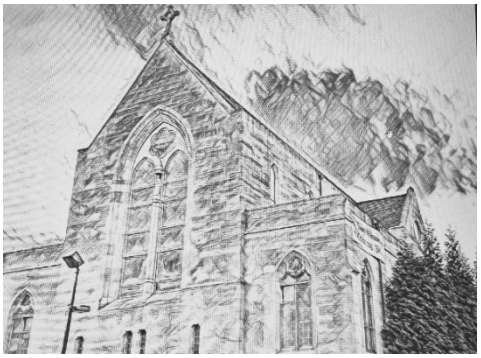
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Canton, Ohio

Pentecost Sunday
Holy Eucharist
Rite 2
May 24, 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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(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."

Pentecost Sunday
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm
Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:25-35, 37
Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23

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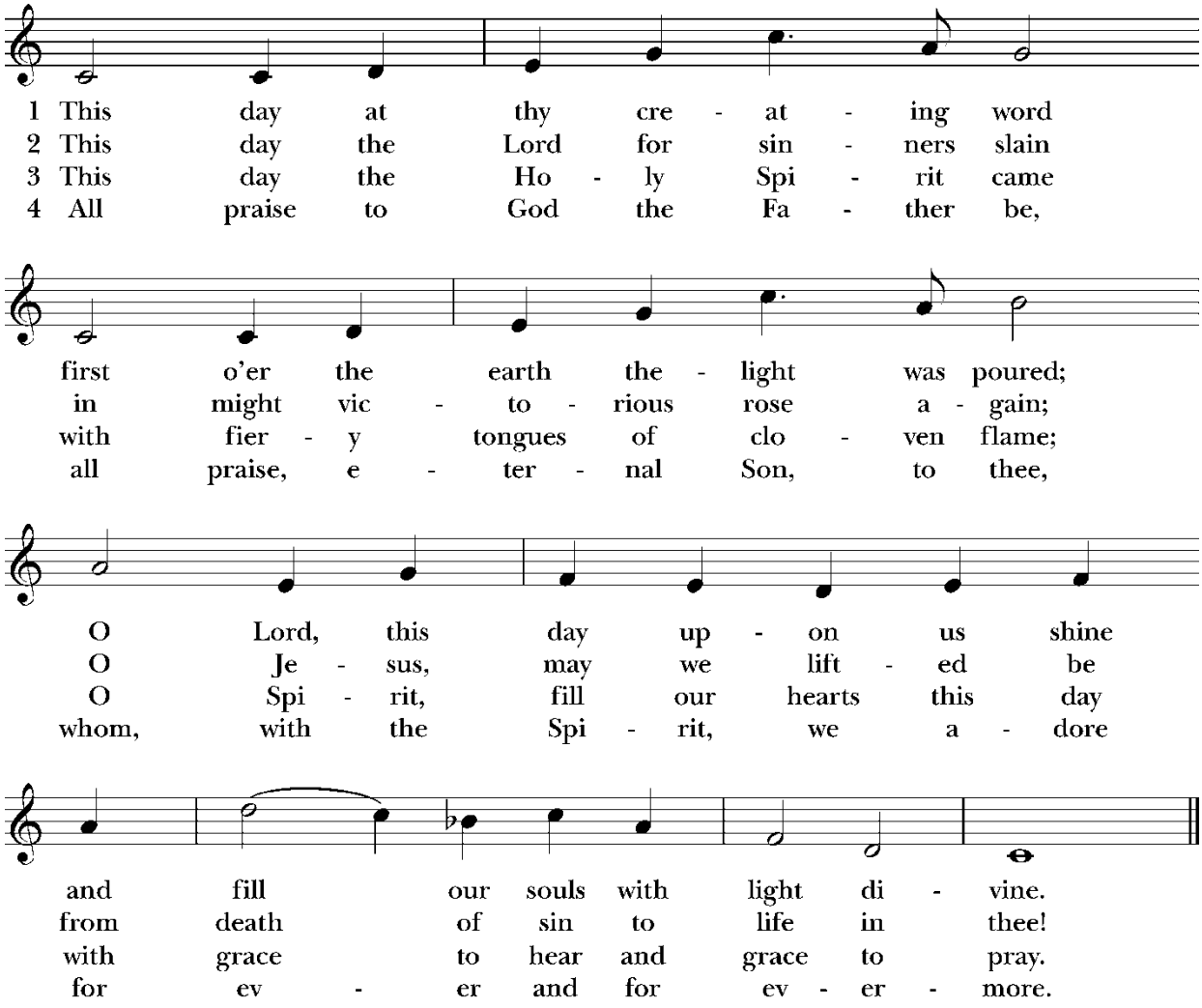
Prelude: *May Song* (Edward Elgar)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *This day at thy created word* (Rushford) (H 52)



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, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:24-30

A Reading from the Book of Numbers.

[1]Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.
Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

PSALM 104:25-35, 37

[25]O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
[26]Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.
[27]There move the ships,

and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
[28]All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
[29]You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
[30]You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.
[31]You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.
[32]May the glory of the Lord endure forever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
[33]He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
[34]I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.
[35]May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.
[37]Bless the Lord, O my soul. *
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Acts 2:1-21

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

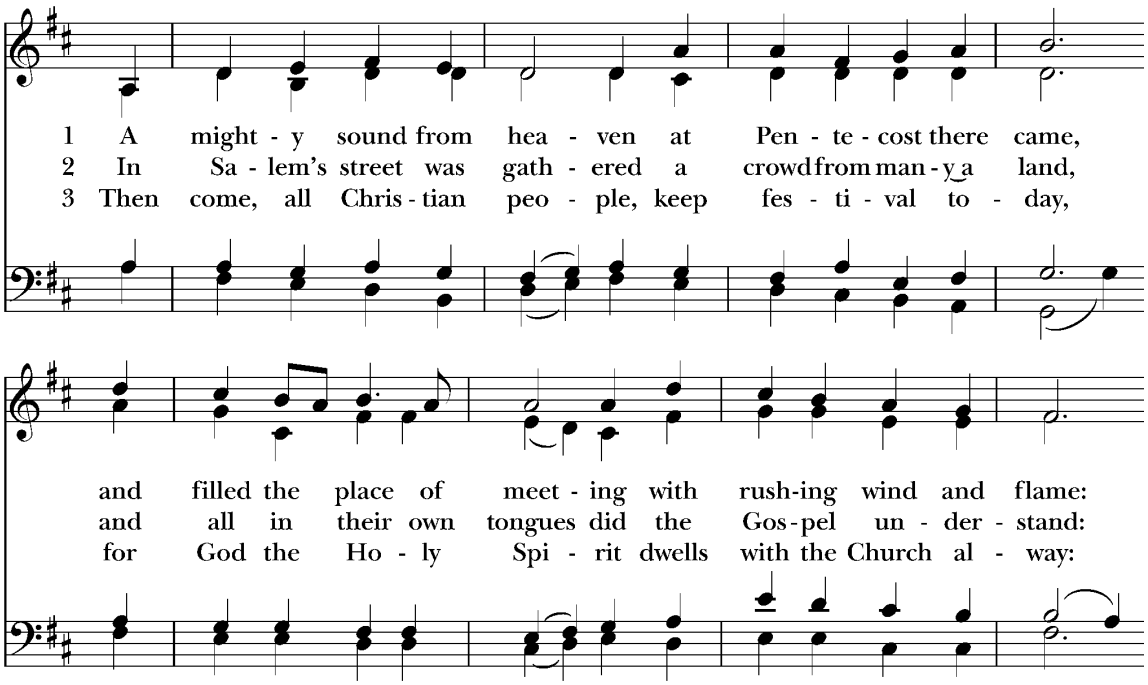
[1]When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."
But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed,

these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
`In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *A mighty sound from heaven song of the Holy Spirit* (H 230)



GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to John
People Glory to you, Lord Christ

[19]When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

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 Tom Lilly, 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 Robert Thornton, 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.

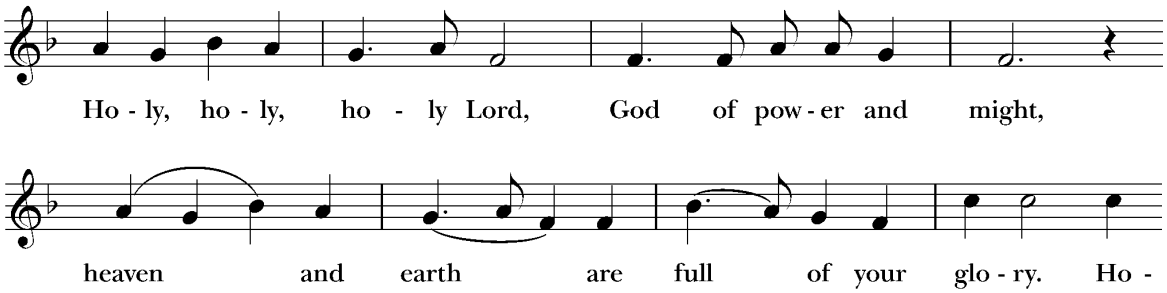
OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost* (Malcolm Archer)

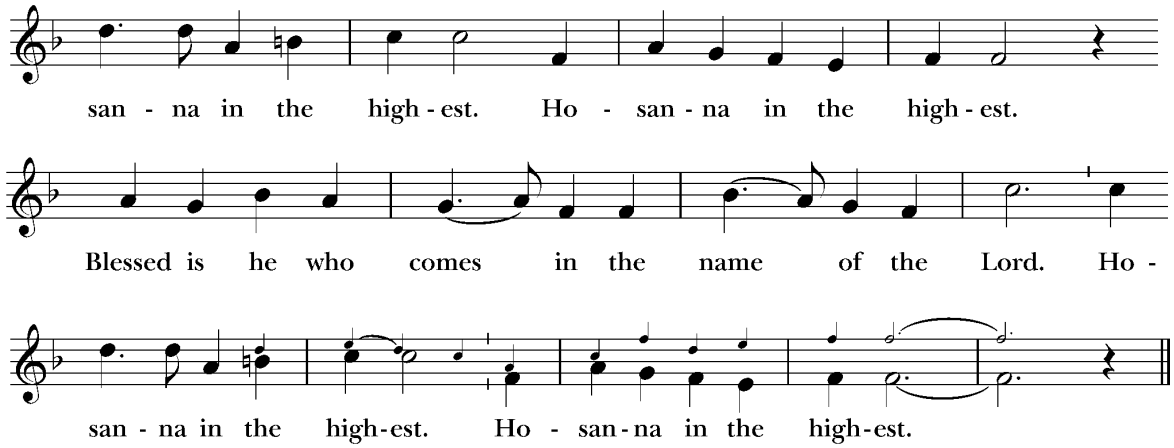
The Great Thanksgiving

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.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.
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." ♪

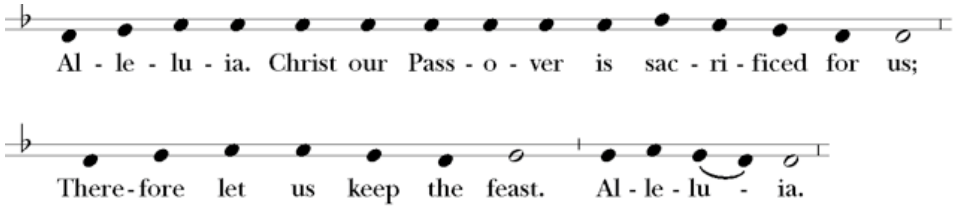
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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: Veni Sancte Spiritus (WLP 832)

Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.

Post-Communion Prayer

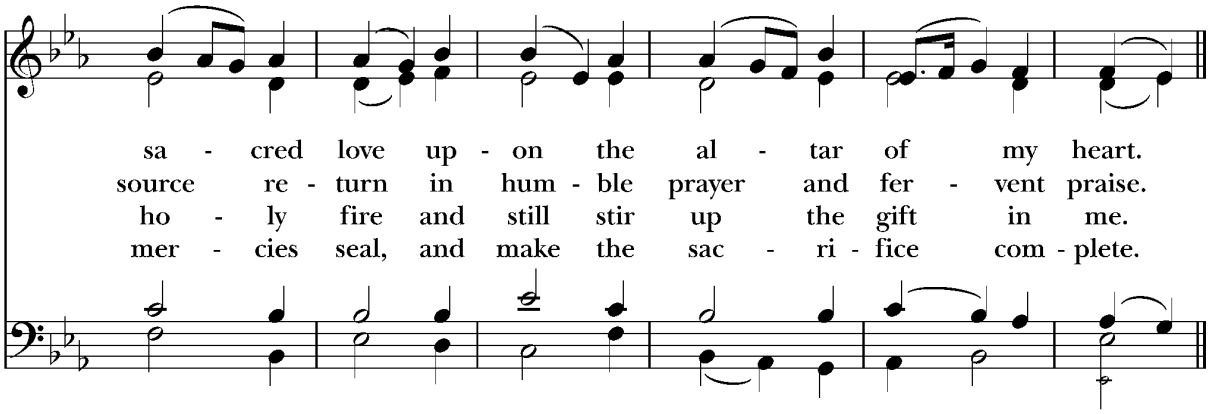
Let us pray.
Celebrant and People
Eternal God, heavenly Father,

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: *O thou who camest from above* (Hereford) (H 704)



Dismissal

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

Postlude: *Hymn Improvisation on Hereford* (Sir David Willcocks)

TODAY'S SERVERS:

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Readers: Edward Grimes, German; Spencer Kieft (Portuguese); Alice Hopkins (French), Taylor Patterson (Mandarin)
Prayers of the People and Psalm: Valerie Frear
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer/Thurifer: Karl Roshong, Douglas Colmery, Demetrius Carrothers
Torch bearers: Rick and Marcia Enslen
Eucharistic Minister: Demetrius Carrothers
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Shirley Brown and Peggy Neidig
Counters: David Swope and Kelli Green

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

One way you can help

St. Paul's is a downtown church, so we see more clearly than many the impact of poverty on our community. Some of our neighbors approach us directly, asking for cash.

The decision is, of course, your own, but St. Paul's has another option to help: our discretionary fund. Through this fund, we've purchased grocery gift cards and bus passes, shoes and personal care items. We also have an application process for emergency requests for help with items such as utility bills.

The fund was created by and is sustained by all of you. Each first Sunday, any loose plate collections go into the fund, and you can contribute specifically to it any time. We also direct bank interest to the account at the end of the year.

If you are approached for money, you can refer the person to the senior warden, M.L. Schultze, to assist through the fund. And if you have any questions about it, please ask any Vestry member.

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

Interfaith Coalition of Stark County

Members of Interfaith Coalition are invited to learn more about the past and the future at a gathering of the historic Masonic Temple on June 7.

The coalition "seeks to promote interfaith understanding in our community to achieve justice and peace through prayerful collective action." The Coalition's mission "is to educate, engage, and empower people of diverse cultures and religions to take direct actions that promote peace, divine justice, and reconciliation. We commit ourselves to this work because life is sacred, sin is forgivable, and mercy is demanded." You may notice how closely that mission aligns with what we've been discerning about St. Paul's. And some of you may also remember a historic alliance between the Masonic Temple and St. Paul's. The event is part of the coalition's recognition of "Wear Orange" weekend June 5-7 to promote awareness of gun violence and prevention.

If you want to know more about or would like to join the coalition, go to https://www.interfaithcoalitionstark.org.

St. Paul's preps for guests from the Diocese

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to greet our guests this Friday (May 29) as St. Paul's is one of three churches hosting the first regional gathering of Episcopalians from the Diocese of Ohio. We're having a brief meeting of volunteers after today's service to outline the day. Here's the general schedule.

Noonday Prayer
12:00-12:30 p.m.
A brief service of scripture and prayer to pause, reconnect with God, and join the wider diocesan community in prayer during the Regional Gathering.

Warden Luncheon
12:30-1:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Canon for Leadership Development, Russ Tripi, this one-hour luncheon is designed to foster connection, encouragement, and shared wisdom. Wardens will have space to meet peers from other faith communities, share joys and challenges, and reflect on the unique call of lay leadership in today's church. We will also listen for what support would be most meaningful as we strengthen networks and resources for wardens across the diocese.

Diocesan Staff Office Hours
1:30-4:30 p.m.
One-on-one meetings with members of the diocesan staff.

Spiritual Practices to Deepen Beloved Community and Strengthen Our Faith Communities Workshop
6:00-7:30 p.m.
This intergenerational session will help faith communities explore what connecting more deeply with neighbors can look like. We'll create relational maps of the areas around each of our faith communities and begin to reflect on under-the-surface culture dynamics that can affect our ability to build mutual relationships with our neighbors. We'll spend time in conversation, prayer practices, and liturgical expressions to support and strengthen each of our faith communities to reflect more of the fullness of the neighborhoods around us and deepen beloved community. Clergy, lay leaders, children, elders and all members are welcome and needed for this conversation, which will be co-facilitated by Canon for Beloved Community, the Rev. Rosalind Hughes, and Canon for Innovation and Congregational Development, the Rev. Audra Abt.

Compline
7:30-8:00 p.m.
End the day in prayer with Compline, the Church's ancient nighttime prayer. In a spirit of quiet and rest, we will reflect on the day and commend ourselves to God's care. This service offers a peaceful close to Friday's gatherings.