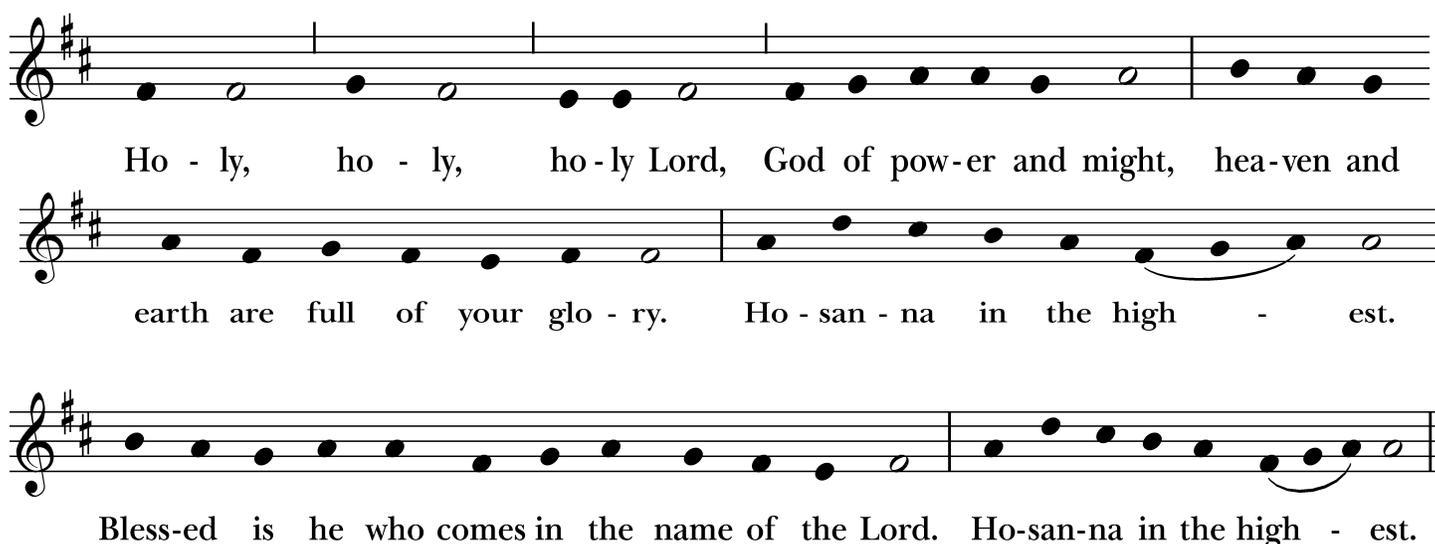
Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

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



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*

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 with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/2 time signature. It contains a melody with notes corresponding to the lyrics. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness".

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

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. It features a long note with a fermata over the word "Lord" in the upper staff. The lyrics are: "of the Lord. — O Taste and see. Taste and".

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

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It includes a fermata over the word "Lord" in the upper staff. The lyrics are: "see the good - ness of the Lord, — of the Lord." The word "Fine" is written at the end of the system. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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.

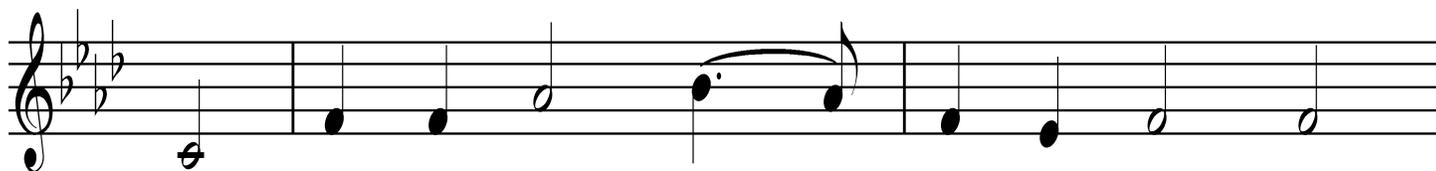
Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

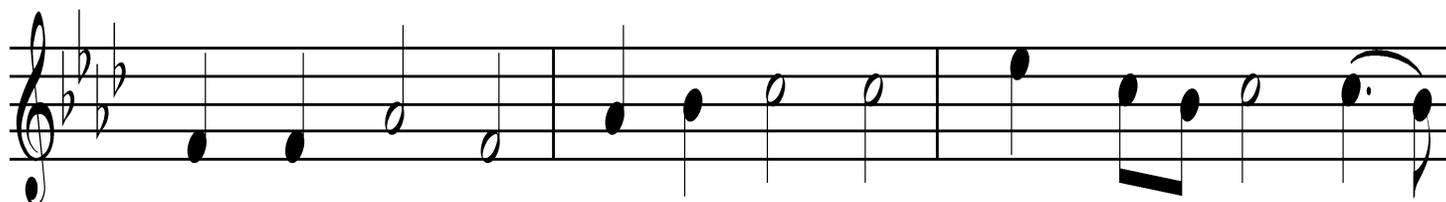
Presider: Let us pray.

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.

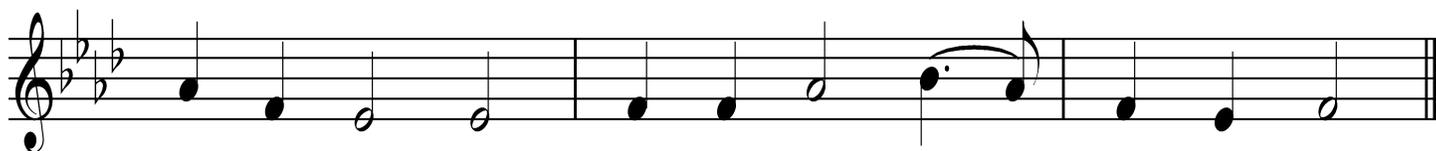
Recessional Hymn #675 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

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

Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

trad. German

PRAYER LIST

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

Short-term

Kaye Hall, 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 7th—Bonnie Merritt
March 7th—Stephanie E. Parker

March 2nd—John & Sandra
Oliver



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mary Southwell, Mike Southwell

Reader: Gwen Temple

Acolytes: David Shupe, Linda Schneider

Usher: Ryan Minick

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

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*
Dean Carlton, *Sexton*