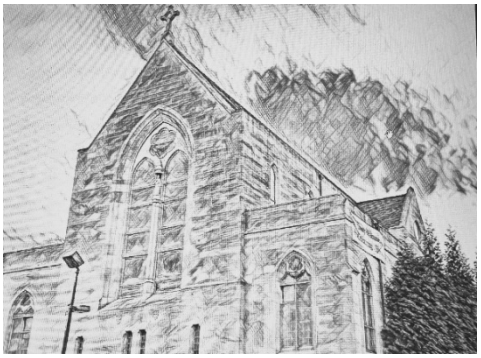
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Ascension Sunday
Holy Eucharist
Rite 2
May 17, 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
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Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

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."

Ascension Sunday
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

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Prelude: *Sospiri* (Edward Elgar)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing Deo gratias* (H 218)

The fanfare may be used as introduction, interlude or conclusion.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.*

GLORIA S280

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen*.

Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

[1]In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the
beginning [2]until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions
through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3]After his suffering he
presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during
forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. [4]While staying with them, he ordered
them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he
said, "is what you have heard from me; [5]for John baptized with water, but you will be
baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6]So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you
will restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7]He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or
periods that the Father has set by his own authority. [8]But you will receive power when
the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all
Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [9]When he had said this, as they were
watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10]While he was going
and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by

them. [11]They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 47

[1]Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
[2]For the Lord Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.
[3]He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
[4]He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
[5]God has gone up with a shout, *
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
[6]Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
[7]For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
[8]God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
[9]The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
[10]The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

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

[15]I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16]I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. [17]I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18]so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19]and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20]God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21]far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in

the age to come. [22]And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23]which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Emmanuel! The Angels Ancient Chorus* (VF46)

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

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

44[Jesus said to his disciples,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still
with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the
psalms must be fulfilled."45Then he opened their minds to understand the
scriptures, 46and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to
rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be
proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of
these things. 49And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in
the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
50Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed
them. 51While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into
heaven. 52And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53and they
were continually in the temple blessing God.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Kay 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Anne, our own Bishop, for Joe and Kay, our clergy, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For all the sick especially Johanna Middleton, Viola Sullins, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Ronnie Long, and Bob Fernandez, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially Jude Schario and Patricia Honour Kenderdine Willford, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

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 For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *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.

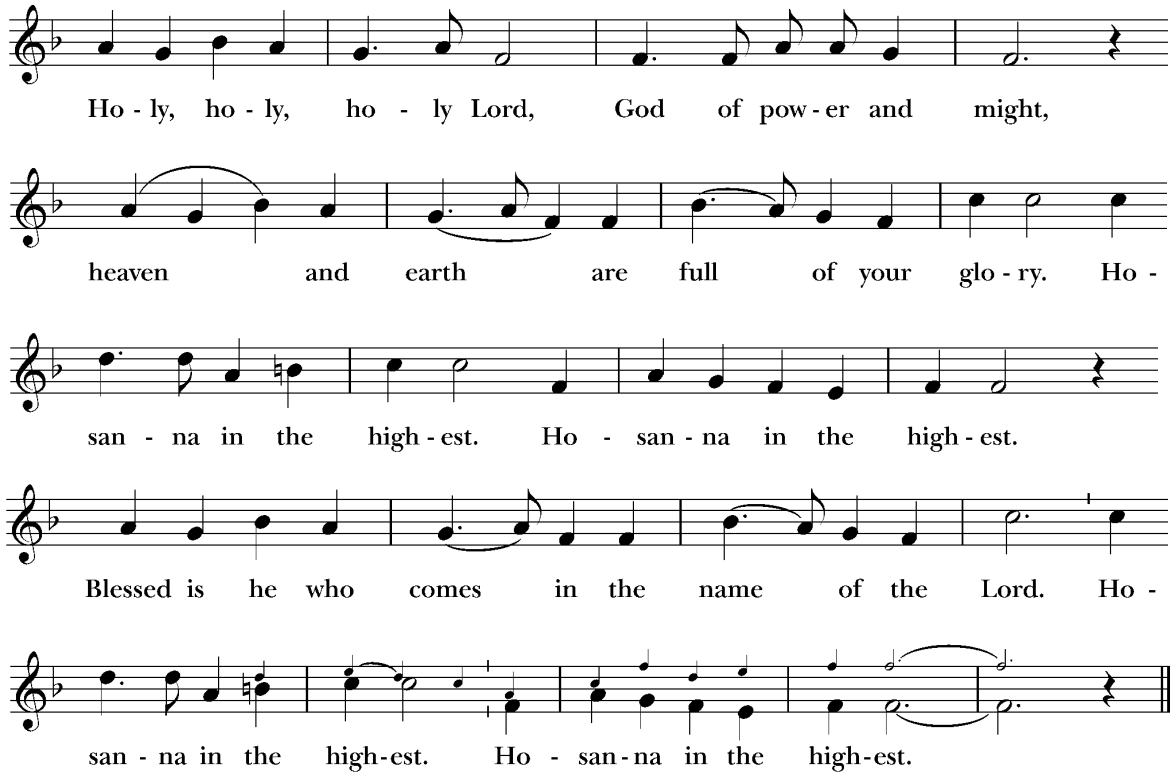
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *He that Raised Up Jesus* (Carlton T. Russell)

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: ♪♪♪

Sanctus S125



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” ♪

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for

you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

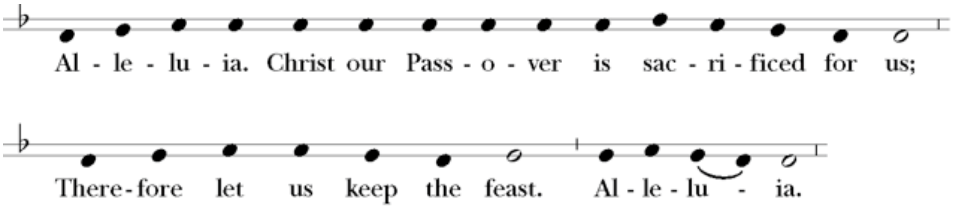
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

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)



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

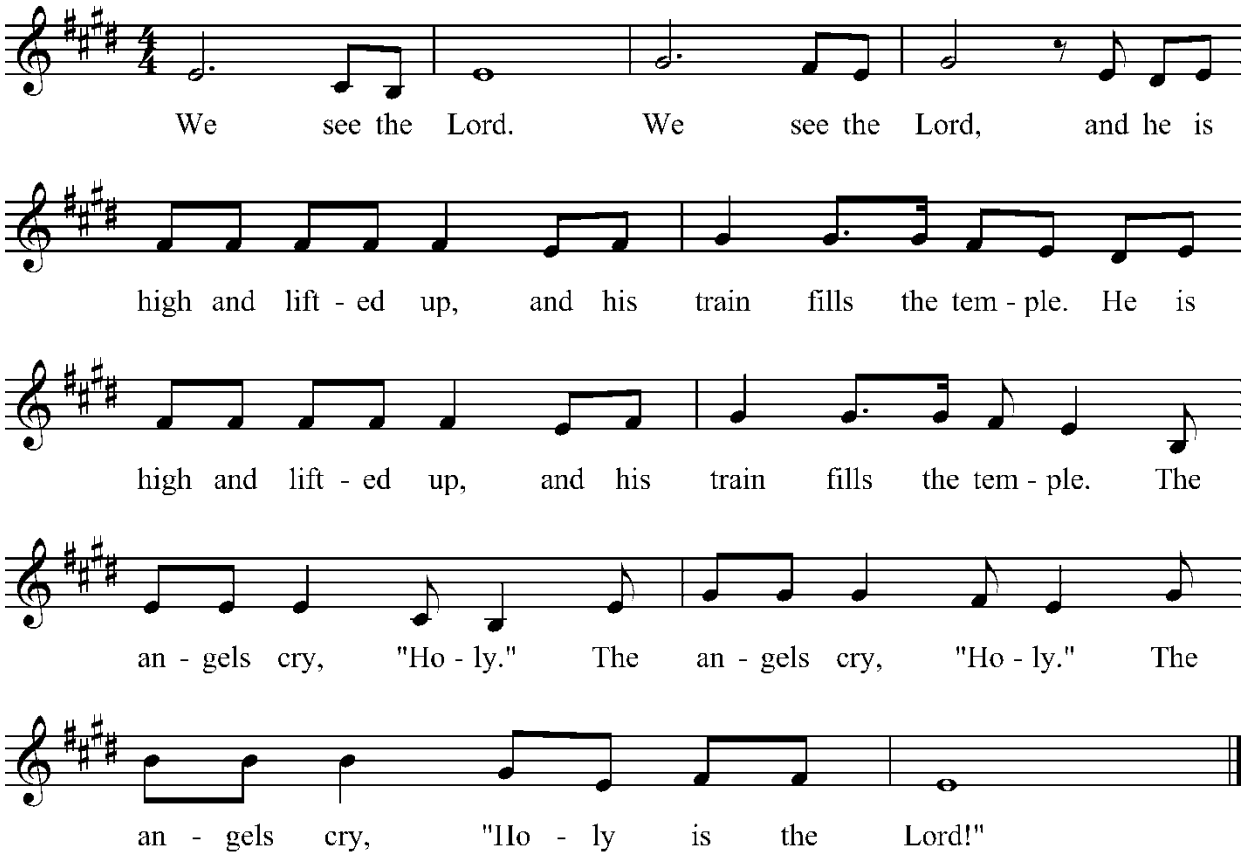
Spiritual Communion

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 HYMN: We see the Lord (MHSO 114)



Words: based on *Isaiah 6:1-3.*
Music: Anon.; arr. Betty Carr Pulkiingham (b. 1928) © 1971, 1975 Celebration, PO Box 309, Aliquippa, PA 15001 [www.communityofcelebration.com]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

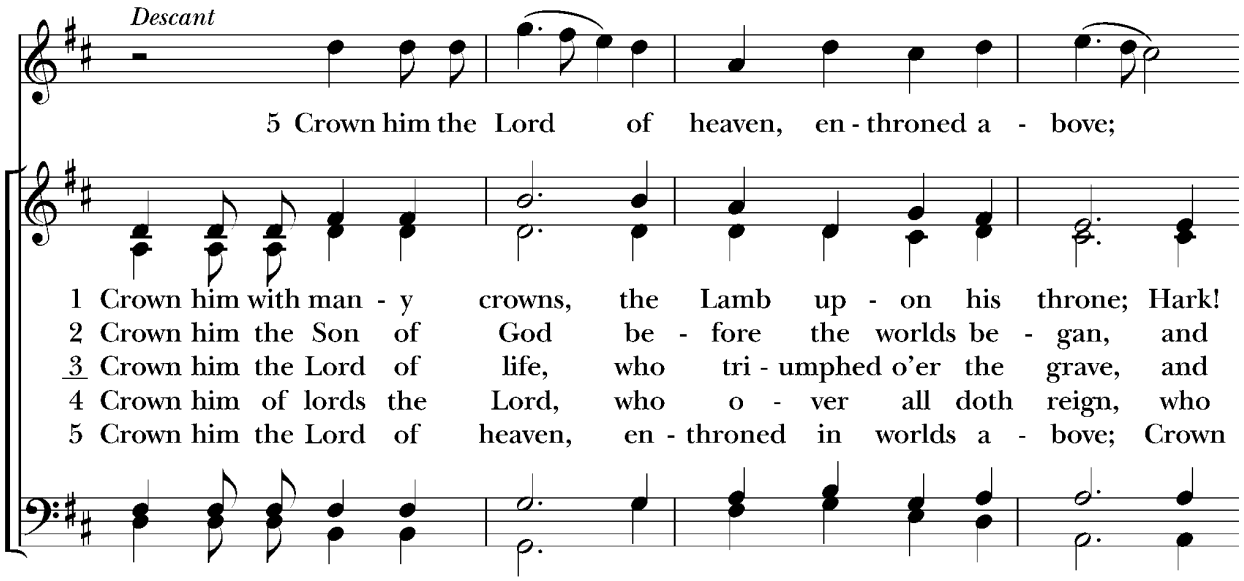
Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
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.*

Post-Communion Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Crown Him with many crowns (*Diademata)* (H 494)



crown him to whom is given the won-drous name of Love.
1 how the heaven-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own; a-
2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
3 rose vic-to-rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
4 once on earth, the in-car-nate Word, for ran-somed sin-ners slain, now
5 him the King, to whom is given the won-drous name of Love. Crown
Crown him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him
1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
2 ev-ery grief hath known that wrings the hu-man breast, and
3 glo-ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an-gels sing their
5 him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him fall, crown
fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.
1 hail him as thy match-less King through all e-ter-ni-ty.
2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
3 died, e-ter-nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
4 songs be-fore him day and night, their God, Re-deem-er, King.
5 him, ye kings, with man-y crowns, for he is King of all.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: Hymn Improvisation on *Deo gratias*

TODAY'S SERVERS:

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Douglas Colmery
Eucharistic Minister: Demetrius Carrothers
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Kelli Green, Barb Anderson and Peggy Neidig
Lector: Carol Sutek
Counters: Valerie Frear and Linda Heitger

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.

Parish News

Happy May Birthdays

Karen Swope, May 15
Frances Beacon, May 22
Rachel Valentine, May 24
Ainsley Marcum, May 29

Happy May Anniversaries

Wendy & Roger Gray, May 5
Donald & Mary Lou Stauffer, May 24
Jason & Nicole Marcum, May 29
Richard & Dorothy Oloya, May 29

CCORR Gathering
#4 Implicit Bias
& Conversation
Dinner, Curriculum
MAY 19, 2026
Cost: Free
COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS
CCORR ON
Scan QR code to register
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
425 CLEVELAND AVE SW, CANTON
Dinner @ 6:00pm
Conversation @ 6:30pm
All are welcome to attend!
CCORR Mission: a diverse group of individuals creating a beloved community through courageous, open dialogue, confronting racism and the ways it causes division, by educating and empowering participants into anti-racist actions

Vestry needs to hear from you

St. Paul's Vestry is meeting this Monday at 6 p.m. in the Library. As always, we need and welcome your input – suggestions, concerns, applause and everything in between. So stop any member of Vestry anytime to share your thoughts and your heart. Vestry members are Barb Anderson, Douglas Colmery, Marcia Enslen, Kelli Green, Linda Heitger, David Lewis, Peggy Neidig, David Rotthoff, M.L. Schultze, Carol Sutek and David Swope.

Discerning St. Paul's future

Our Discernment Committee continues to meet with Fr. Alan Cowart as we map out our future and our calling of a new clergy partner. Currently, we are working on our mission and vision statement and that means focusing on the answers to key questions:

1. Where do we see God leading us?
2. What are we trying to sustain? Are we trying to sustain the old part (the way it has always been) or are we sustaining for what we want to do?
3. What are you learning about St. Paul's, your community, and yourself?
4. Who is the Church vs. who is the Congregation?

Here are the words/phrases we brainstormed for the mission and vision:

- social justice
- educate to activate
- inner growth
- connection/ not isolation
- becoming a beloved community
- making positive change

Our thanks to our Choir

The end of our choir-year is fast approaching. Trinity Sunday, May 31, will be our last Sunday service before summer break. Thank you to all who have deepened the joy and meaning of our service each week throughout the year: Edward Grimes, Brenda Maurer-Denning, Heather Hershey, Holly Hillen, David Rotthoff, Fr. Joe, Douglas Colmery, Amanda Brown, Spencer Kieft, Carrie Neitzke, and our newest member, Taylor Patterson.

Also, please note that there has been a change of plans for that service.

We were looking forward to joining with Trinity Episcopal Church in Alliance to celebrate Trinity Sunday, the first of rotating shared feast-day services with the five Episcopal churches in the Stark County area. Sadly, an illness at Trinity has disrupted those plans for now. So we will celebrate Trinity Sunday here and continue to make plans to celebrate feast days throughout the year with St. Timothy's, St. Mark's, Trinity and New Life.

Welcome our fellow Episcopalians

St. Paul's is one of three churches hosting the first three-day regional gathering of Episcopalians from the Diocese of Ohio. Our big day is Friday, May 29. We need folks to help greet those from across the diocese and to be liaisons in other ways. Please see Linda Heitger or M.L. Schultze if you can help out for a couple hours. And speaking of the regional gathering, here are some thoughts from Canon Audra Abt to prepare us.

In the Gospel appointed for Trinity Sunday (Matthew 28:16-20), which we'll explore as part of our Regional Gathering in the Summit mission area at the end of this month, we hear Jesus commanding his disciples (learners and practitioners of his Way) to make other disciples by teaching people "to obey everything I have commanded you."

How do we hear this and find a way into it for ourselves in ways that undoes colonizing, objectifying, dominating forms of relating so often perpetuated today?

I think we can do it. I do not think we can ever do it perfectly. I do believe it involves using every day to grow as disciples ourselves, and to see anything we invite others into in Jesus's name as a side-by-side, learning-together venture. (Not a 'I know how to do this already, and you just need to do what I tell you' sort of thing).

Because the truth is, I do want my life to reflect Jesus more and more. When I read the daily office or an upcoming Sunday Gospel, I notice how my life and attitudes aren't yet fully reflecting Jesus. But I want them to be.

Jesus's attitudes and behaviors... the way Jesus talks about God and the world and others... how Jesus navigates the complexities of his own era... and how Jesus spends time, and with whom, and how Jesus sends people like you and me out to love and serve and liberate...

All this that I can draw on from reading and reflecting on the Gospels, alone and with you all in community. It gives me hope that day by day, we can learn and be transformed and invite others into a liberated and more life-giving, loving way of being together.

Yours in the joy, encouragement, and boldness of Jesus Christ,
Canon Audra

Faith in Community with 'Nones' and 'Dones' ~ Missional Communities

In preparation for the Regional Gathering, think about people or groups you know who do not participate in faith community. What do you know about their stories, their joys and sorrows and where they find meaning and belonging? What don't you know? Check out this short video from the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

The cover art of for today's bulletin, "The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ," comes from the Timken Museum (yes, named for that Timken) in San Diego. It is tempera on wood created in the 16th Century by the Moscow School.