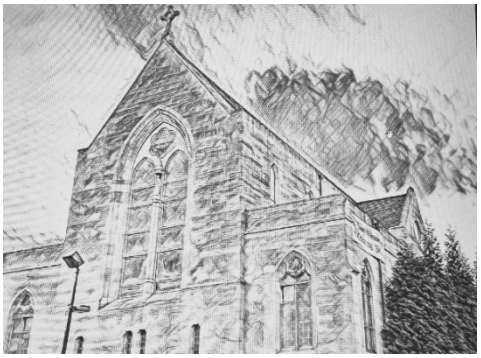
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite 2
April 26, 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

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."

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

- **Acts 2:42-47**
- **Psalm 23**
- **1 Peter 2:19-25**
- **John 10:1-10**

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Prelude: *Meditation* (Leo Sowerby)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *The Strife is O'er Victory* (H 208)

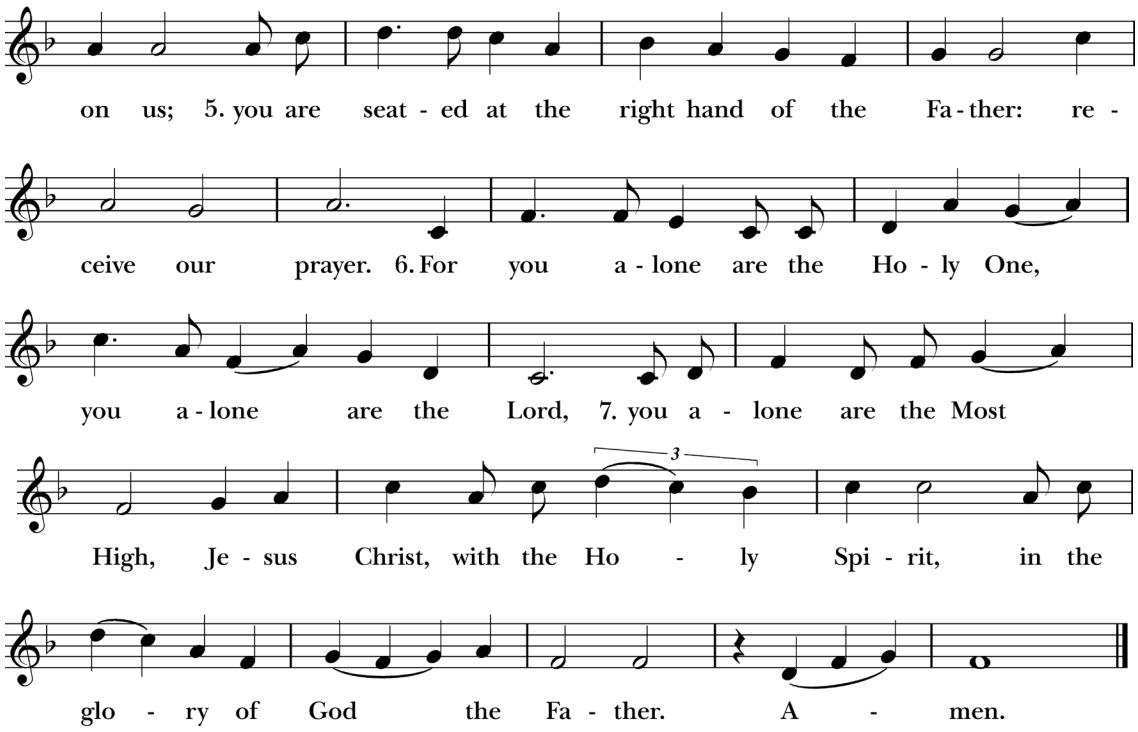
Opening Acclamation

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.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.
Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of
bread and the prayers.
43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the
apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would
sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day
by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate

their food with glad and generous hearts, [47]praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM 23

[1]The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
[2]He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
[3]He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
[4]Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
[5]You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
[6]Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

[19]It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. [20]If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. [21]For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

[22]"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

[23]When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. [24]He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. [25]For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *The Lord my God my Shepherd is* (Crimond) (H 663)

Please remain standing

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

13Now [Jesus said,] 1"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by
the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the
gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep
hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has
brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they
know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they
do not know the voice of strangers." 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they
did not understand what he was saying to them.

7So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All
who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am
the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find
pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have
life, and have it abundantly."

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, Jude Schario, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Patricia Willford, 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, and Ronnie Long, 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 Debbie Schmiedlin and Deloris Bockbrader, 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.

Priest and People
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.

Priest 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: *Bread of the World, in mercy Broken* (Carlton Young)

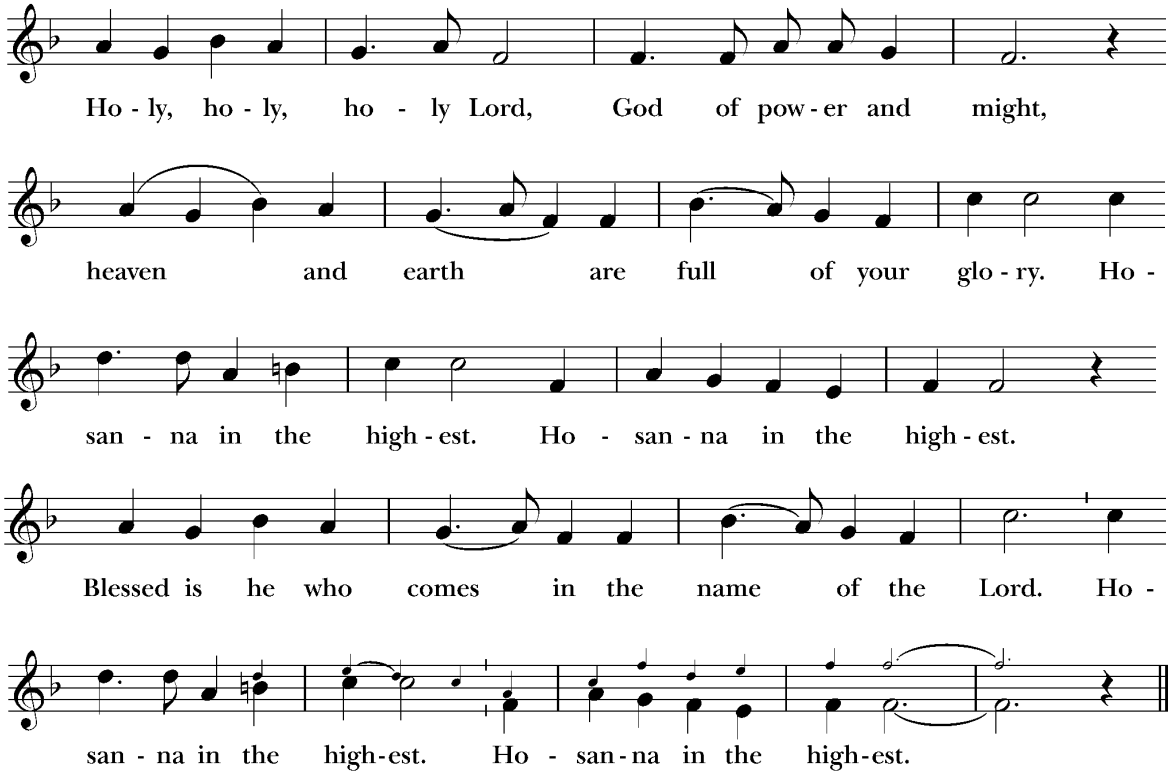
The Great Thanksgiving

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.” ♪

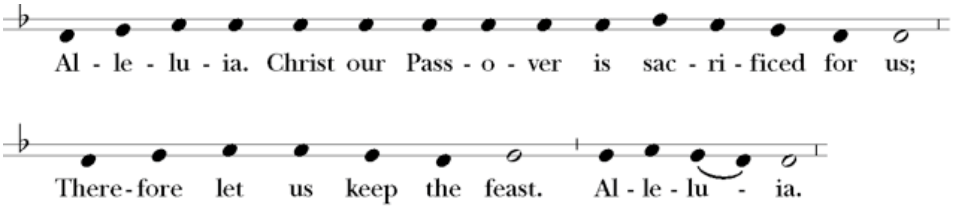
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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.

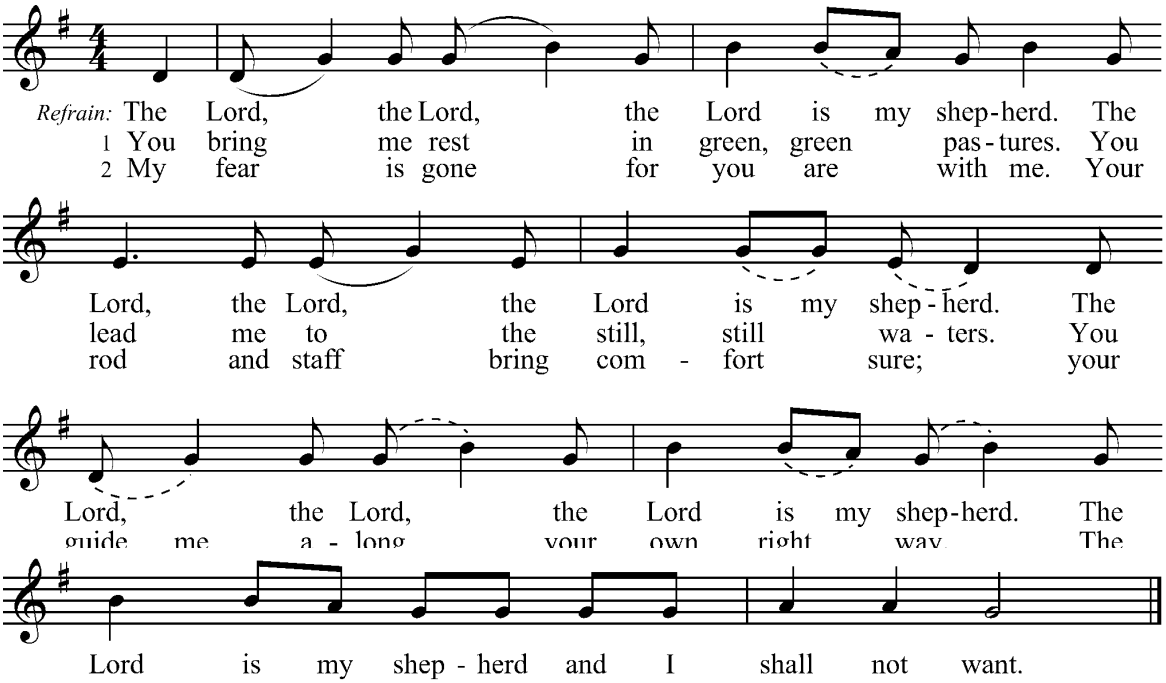
Spiritual Communion

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 Priest of St. Paul's.*

POST COMMUNION HYMN: The Lord, the Lord is my Shepherd (MHSO 102)



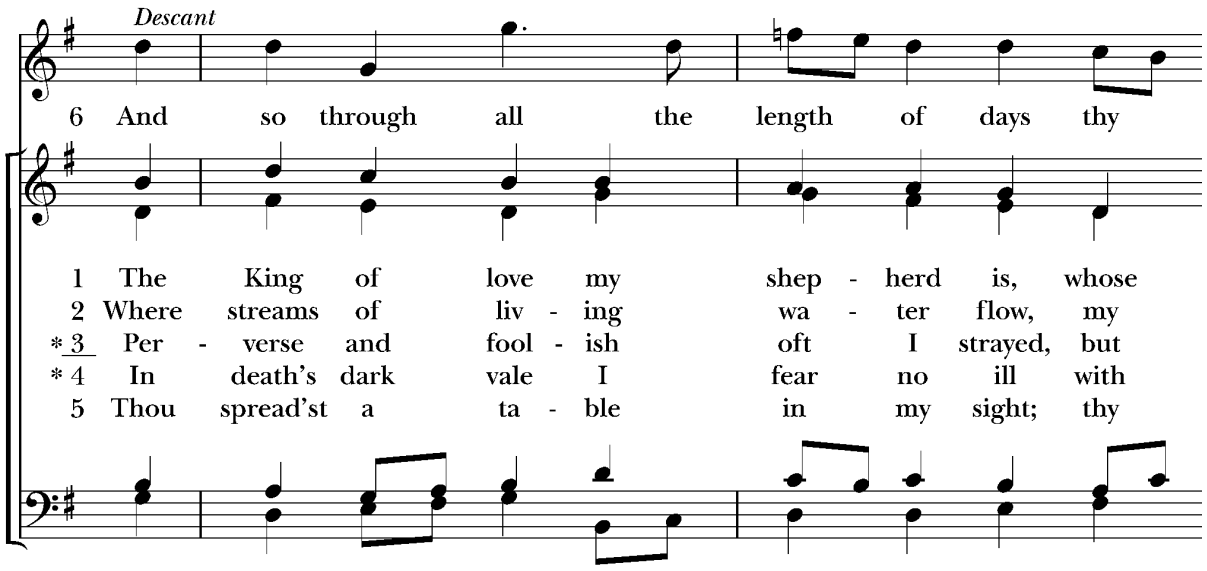
Post-Communion Prayer

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: The King of Love my Shepherd is (*Dominus regit me)* (H 646)



6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Dismissal

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

Postlude: Hymn Improvisation on *Dominus regit me* (Andrew Gant)

TODAY'S SERVERS:
Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Karl Roshong
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Douglas Colmery and Susan Phillips
Lector: Carol Sutek
Counters: Carol Sutek and David Rotthoff

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.

Announcements

Happy April Birthdays

Sarah Highman 04/01
Samantha Papadeonise 4/05
Vicky Simpkins 4/09
Matthew Johnson 4/10
Haley Miller 04/11
Doug Colmery 4/13
Carol Sutek 04/13
Jon Coventry 04/18

Happy April Anniversary

Marcia and Rick Enslen 04/08

Thank you for being the G.O.A.T.

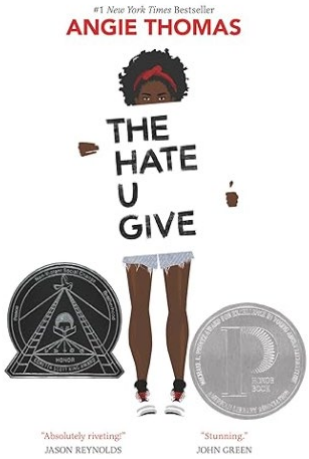
Please remember to stop over in the Guild Hall after service today to enjoy loaves of sweet and sour bread. It is a thank you from the Daughters of the King for the generosity of the parish in our campaign to raise money for the Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts for Life program to empower people worldwide. The effort raised enough money to provide 16 goats (at $80 a goat).

A time to reflect

The Daughters of the King will be hosting a Quiet Day next Saturday in the Guild Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day will begin with a contemplative service and include a presentation on the cycle of life of the butterfly and what it represents in our own rebirth. The day is open to all, but we're trying to get an accurate head count for lunch so please see Serena Thurin or Carol Sutek if you would like to be a part of it.

"The Hate U Give"

The Social Justice Book Club will be sharing reflections and reactions to "The Hate U Give," the debut young-adult novel of Angie Thomas which became a motion picture. The story of police violence and racism has made the National Book Award and New York Times best-seller lists and has been reviewed as "absolutely riveting," "stunning" and "necessary." Even if you haven't read it, please come and share with us at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Courageous Conversations gathering room.



Life and learn: The spiritual, missionary and leadership aspects of the Episcopal Church

Registration is now open for the Diocese of Ohio's first-ever regional gathering and everyone is invited. The three-day get-together of churches throughout the Diocese will be May 28, 29 and 30, beginning at St. Paul's Akron, then coming to St. Paul's Canton and ending at Christ Church Hudson. You can register for part of one day, all of the three days or anything in between. Here's an outline of the workshops and other sessions.

Thursday, May 28 at St. Paul's, Akron
Noonday Prayer
Parish Administrators Session, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Diocesan Staff Office Hours, 2:30-5 p.m. Individual bookings with diocesan staff.
Dinner, 5-6 p.m. Gather in fellowship to eat and grow in relationship with one another.
A Conversation with Bishop Jolly, 6-7:30 p.m.
Camp, Faith & Friendship, 6-7:30 p.m. (ages 0-18). A taste of Bellwether Farm!
Compline, 7:30-8 p.m.

Friday, May 29 at St. Paul's, Canton

Noonday Prayer
Warden Luncheon, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Connection, encouragement and wisdom.
Diocesan Staff Office Hours, 2:30-5 p.m. Individual bookings with diocesan staff.
Spiritual Practices to Deepen Beloved Community and Strengthen Our Faith Communities, 6-7:30 p.m. Connecting more deeply with neighbors
Compline, 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 at Christ Church, Hudson

Morning Prayer, 9-9:30 a.m.
Creating Missional Communities Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Considering the people around us who don't participate in church.
Worship Leader Training, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Lay members leading worship and service.
Finance Roundtable, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Tools for accurate financial reporting.
Lunch, 12-12:30 p.m.
Beloved Community: All Are Welcome Training, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Ensuring all are welcome.
Deacons and Missional Communities Workshop, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Workshop for all deacons, aspirants, and people curious about the diaconate.

Stewardship Workshop, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Stewardship as a spiritual exercise.
Holy Eucharist and Regional Confirmation, 3-4 p.m.
Reception, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Is being a chaplain a calling for you?

Interested in learning about military, federal, or hospital chaplaincy? The Episcopal Church's Armed Forces and Federal Ministries Office (AFFM) is holding a series of Discovery Days to introduce individuals across the church to pathways toward chaplaincy and ecclesiastical endorsement. The Zoom sessions will provide an overview of chaplaincy opportunities in the military, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Veterans Affairs, and in hospitals.
Participants will learn about the following:

- Role and calling of a chaplain.
- Educational and formation requirements.
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).
- Ecclesiastical endorsement process.
- How the AFFM office supports aspirants through discernment to placement.

The next call will take place on May 27 at 6:00 p.m. Discovery Days are ideal for individuals discerning a call to chaplaincy; seminarians and clergy; and diocesan leaders supporting vocational discernment. For more information, connect with the AFFM office. Register for the Discovery Days here.

Bellwether Farm and all its offerings

The Diocese of Ohio's Bellwether Farm has a host of offerings coming up, including special Mother's and Father's Day celebration, the full slate of summer camps for kids grades 1-12 (and for families), and **a one-night retreat for** LGBTQIA+ people of faith to close out the summer. Bellwether, is about an hour's drive from Canton in Wakeman, nestled along the Vermillion River. It's a working farm, camp, retreat, and education center promoting a model of sustainable living, physical and spiritual wellness, fidelity to the environment, and social justice. To learn more, go to https://www.bellwetherfarm.com