

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

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

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #410 Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven

Unison or harmony

1 Praise, my soul, the King of hea - ven; to his feet thy tri - bute bring;
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple in dis - tress;
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing:
praise him still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless:
in his hand he gen - tly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Descant for use with unison singing

4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; ye be - hold him face to face;

sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise — with us the God of grace.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971).
Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Let us pray:

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

Gloria S-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 - mighty 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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel.

Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me,
and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the LORD
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my land,
and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal,
and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD,
and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.
Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
says the LORD,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Exultate Deo

Sing with joy to God our strength *
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, *
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.

Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!

I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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 #380 From All That Dwell Below The Skies

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
 2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
 *3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
 truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - every land, by ev - every tongue!
 shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).

The Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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 Baptismal Covenant

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

**People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the
prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all
people, and respect the dignity of every human
being?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers of the People

Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

We pray that the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance;

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

We pray for the leaders of the Church, and for the leaders of nations, that we, with them, may discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives.

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

We pray that your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, may endure and flourish as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet.

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

We pray for our families, our communal life and our wider communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth.

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

We thank you for our natural world, that you so lovingly created and reveals your glory; help us be wise, careful, and loving caregivers of your creation.

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, and healing for all the world we pray,

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the earth.

In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy, we give thanks for our hope as a people of God, this community of faith, and our lives together that we may always rejoice in the power of your love.

Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Presider: Gracious God, with whom Jesus taught us to live intimately, by the inner workings of your Spirit, help us to embrace your truth and deepen our communion with you, give us courage to more and more be signs of your enduring love. This we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP page 369

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our lord, for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Eucharistic Prayer C invites standing

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust: and we turned against one another.

Thank you for your mercy when we fall short of your hope for the human family.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his love, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them you glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sanctus*) S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music corresponds to the lyrics 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na'. The second line corresponds to 'in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music concludes with a double bar line.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer C invites remaining standing

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord, God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

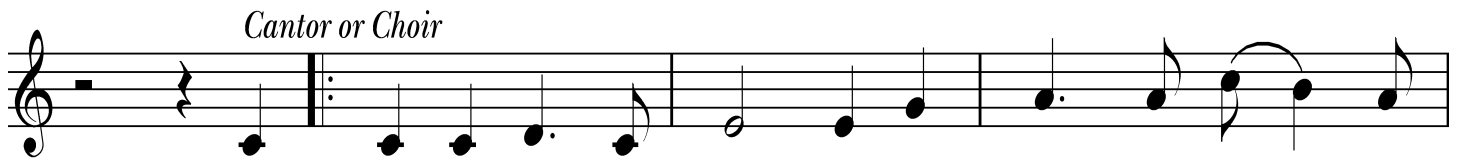
The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

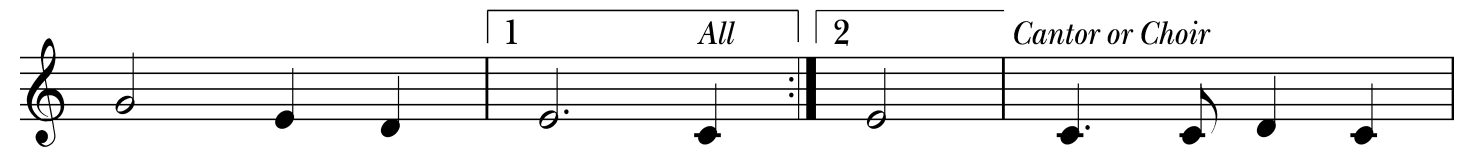
S-169 (My Flesh is Food Indeed)

Cantor or Choir




My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

1 *All* 2 *Cantor or Choir*




deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

All



flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My



flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

The Invitation to Communion

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

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

In one kind--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.

In two kinds--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

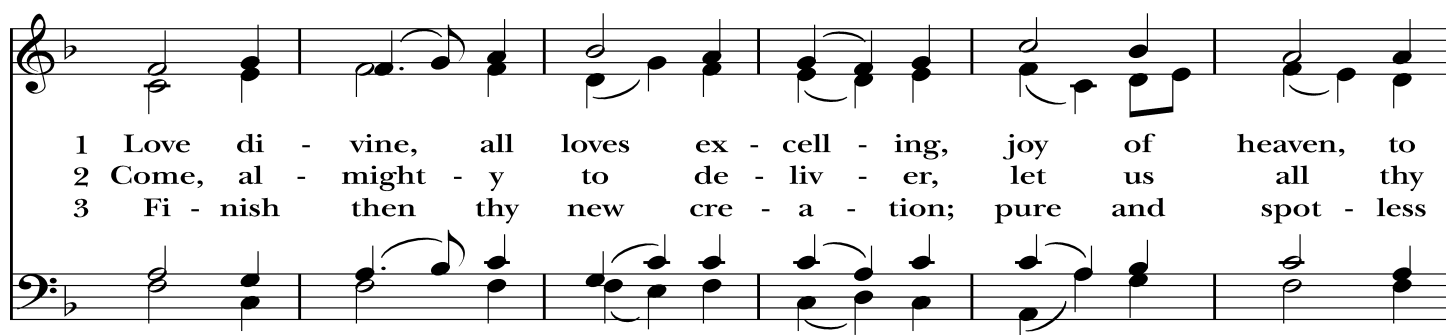
Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray,

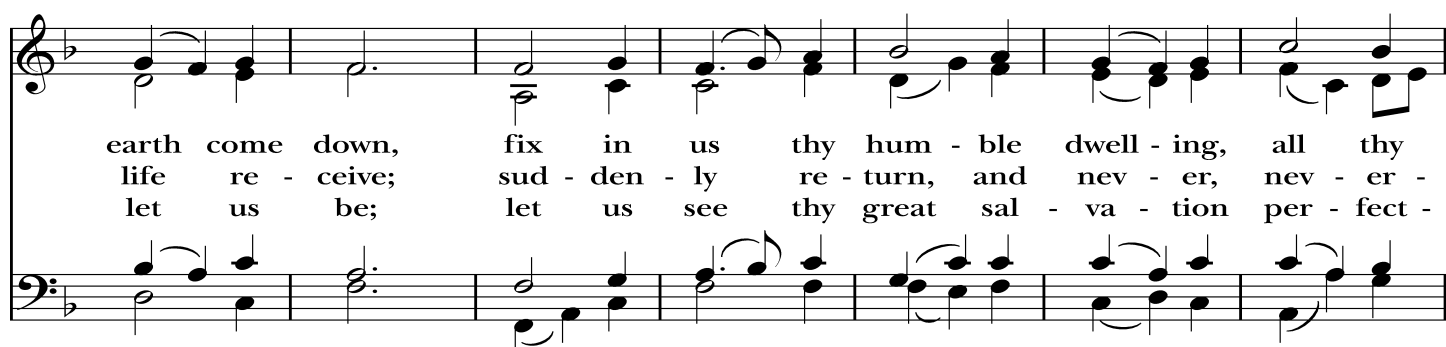
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

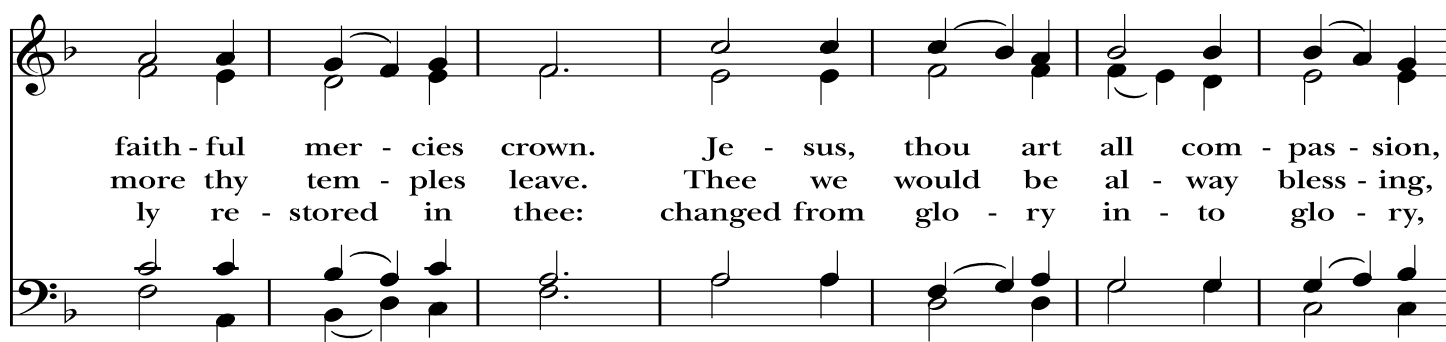
Recessional Hymn #657 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

The Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

PRAYER LIST

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

Short-term

Jan Jackson

Long-term

Jason Williams, 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.





August 31st—Christine Oliver
September 1st—Debbie Absher
September 1st—Kevin Morrow
September 1st—Cooper Morris
September 4th—Susan Dudek
September 4th—Shelia Burch
September 6th—Debbie Ferguson
September 6th—Noah Wansley

No anniversaries this week.



***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. ***

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Drew Mayberry, Pam Mayberry

Reader: Nancy Scroggs

Acolytes: Drew Mayberry, Linda Schneider

Usher: Ryan Minick

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Vestry Lock-Up for August: Jeff Beard



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

St. Paul's Vestry 2025

Jeff Beard

Chuck Forester, Jr. Warden

Ruth Harris

Julie Koch

Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden

Tana Myers

Diane Peabody

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Drew Mayberry, *Treasurer*

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

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*