St. Paul's Episcopal Church

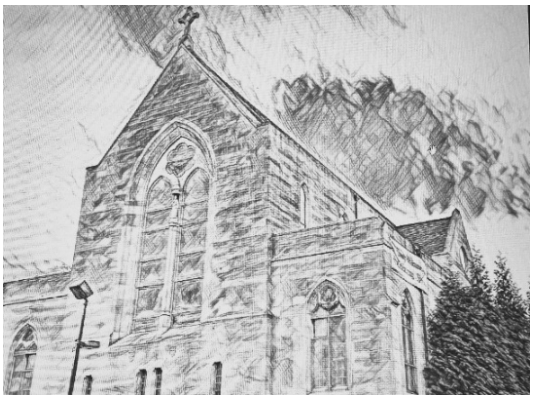
Canton, Ohio

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
Aug. 23, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286
Office hours for Week of Aug. 23: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The mission of The Episcopal Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

"Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World."

"God Loves You. No Exceptions."

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

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Prelude: *Hymn prelude on St. Denio Rosalie* (Boninghton)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God only wise* (H423)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity

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.*

Song of Praise *Spirit of God* (Skye Boat Song) (VF 53)

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Music: *Skye Boat Song*, Scottish traditional melody; arr. James Whitbourn © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 51:1-6

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[1]Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
[2]Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
[3]For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,

thanksgiving and the voice of song.
[4]Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
[5]I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
[6]Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

[1]I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
[2]I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
[3]for you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
[4]When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
[5]All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
[6]They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
[7]Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
[8]Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
[9]The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1-8

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

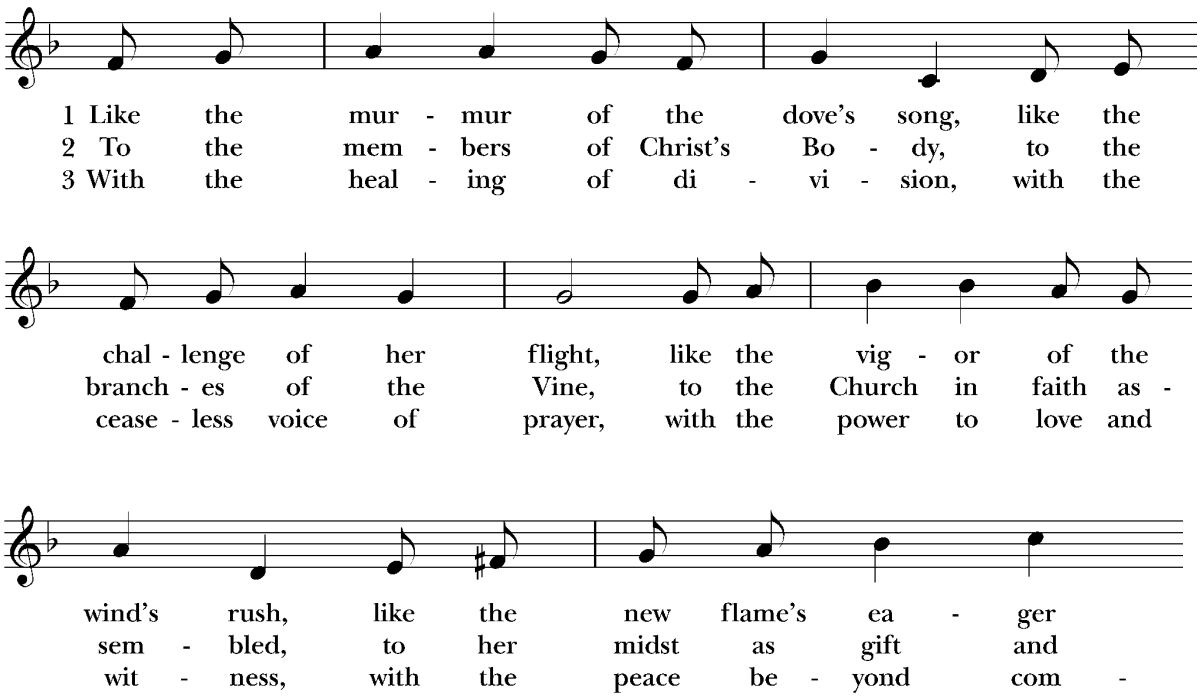
[1]I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2]Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

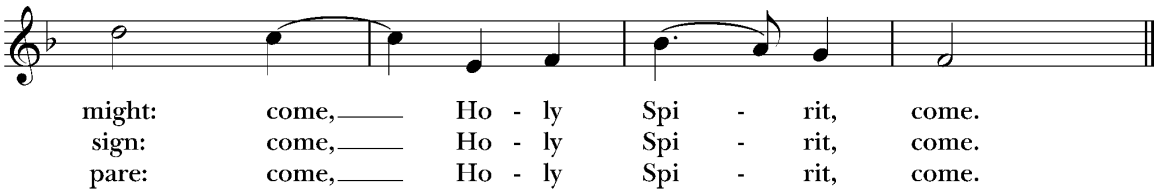
[3]For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4]For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, [5]so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [6]We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; [7]ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; [8]the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Like the murmur of the dove's song* (Bridegroom) (H 513)





Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the
Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to
them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,
the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of
Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I
tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades
will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and
whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that
he was the Messiah.

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ
People Glory to you, O Christ

The Sermon: The Rev. Joe Ashby

Please stand in body or spirit

The Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing

Prayers of the People

All-loving God, whose life is the source of our life, whose love is the source of our salvation, pour out your grace upon your church and upon the world, that all may know you, love you, and serve one another in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All-governing God, who set forth the foundations of the world, so direct, inspire, and correct those in authority in this nation and the world, that the laws they make and the policies they embrace may reflect the dignity with which you created humanity in your image, and in harmony with your creation. Remove from the imaginations of power all thoughts toward oppression, discrimination, or other sins of pride, that we may truly love your image in one another, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer

Incarnate God, you lived among neighbors, friends and enemies alike; you know the intimate and everyday concerns of your people in this and every community. Where there is suffering, continue to heal it. Where there is harm, continue to expose it. Where there is need, continue to feed your people with the abundant

Providence of God, from whom all blessings flow. Do not let us forget, either, our responsibility for one another's welfare, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

Resurrecting God, we pray for those who live in the shadow of death, in places of war, in places of terror, in unsafe homes, in uncaring communities. We pray for an end to war, an undoing of terror, a disarming of hatred. We pray for those who have died, known to us and known only to you, that we may one day receive the same mercy that you have for each of them. In your Name*;*
Hear our prayer.

Awe-inspiring God, we thank you for the joys of human living, for the relationships that bring us closer to the knowledge of your love, for the colors of creation that reflect your glory, as the prophet recognized in the rainbow the glory of the living God. We thank you that we are "marvelously made" in your image, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All healing God, we ask for your healing presence in the lives of those we love especially for Judy Johanning, Tom Lilly, Dr. Claire Pernsteiner, Johanna Middleton, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek and Ronnie Long, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All listening God, we offer before you the deepest thanksgivings and desires of our hearts, silently or aloud.
People add their prayers.
We pray to you O Lord.
Hear our prayer.

We pray together now the Discernment Prayer for St. Paul's:
O Lord our God, May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you. We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you. We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership. And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Everliving God, we give thanks for the ways in which you have allowed the prism of your glory to be reflected through the diversity and beauty of creation, and through your children, made in your image. We repent of the times we have refused to recognize it. We rely on your mercy to restore its vision to us. We give thanks that you always hear our prayers, made in your Name. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant 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*.

Please stand in body or spirit

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn: *Take my life and let it be* (Hollingside) (H 707)

The Great Thanksgiving

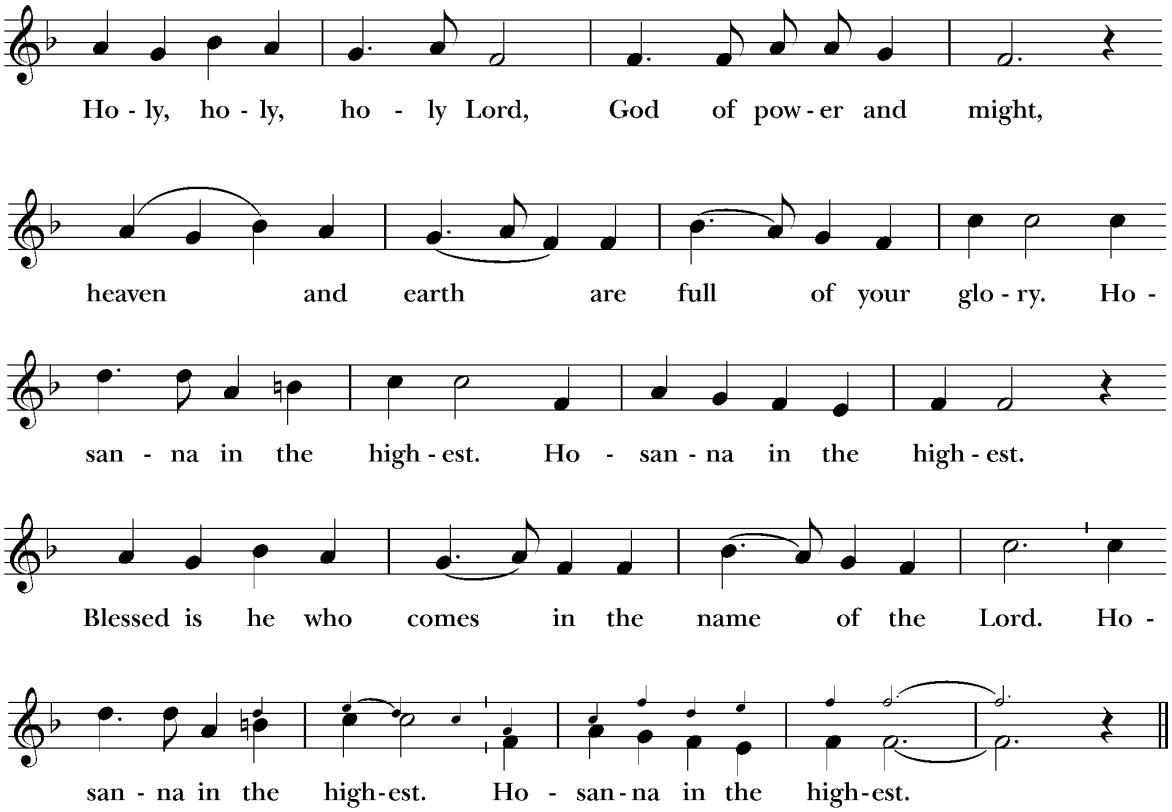
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Sanctus S125



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 for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."♪
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 poured out 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:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering his 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 your daughters and sons, that with 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.***

The Lord's Prayer

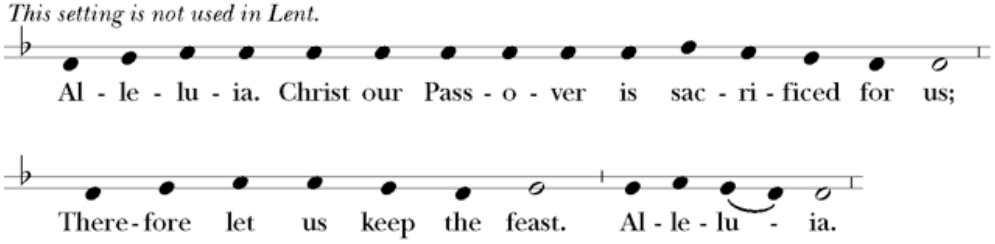
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread (S 152)

This setting is not used in Lent.



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

****Note to the congregation: Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the priests of St. Paul's.*

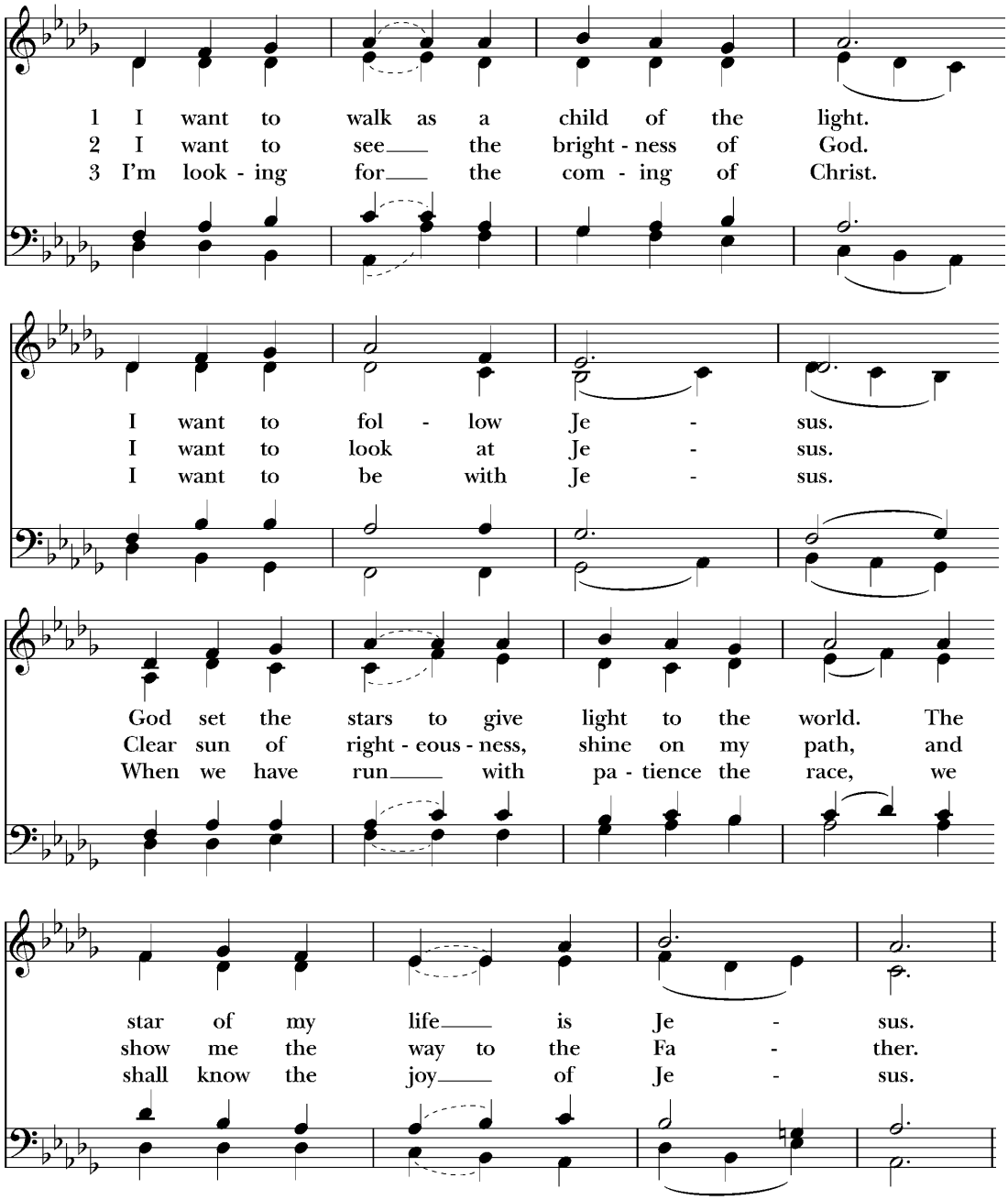
Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant
God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: I want to walk as a child of the light (Houston) (H490)



Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Fugue in F Major* (Johann Pachelbel)

A prayer for peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Servers

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis and Paula Hampton
Crucifer: Karl Roshong
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video/Photography: David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Lector: M.L. Schultze
Altar Guild: Susan Phillips and Barb Anderson
Counters: Kelli Green and David Swope

Parish News

Happy August Birthdays

Karl Roshong, 8/3
Stephen Johnson, 8/5
Katie Ryan, 8/12
Thomas Lilly, 8/13
David Lewis, 8/16
Victoria Suba-Roshong, 8/29
Richard Reinbold, 8/31
Cara Warren, 8/31
Tammy Patterson, 8/31

Happy August Anniversaries

Greg and Cathi Johanning, 8/11
Demetrius and Cynthia Carrothers, 8/28

Parish News

You and your voice matter

St. Paul's has embraced a structure of lay committees and ministries to help guide our church. This includes but is far from limited to the Vestry. Our committees and missions also include the Finance Committee, Worship Committee, Discernment Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Harvest Outreach Table, and Altar Guild. None of the work of any of these can happen without your interest and input. If you are curious, have suggestions or want to get more involved, please let us know.

You also are welcome to attend every Vestry meeting. Our next meeting is this Monday at 6 p.m. in the library and via Zoom.

A summit on AI and the church: An ecumenical gathering on artificial intelligence

August 24-27 via Zoom

The third annual AI & The Church Summit takes place August 24-27. Expect thought-provoking keynotes from leading voices at the intersection of faith and technology, hands-on breakout conversations designed for deep engagement, intentional spaces for connection across denominational traditions and professional backgrounds, and key insights captured to guide future resource development for churches navigating AI. Use this link to find out more: https://divine-code-summit.base44.app/

Morning prayer returns next week

Next Sunday's service (Aug. 30) will again be Morning Prayer, rather than Holy Eucharist and our lay preacher will be Demetrius Carrothers. For decades, St. Paul's and many Episcopal churches celebrated Morning Prayer as often as Holy Eucharist on Sundays throughout the year. We have recently returned to celebrating Morning Prayer whenever there's a fifth Sunday of the month.

Discernment Committee this Wednesday

St. Paul's Discernment Committee will be meeting with our consultant, Fr. Alan Cowart, on Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 4 p.m. The discussion of St. Paul's future will include the spiritual passages that may be guiding us as we map our path and find our clergy partners. We ask that you add your prayers reflecting on these passages:

- **1 Corinthians 12:12** “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ” (NIV).
- **1 Peter 4:8-10** “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms” (NIV).
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (NIV).
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.”
- **Philippians 2:3-4** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (NIV).
- **Romans 15:5-6 “**May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NIV)
- **Galatians 6:2** “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ” (NIV)

Join us for movie night: Popcorn, candy and Cracker Jacks are on us!

As part of the Social Justice Book Club, this Tuesday’s movie and discussion will be “I am not your Negro,” a 2016 documentary narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

The movie is based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, and explores racism in the United States through Baldwin’s observations and memories of civil right icons such as Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. The documentary was nominated for an Academy Award and won the BAFTA Award for Best Documentary.