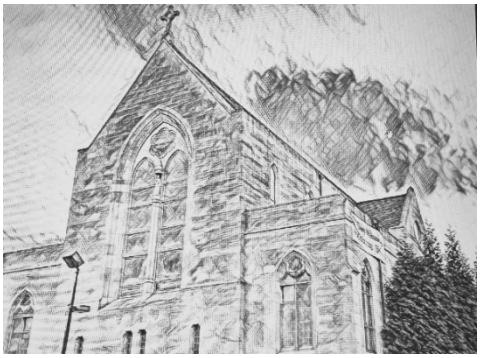
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Third Sunday of Lent
Holy Eucharist Rite 2
March 8, 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."

Third Sunday of Lent
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

- **Exodus 17:1-7**
- **Psalm 95**
- **Romans 5:1-11**
- **John 4:5-42**

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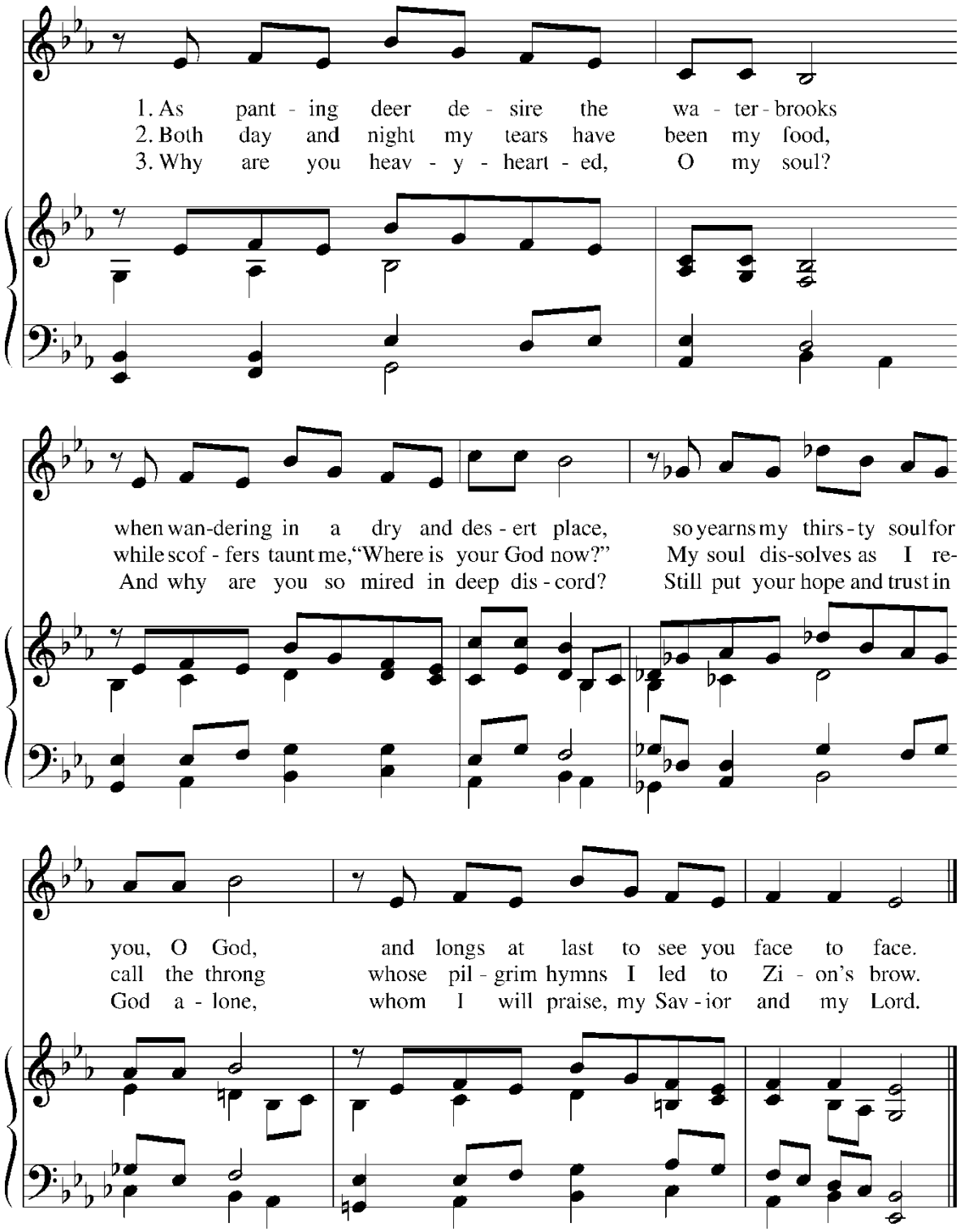
Prelude: *Adagio* (Robert Schumann)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *As panting deer desire the waterbrooks* (WLP 727)



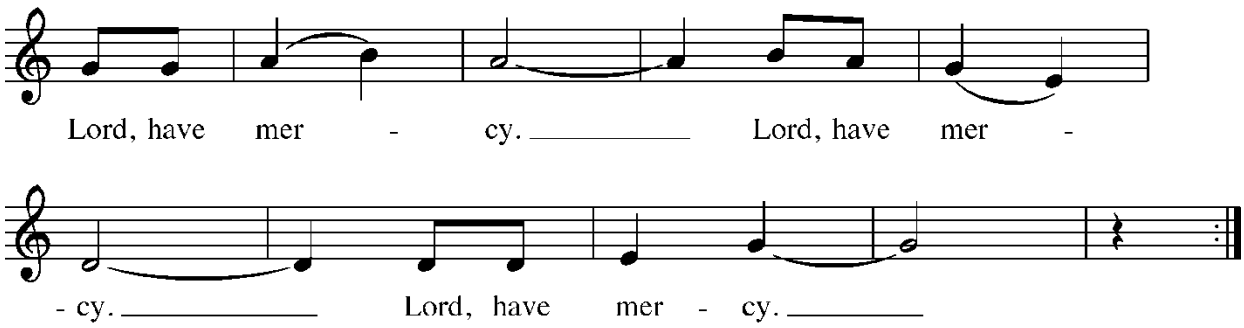
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: 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.*

KYRIE: *Lord have mercy* (EOM1 48)



Setting: Mark MacDonald, from **Red Lake Mass**, adapt. Francis Densmore.
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The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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: Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

[1]From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. [2]The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” [3]But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” [4]So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” [5]The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. [6]I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. [7]He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

PSALM 95

[1]Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
[2]Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
[3]For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
[4]In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
[5]The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
[6]Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
[7]For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
[8]Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.
[9]They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
[10]Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
“This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways.”
[11]So I swore in my wrath, *
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

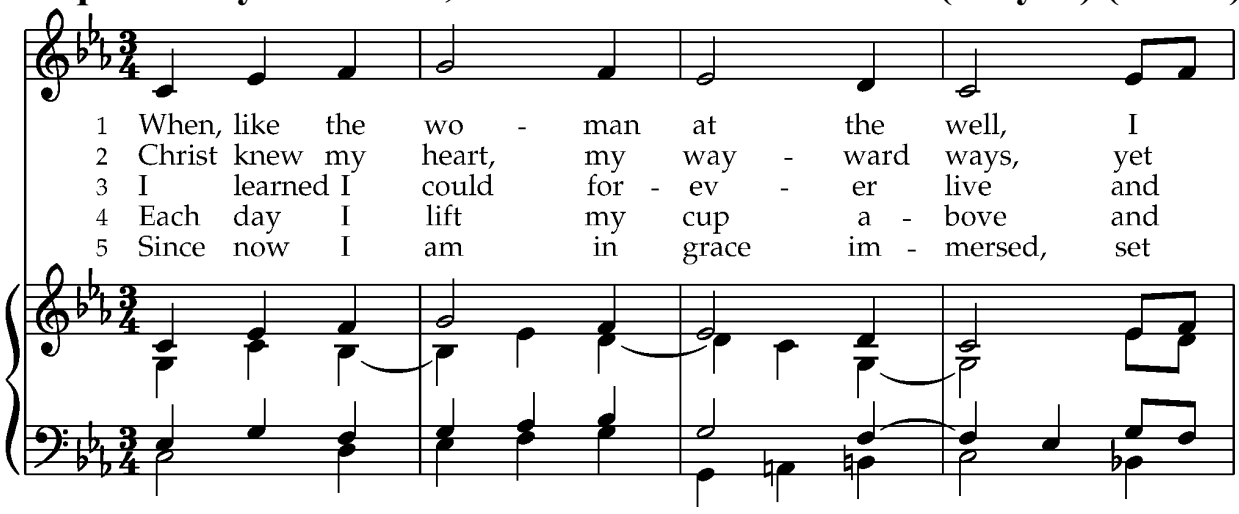
A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

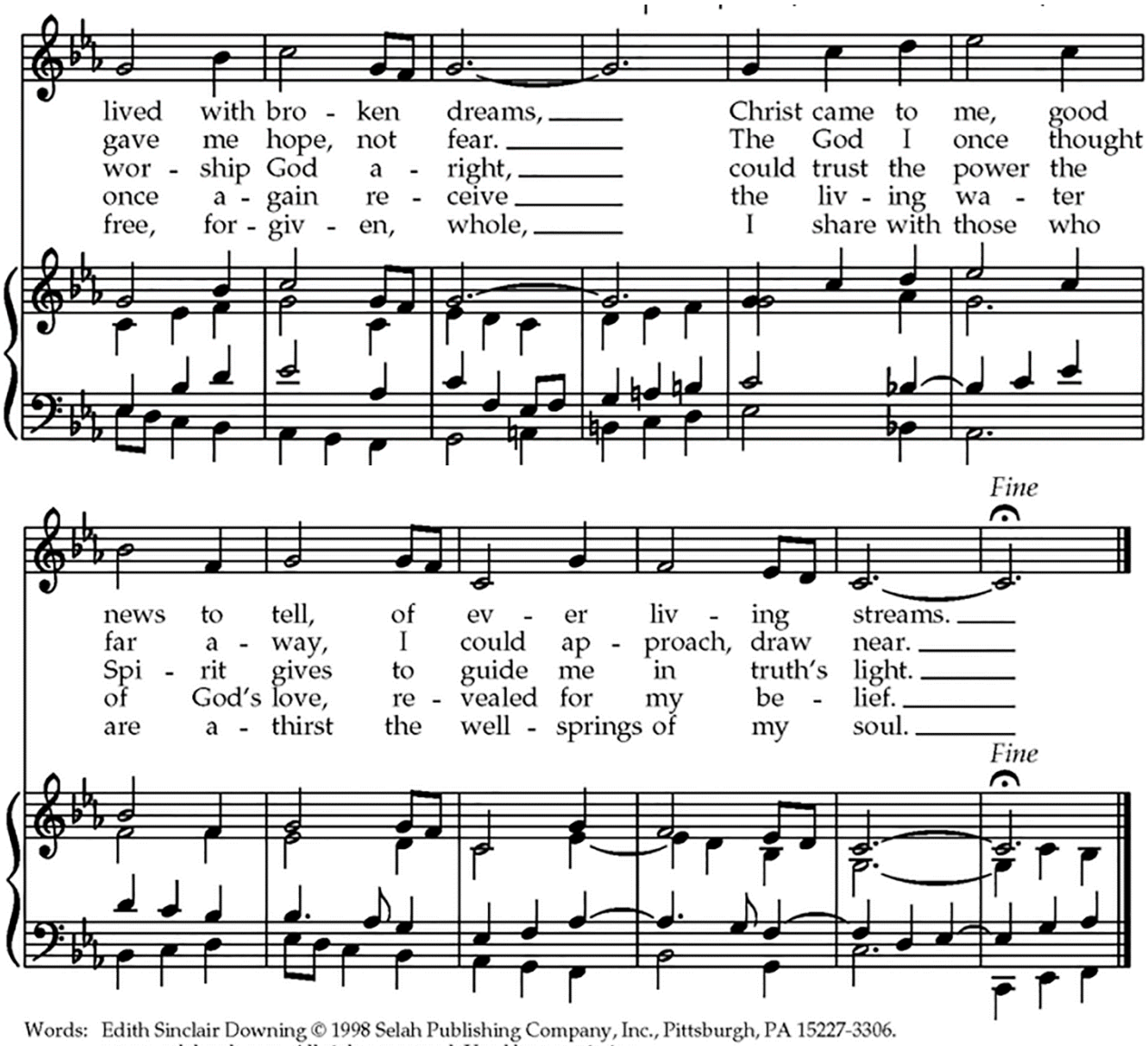
[1]Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, [2]through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we
boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. [3]And not only that, but we also boast in our
sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4]and endurance produces
character, and character produces hope, [5]and hope does not disappoint us, because God's
love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
[6]For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7]Indeed,
rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone
might actually dare to die. [8]But God proves his love for us in that while we still were
sinners Christ died for us. [9]Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by
his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. [10]For if while we were
enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely,
having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. [11]But more than that, we even boast
in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received
reconciliation.

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

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *When, like the woman at the well* (Wayne) (VF 24)





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GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-52

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

5[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had
given to his son Joseph.6Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was
sitting by the well. It was about noon.
7A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a
drink." 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to

him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) [10]Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” [11]The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? [12]Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” [13]Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, [14]but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” [15]The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

[16]Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” [17]The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; [18]for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” [19]The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. [20]Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” [21]Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. [22]You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23]But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. [24]God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” [25]The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” [26]Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

[27]Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” [28]Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, [29]“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” [30]They left the city and were on their way to him.

[31]Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” [32]But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” [33]So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” [34]Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. [35]Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. [36]The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. [37]For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ [38]I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

[39]Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” [40]So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. [41]And many more believed because of his word. [42]They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said

that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

For those who lead and guide the Church of Christ;
for loving care, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For faithful witness, fellowship in love;
for living hope, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For those who guide the nations of the earth;
that wisdom reign, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For those who seek and serve the common good;
that justice reign, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For neighbors' needs, for shelter from the storm;
for homes of peace, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For those in sorrow, anguish, and despair;
that they find hope, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For those oppressed, for those who live in fear;
that they be freed, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For all the sick especially Johanna Middleton, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Patricia Willford, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Gene, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Alayna Linquist, Ronnie Long and Debbie Schmiedlen, we pray to you, O Lord: *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

For the dying, and the dead, especially Elaine Neff and Edward Kulczack, be life and grace, *God ever faithful, God ever merciful, God of your people, hear our prayer.*

We pray together now the Discernment Prayer for St. Paul's
O Lord our God,
May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.
We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.

We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.
And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.

The 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*.

The Peace
All stand.
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: *God be in my head* (Arlen Clark)

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

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.
Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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." ♪

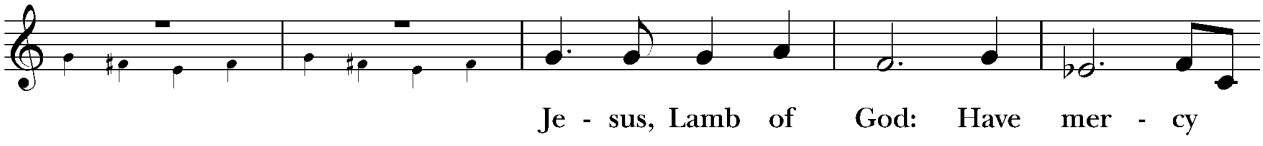
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

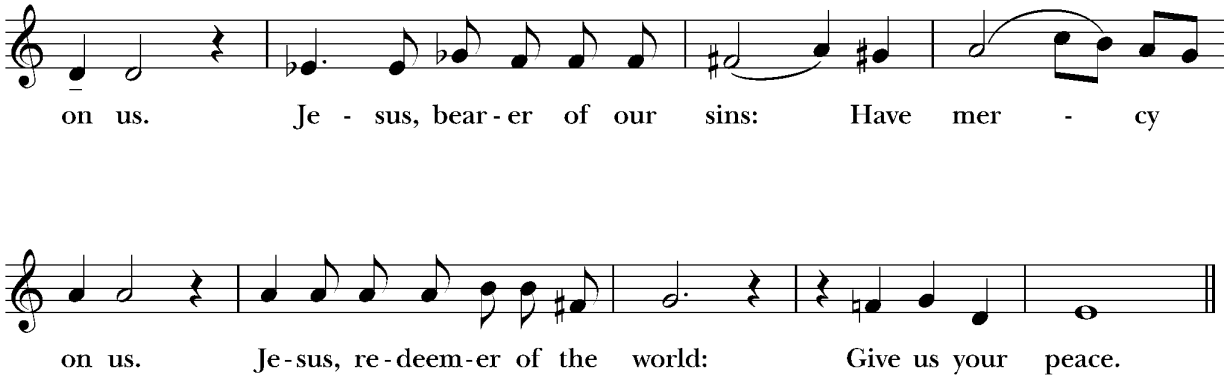
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending 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 165)





Spiritual Communion

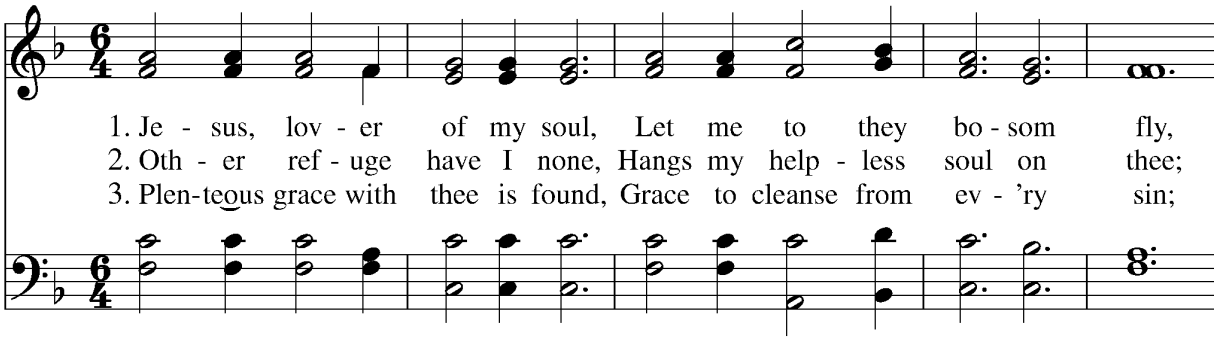
Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

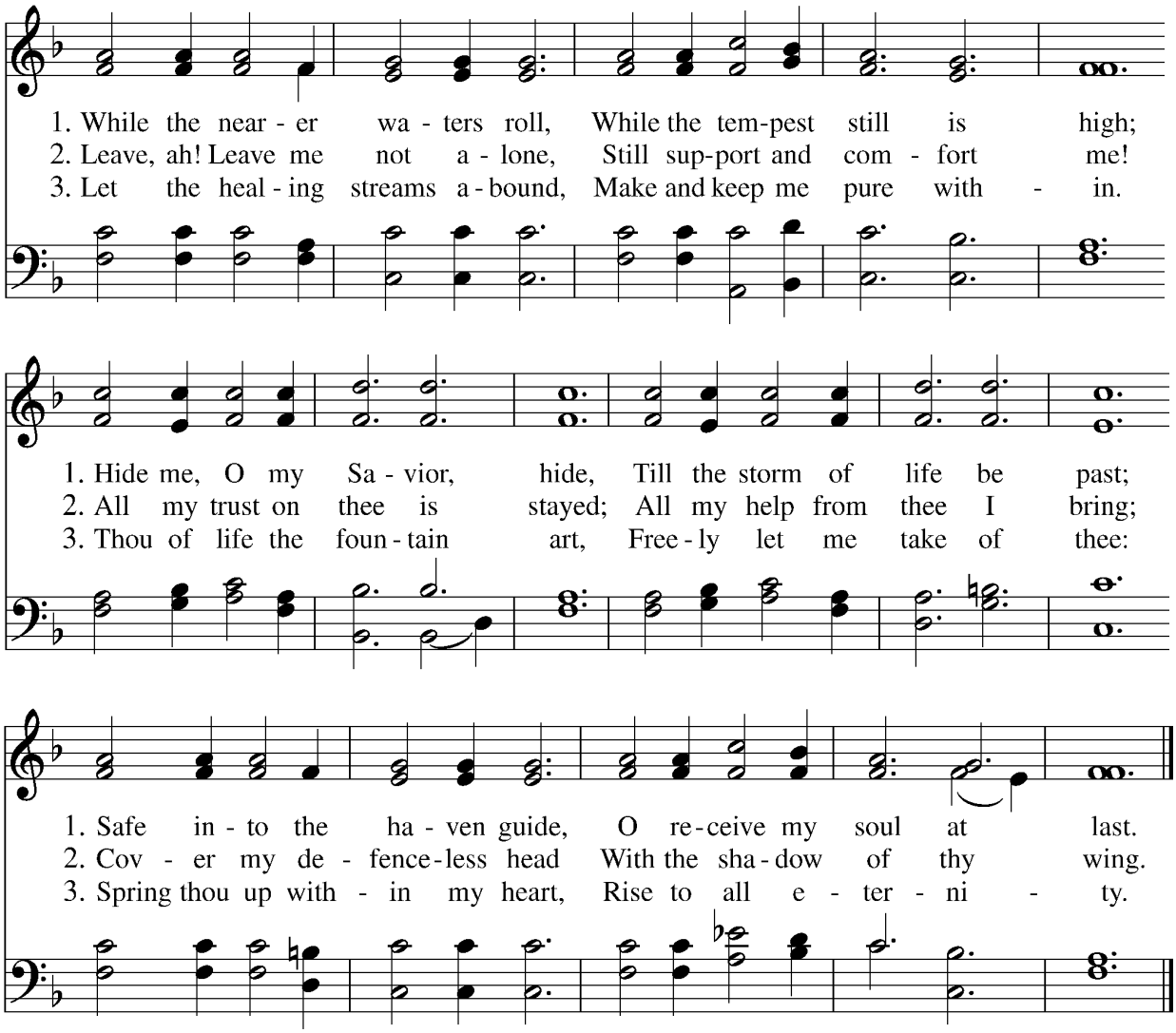
Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

****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: Jesus lover of my soul (LEVAS 79)





Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

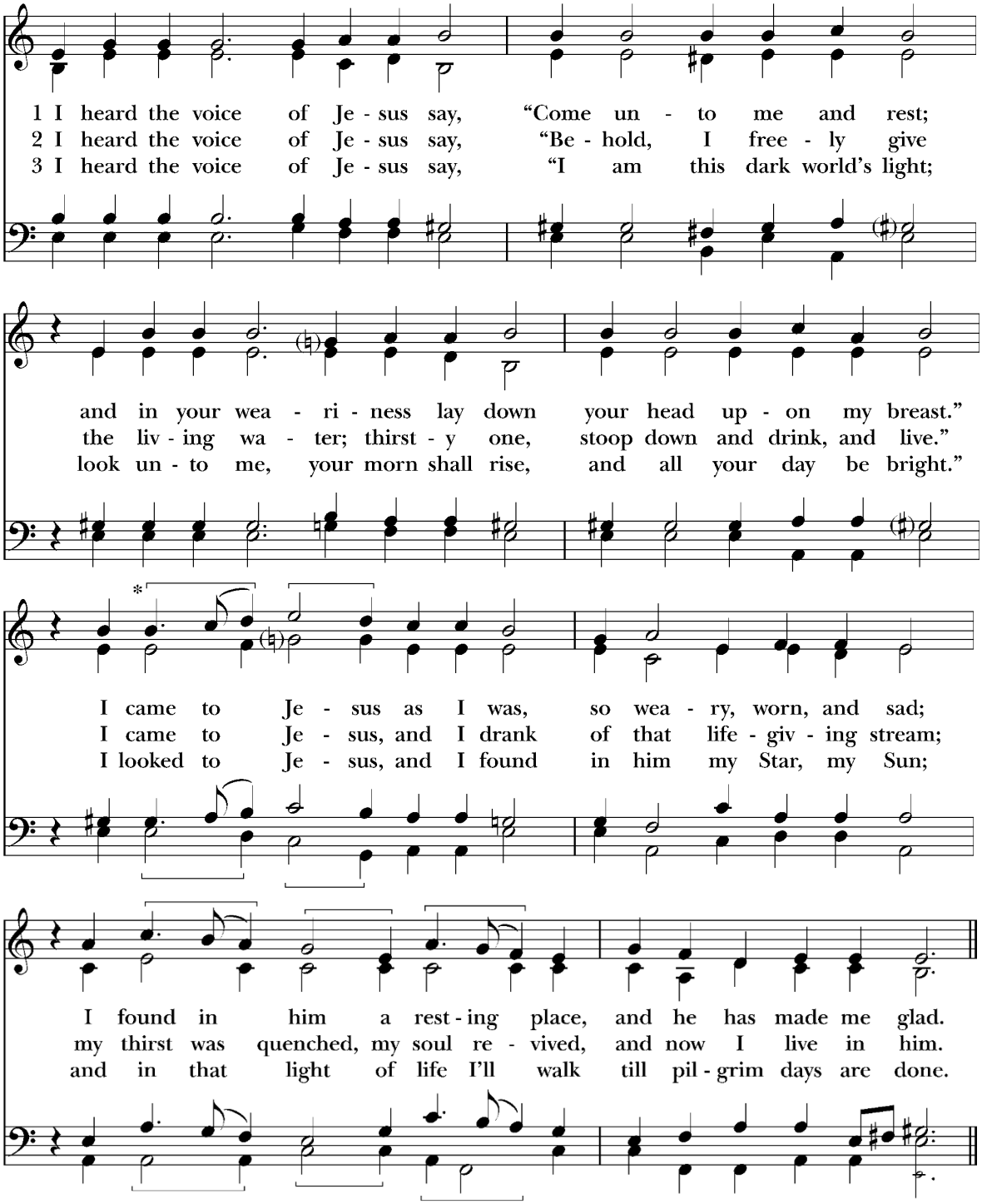
Celebrant and People

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: *I heard the voice of Jesus* (H 692)



Dismissal

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

Postlude: *The Third Tune Hymn Improvisation* (Harold Darke*)*

TODAY'S SERVERS:

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Demi Carrothers and Karen Swope
Lector: M.L. Schultze
Counters: David Rotthoff 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.

Announcements

Daylight Savings Time began this morning. Remember, clocks sprang ahead 1 hour.

Happy March Birthdays!

Stephen Sutek 03/01
Robert Reiner 03/02
Linda Heitger 03/05
Paul Schmucker Jr. 03/05
Beverly Vail 03/05
Brenda Maurer-Denning 03/06
Jason Marcum 03/09
Haley Wade 03/11
Sean Ryan 03/12
Wendy Gray 03/13
Gregory Johanning 03/14
Corey Demastus 03/21
Johnathan Suba 03/22
Mike Paynter 03/26
Pierce Cox 03/27
Elizabeth Mapp 03/31

Road trip this afternoon

The St. Paul's crew heads north after service today for the 2 p.m. performance of "Man of La Mancha" at Greystone Hall in Akron. If you ordered tickets, please see Schultze after service and remember (in the words of Dulcinea) "Take a deep breath of life and consider how it should be lived … Love not what thou art, but only what thou may become."

Special offerings at St. Paul's during this time of preparation

Lent is a time of preparation and expectation and St. Paul's is offering special services and educational opportunities to gather strength and understanding and to deepen our understanding and relationship with God.

- Sundays following services through March 29: Father Joe and Mother Kay are offering special classes that take us beyond what we think we know about Christ's love and sacrifice.
- Wednesdays at noon throughout Lent: Special Holy Eucharist services followed by a light lunch of homemade soups and breads.
- Fridays at 5:30 p.m. throughout Lent: Stations of Cross to understand the path Christ traveled through Holy Week.

Each of these is in addition to our weekly Holy Eucharist services, Sundays beginning at 10:30 p.m.

The Diocese is coming to St. Paul's for its first-ever regional gathering – and everyone is invited

The first regional gathering of the Diocese of Ohio will be the Akron-Canton region and St. Paul's will be one of three hosts (St. Paul's Akron and Christ Church Hudson are the other two). Our day will be Friday, May 29, and will include a wardens' lunch, prayer and compline, dinner and a focus on building spiritual practices to deepen beloved communities.
Here's more from the Diocese on the gathering and its purpose:

At Convention, Bishop (Anne) Jolly shared that our Rhythms of Gathering discernment, together with our shared desire for greater connectivity, deeper formation, and stronger support for ministry across the Diocese of Ohio, has led us to launch Regional Gatherings, beginning in 2026.

Our first Regional Gathering is scheduled for the Akron/Canton region, May 28–30, 2026. All are welcome to attend. Participants are welcome to join the entire gathering, or attend only one or two sessions. We will host another Regional Gathering, in a new location, in 2027.

The 2026 Regional Gathering is a three-day experience designed to strengthen the life of our faith communities. Through worship, shared meals, and practical workshops, people of all ages are invited to gather for formation and renewal. With a regional confirmation at its heart, this gathering will bring together learning, community, and joy to deepen our shared life across the Diocese of Ohio.

This gathering will include:
Teaching and practical tools from the College for Congregational Development (CCD) to equip congregations to become more faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable.
Opportunities for worship, prayer, and connection:

- Training, tools, and support for those serving in a variety of ministry roles.
- A celebration of Holy Eucharist with a regional confirmation.
- Time to meet with members of the Bishop's staff, both individually and in groups.

Registration for the Regional Gathering will open the first week of March. Workshops for the event are available to view on the diocesan website. Suggested hotel accommodations will be forthcoming for those choosing to travel for the event. Childcare options will be available on Thursday evening and all day Saturday. Additional childcare is provided on an as-needed basis, and can be requested at the time of registration.

We're excited for these Regional Gatherings to strengthen our diocesan connections and support the ministry happening across every region. Come ready to engage, connect, and enjoy the collaborative and uplifting experience that awaits us all. We can't wait to see you there!

Pie, pie, pie

Next Sunday is Laetare Sunday, also known as Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday and Rose Sunday. It falls at the mid-point of the austere season of Lent and offers a bit of celebration. So, celebrate with us in the Guild Hall following service for the second of the Daughters of the King bake sales to support the Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts of Life program. This time, the offerings will be pies, pies and more pies. All proceeds will again go toward buying goats for people in parts of the world less fortunate than ours.

Please help make our Sanctuary burst into bloom this joyful Eastertide! To place your order for Easter Flowers, please complete this form and return it to Tammy in the Parish Office. Make checks payable to St. Paul's. Thank you!

Name: _____ Total Enclosed: $_____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

To the Glory of God for: _____

Quantity	Type	Price	Donate *	Purchase **
_____	Easter Lily (7.5")	$17.25 ea.	_____	_____
_____	Easter Lily (8.5")	$24.75 ea.	_____	_____
_____	Tulips (6.5 "- assorted colors)	$10.00 ea.	_____	_____
_____	Paschal candle flower ring (one needed)	$50.00	_____	xxxxxxxx
_____	Majesty palm plant (4 needed)	$24.00 ea.	_____	_____

*Flowers donated will be distributed to homebound parishioners when the chancel area is cleared, and are tax-deductible.
**Flowers purchased will be labeled with the buyer's name and may be picked in the Narthex when notified (non-deductible).

Deadline to order flowers: Monday, March 23