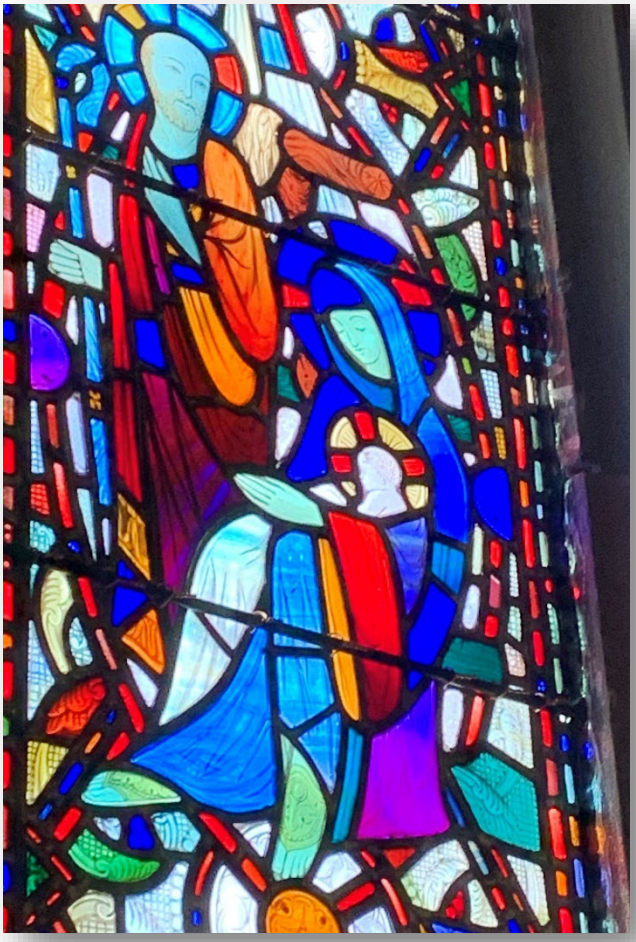
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

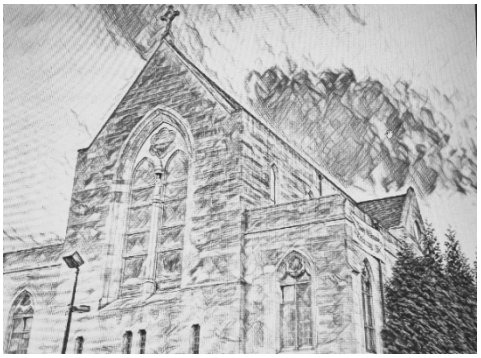


Sixth Sunday of Easter
And Mother's Day

Liturgy of the Word Rite 2
May 10, 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

Our 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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Liturgy of the Word
Officiant: Douglas Colmery
Lay preacher: Demetrius Carrothers

Readings and Psalm
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:7-18
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

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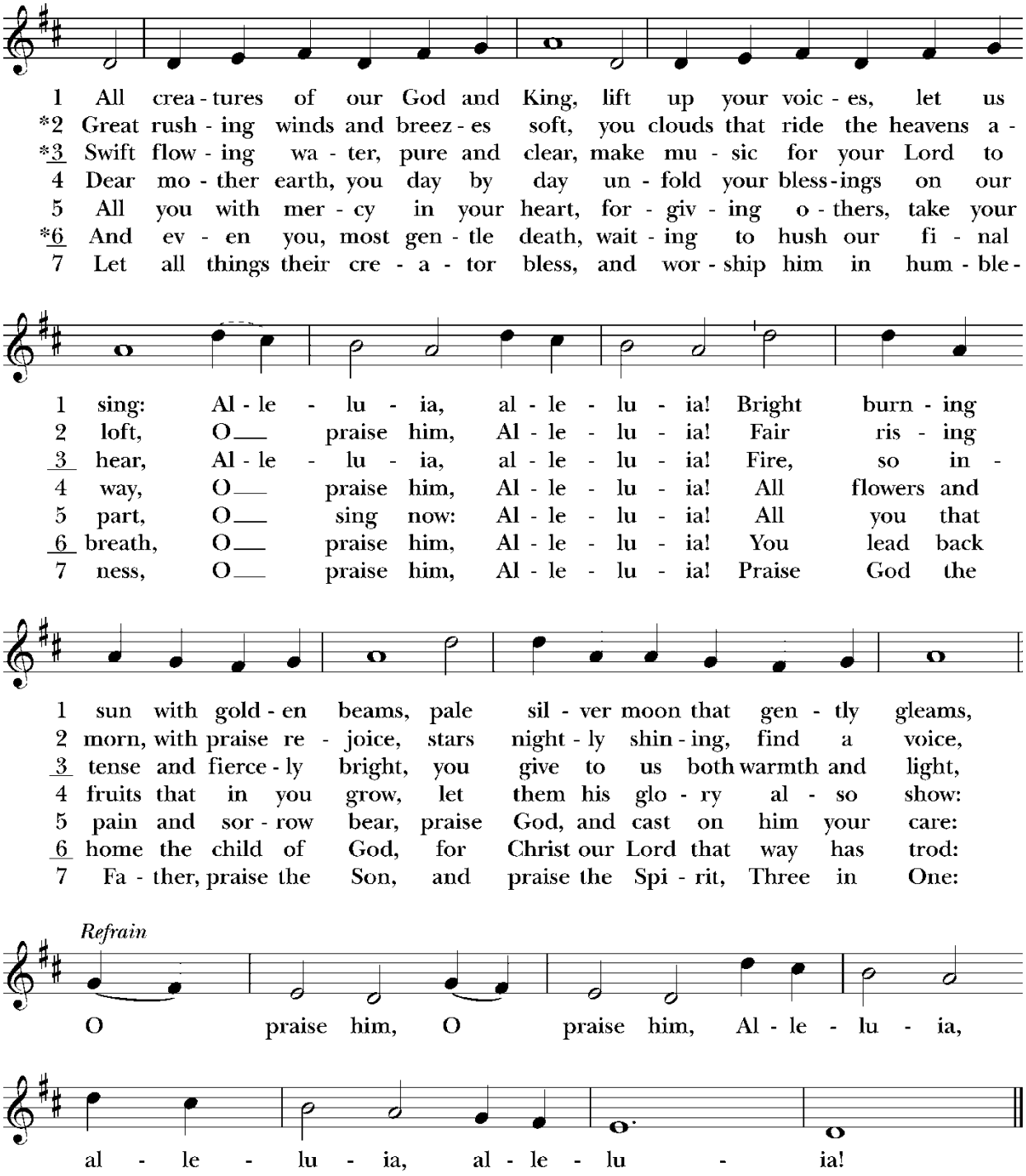
Prelude: *Andante from Two Lyrical Pieces* (Arnold Bax)

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn: *All creatures of our God* (H 400)



The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Opening Acclamation

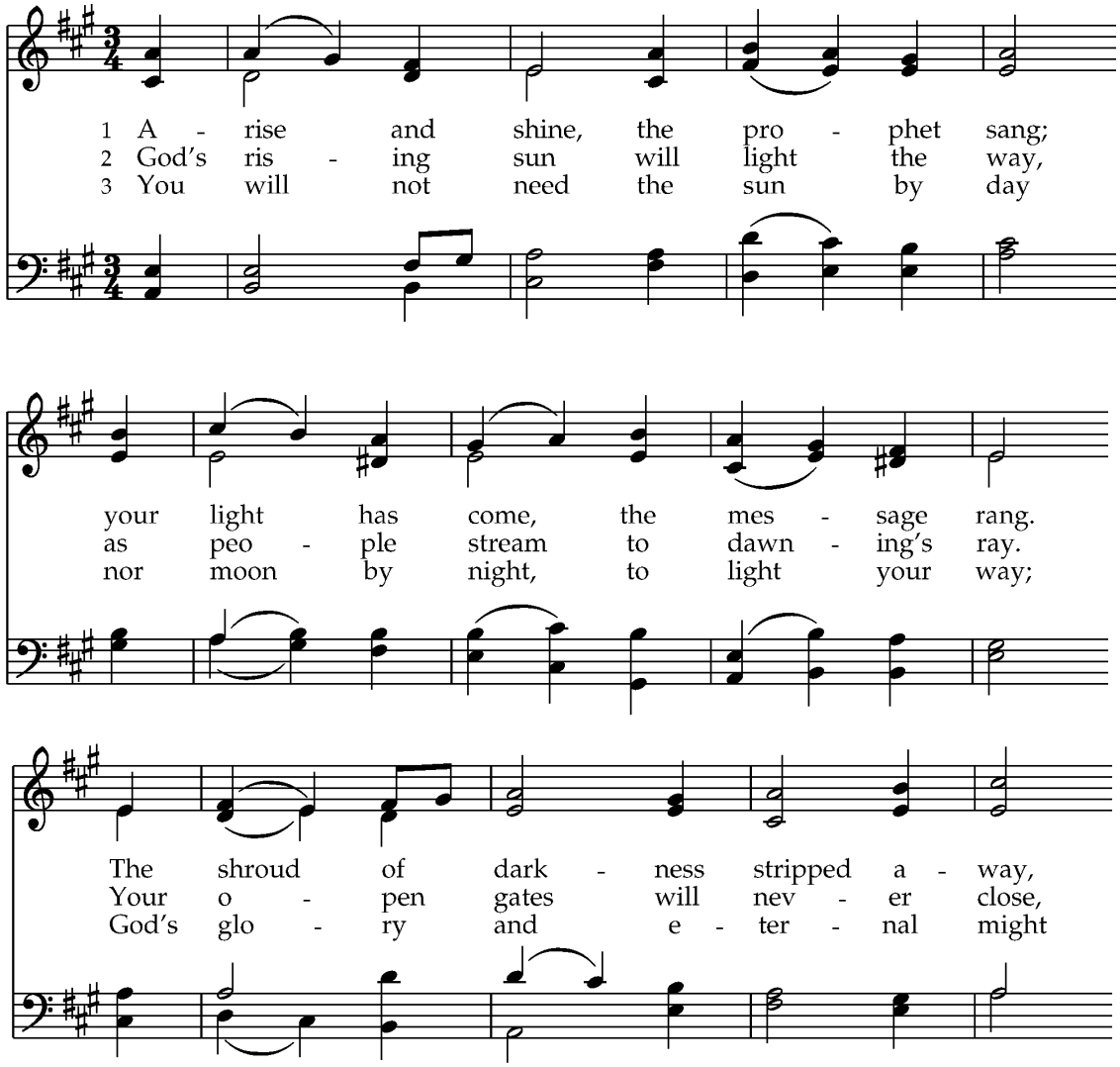
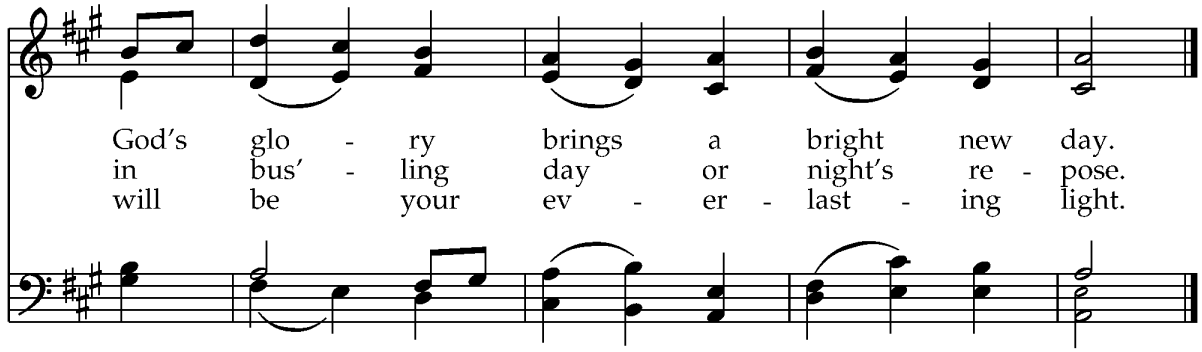
Please remain standing

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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: *Arise and Shine* (Wareham) (VF 156)



Words: Patricia B. Clark, para. The Third Song of Isaiah © Gemini Press International. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: *Wareham*, melody William Knapp (1698–1768), alt.; harm. *Hymns: Ancient and Modern*, 1875, after James Turle (1802–1882).

The Collect of the Day

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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: Acts 17:22-31

A Reading from the book of Acts of the Apostles.

22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely
religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at
the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an
unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The
God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does
not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though
he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all
things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted
the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so
that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed
he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as
even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'
29Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

PSALM 66:7-18

7Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
8Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.
9For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
10You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
14Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
16If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
17But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

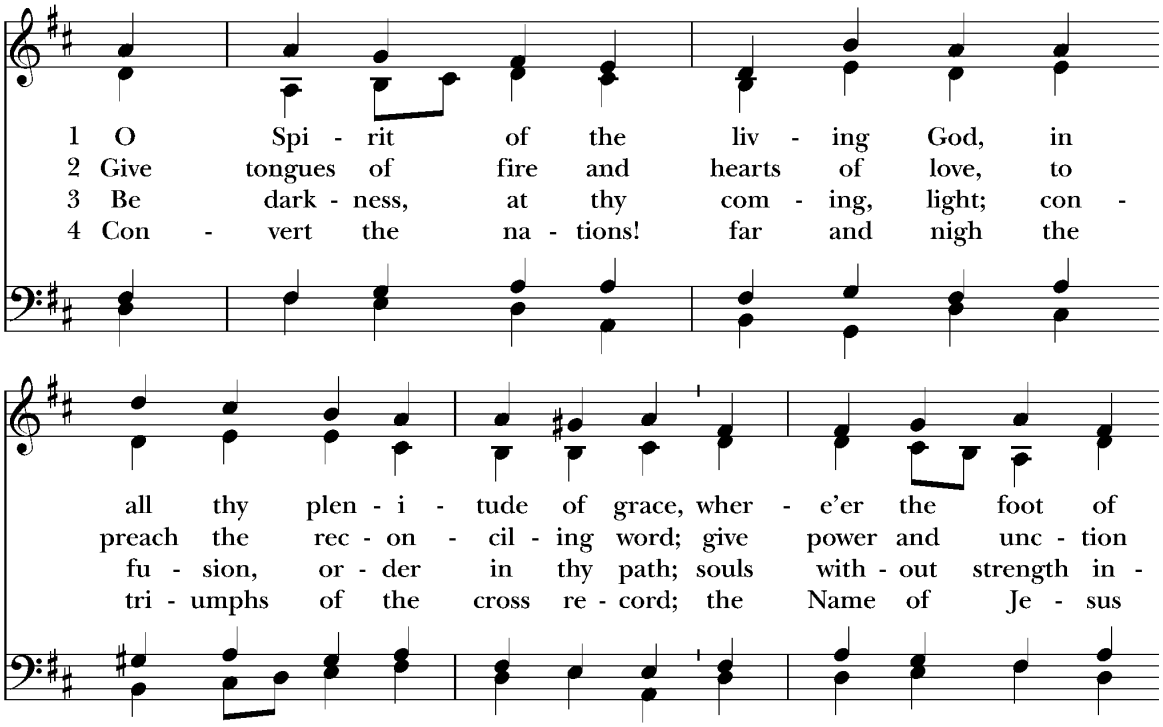
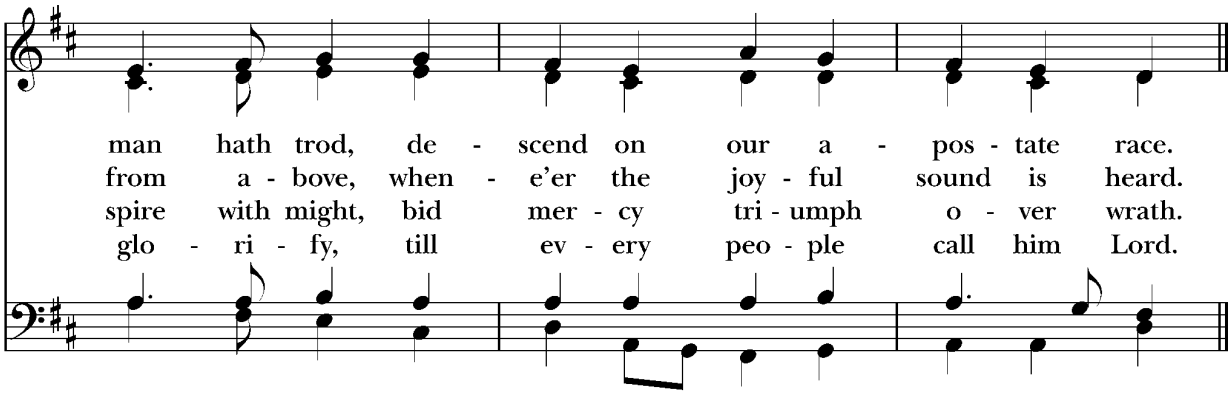
A Reading from the first letter of Peter.

[13]Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? [14]But even if you do suffer
for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be
intimidated, [15]but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your
defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; [16]yet
do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are
maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to
shame. [17]For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to
suffer for doing evil. [18]For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the
unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made
alive in the spirit, [19]in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in
prison, [20]who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of
Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved
through water. [21]And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of
dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22]who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *O Spirit of the Living God (Melcombe)* (H531)



Please remain standing if able

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

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

[Jesus said,] [15]"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16]And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. [17]This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

[18]"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. [19]In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. [20]On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21]They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

The Sermon: Demetrius Carrothers

The Creed

Please stand in body or spirit

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.

The Prayers of the People

Please remain standing

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of God's praise to be heard, saying, "We call out to you with our mouths; *your praise is on our tongues.*"

Lord Christ, you have not left us orphaned, but have given your Church an Advocate. May that same Holy Spirit teach us to keep your commandments and comfort us with divine love.
Silence
We call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

Loving God, bless the suffering. May those who suffer for doing good find a friend in Christ Jesus. May those who suffer from disasters beyond their control find you attentive to the voice of their prayers.
Silence

We call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

Lord of heaven and earth, you made the world and everything in it. You give to all mortals life and breath and all things. May we be faithful stewards of all you have created.
Invite the congregation to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence
We call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

Merciful Lord, bless the people of this city with a spirit of gentleness and reverence. May we be set free from fear to live, instead, in hope.
Silence
We call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

God, you are not far from each one of us. You love us as your children. Reveal your love, especially this day, to the sick and sorrowful. We pray for those we name aloud and silently:
Elizabeth Mapp, 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 call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

Heavenly Father, you hold our souls in life. You have saved us in baptism. Because your Son Jesus lives so do we rejoice in the hope of unending life in you.
Silence
We call out to you with our mouths;
Your praise is on our tongues.

Please say the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer together:
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.

Let's pray together a prayer for all who share a Mother's love
Most gracious God, from your heart you gave birth to all creation, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, you gather up all your children under the shadow of your wings: Through maternal love may we obtain a foretaste of your unconditional and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

Confession of Sin
Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Officiant 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.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

All stand in body or spirit

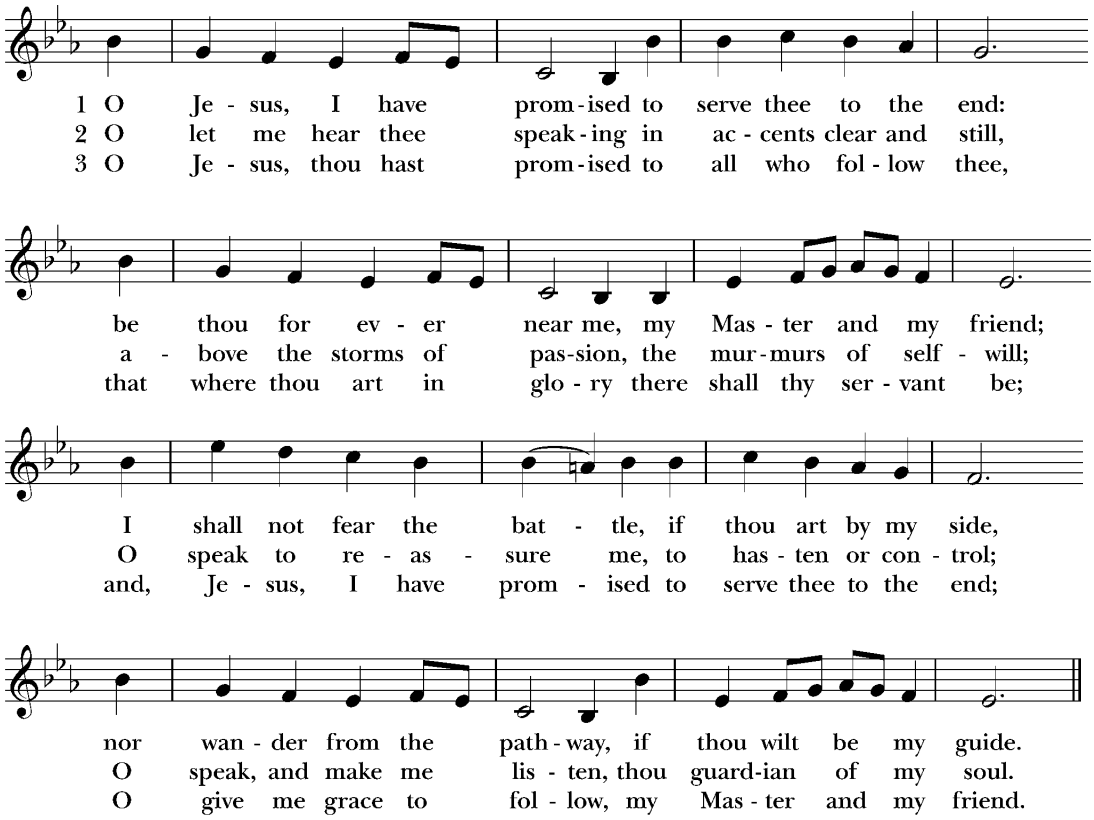
Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The 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 Jesus I have promised (*Nyland*)* (H 655)

Dismissal
Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God*!*

Postlude: *Spring Morning* (Andrew Gant)

TODAY'S SERVERS:
Officiant: Douglas Colmery
Lay Preacher: Demetrius Carrothers
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Kelli Green, Peggy Neidig, Barb Anderson
Lector: Peggy Neidig
Counters: Demetrius Carrothers and Peggy Neidig

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

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.

Our joy for the Ashbys

Joe and Kay are not with us today because they're in Willoughby, celebrating the new ministry of their son, the Rev. Stephen Ashby. Stephen Ashby has been called as priest-in-charge of Grace Episcopal Church following nearly seven years as priest-in-charge of Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst. Our joy and prayers are with the entire family!

2026 Spring Assembly of the Daughters of the King

All Daughters of the King (DOK) chapters in the Diocese of Ohio are joyfully invited to the 2026 Spring Assembly on **May 16**, hosted by the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter at Grace Church, Sandusky. The day begins with registration at 9:30 a.m., followed by a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist presided over by the Rev. Seth Wymer and an engaging presentation by the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert. Attendees will enjoy fellowship, music, a catered lunch, and a guided tour of the newly renovated sanctuary and historic stained glass windows. This year's outreach project supports Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter, and attendees are encouraged to bring donations of basic bath or kitchen items. The cost is $22. For reservations, required by May 11, contact Becky Montague, or text 419.271.1085.

Methodists and Episcopalians come closer together

[Excerpted from the Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church is moving closer to finalizing a full-communion agreement with the United Methodist Church. ...

The Methodists' General Conference already voted in favor of full communion with Episcopalians in 2024 while also removing the denomination's ban on ordaining gay clergy, redefining marriage and ending official church condemnation of homosexuality. The Episcopal Church's 82nd General Convention is scheduled to take up and possibly approve the

agreement with the Methodists when bishops and deputies convene in July 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona.

This kind of ecumenical dialogue asks, “Can we live into this gospel call with each other?” the Rev. R.J. Powell, an East Tennessee priest who serves on the full-communion dialogue committee, said during the April 23 Zoom webinar. If the answer is yes, “a full-communion agreement just broadens what we can do,” he said.

Iowa Bishop Betsey Monnot is the Episcopal chair of the United Methodist-Episcopal Church dialogue committee. She said full-communion agreements can open doors to ecumenical partnerships at the local level.

...

(St. Paul's and Crossroads United Methodist Church have observed Good Friday services together for the last four years, alternating between the two churches.)

...

“When I think about possibilities of partnering with some of those churches … so that we are able to provide the sacraments and the ministry of pastoral care that folks need, it’s just a very, very exciting possibility,” Monnot said. ...

The two denominations have clear differences. Episcopal deacons cannot celebrate the Eucharist, but Methodist deacons can. The proposal acknowledges Methodist deacons’ sacramental authority within Methodist churches but would prohibit Methodist deacons from celebrating the Eucharist in Episcopal churches. Episcopal deacons still would not be allowed to celebrate the Eucharist, either in Episcopal or Methodist churches.

“Both of our churches hold a robust theology of Eucharist,” Powell said, though the sacramental elements differ. Communion in Episcopal churches involves the distribution of wine, while Methodist churches distribute grape juice.

Under a full-communion agreement, those practices would be preserved, with the understanding that each church would continue to distribute its tradition’s Eucharistic elements within its church setting, Powell said. When congregations come together for joint Episcopal-Methodist services, they would “simply ensure that wine and grape juice are present and available” for worshippers to choose. ...

The Episcopal Church is currently in full communion with eight other churches: the ELCA; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the Moravian Church-Northern and Southern Provinces; the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India; the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht; the Philippine Independent Church; the Church of Sweden; and, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

Celebrating Giovanni's big baptism day