St. Paul's Episcopal Church

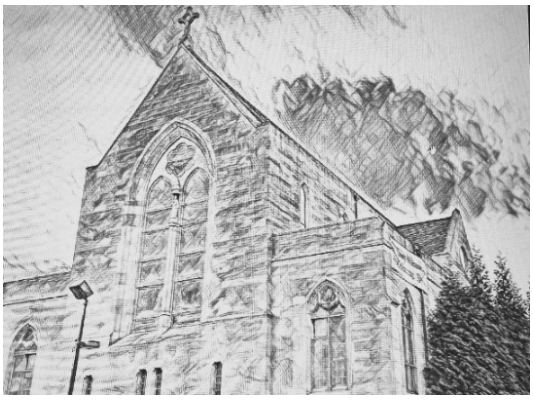
Canton, Ohio

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
Aug. 9, 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
Office hours for Week of Aug 9: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
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."

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

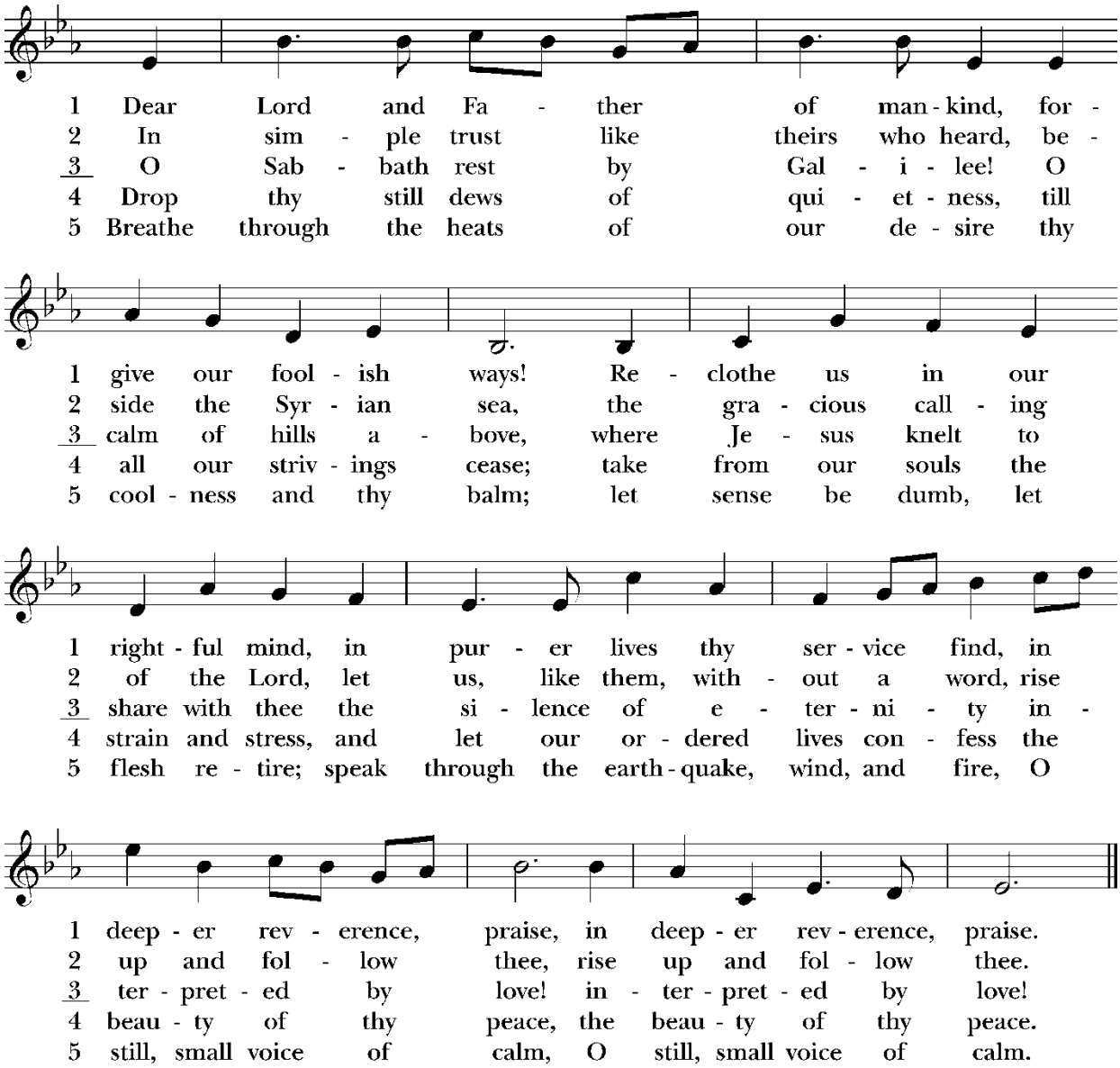
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2025 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Prelude: *Opus 36* (Dustin O'Halloran)

The Word of God

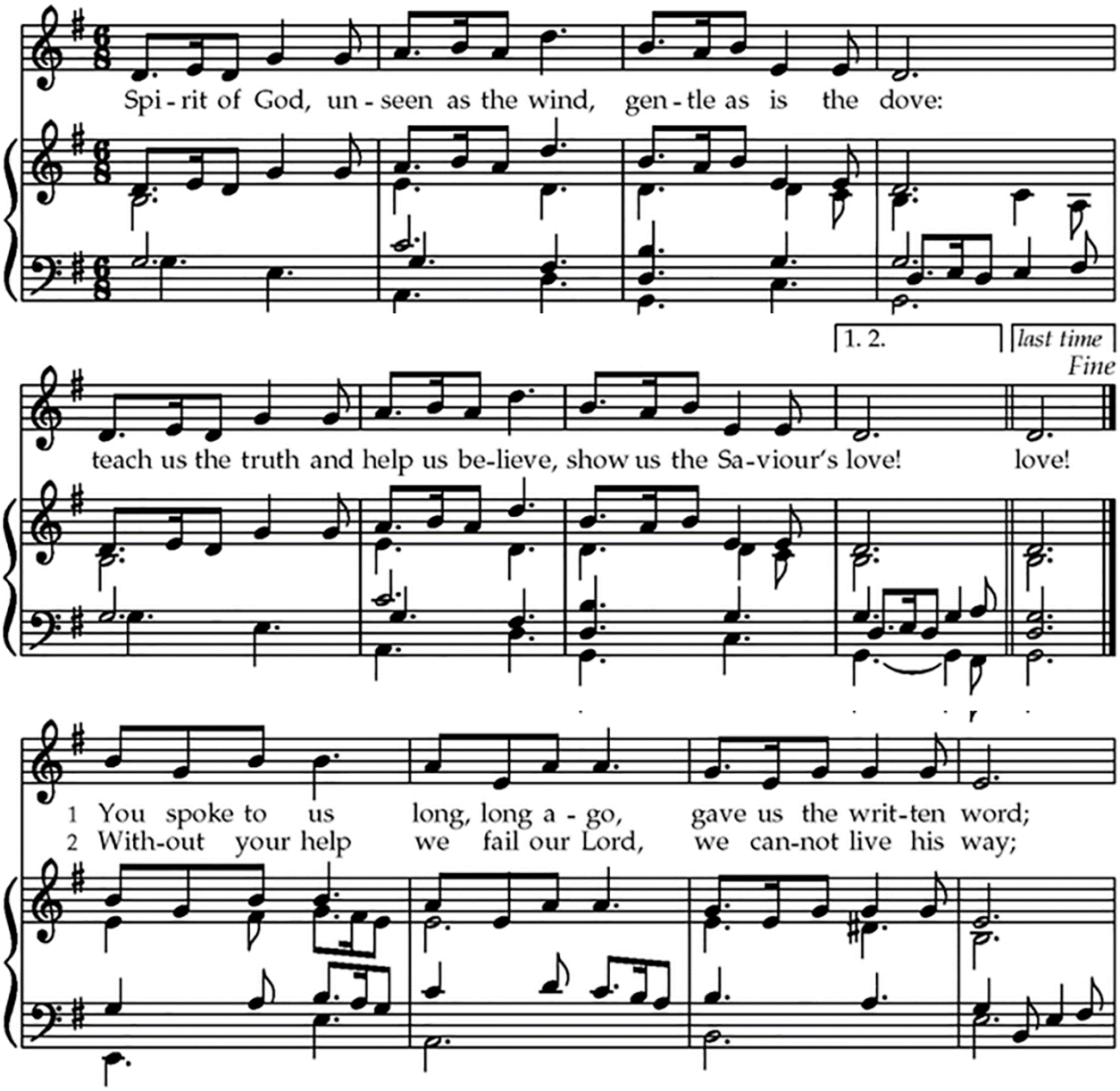
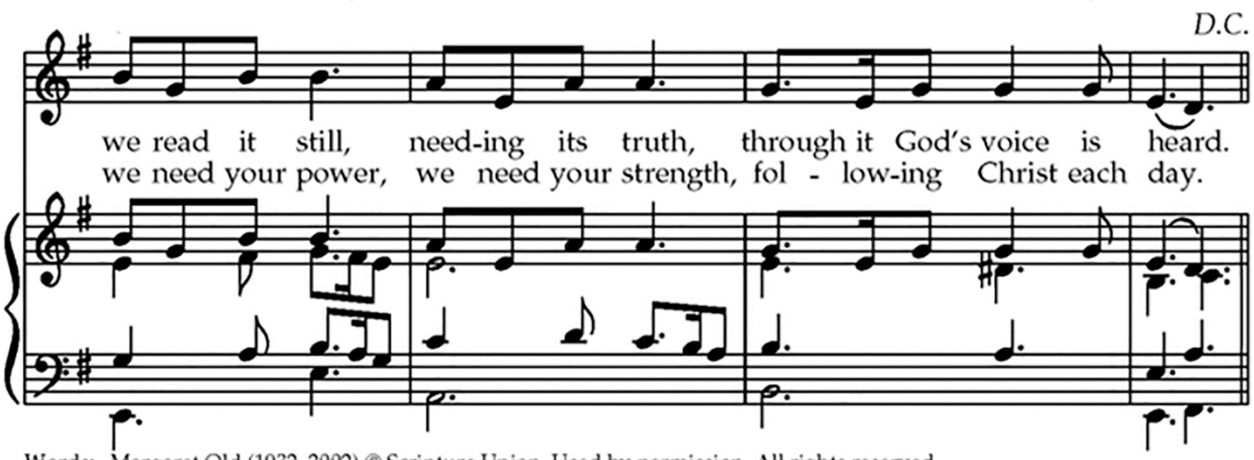
Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (Repton)* (H653)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

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 *Spirit of God* (Skye Boat Song) (VF 53)



Words: Margaret Old (1932–2002) © Scripture Union. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Music: *Skye Boat Song*, Scottish traditional melody; arr. James Whitbourn © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.
Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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: 1 KINGS 19:9-18

A Reading from the first book of Kings.

9[Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.
Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"10He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."
11He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the

Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." [15]Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. [16]Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. [17]Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. [18]Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13

[8]I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
[9]Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
[10]Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
[11]Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
[12]The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
[13]Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 10:5-15

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

[5]Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." [6]But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7]"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8]But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

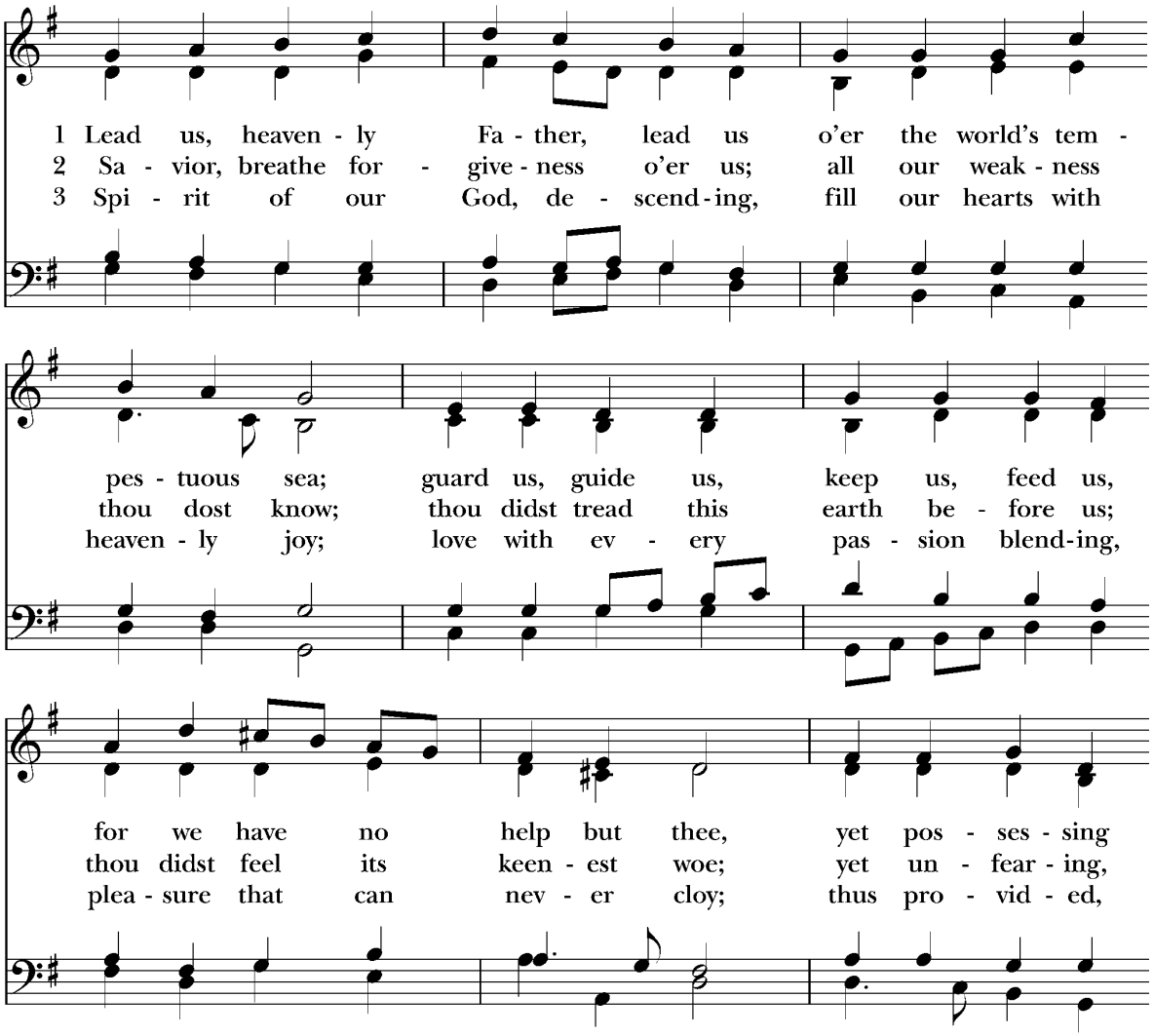
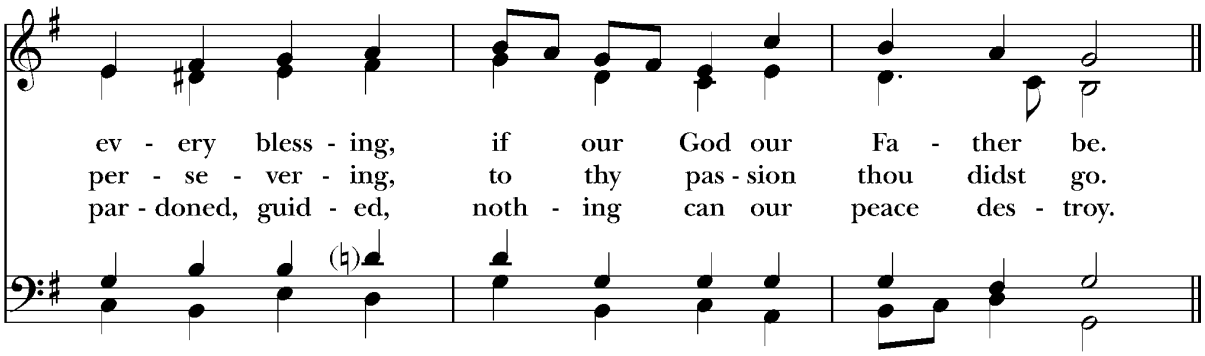
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); [9]because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10]For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. [11]The scripture says, "No one who

believes in him will be put to shame." [12]For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. [13]For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

[14]But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? [15]And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Lead us heavenly Father lead us* (Dulce carmen) (H559)



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

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

22 [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he
dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain
by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat,
battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early
in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw
him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in
fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be
afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the
water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and
came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and
beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his
hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When
they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying,
"Truly you are the Son of God."

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ
People Glory to you, O 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

All-loving God, whose life is the source of our life, whose love is the source of our salvation, pour out your grace upon your church and upon the world, that all may know you, love you, and serve one another in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All-governing God, who set forth the foundations of the world, so direct, inspire, and correct those in authority in this nation and the world, that the laws they make and the policies they embrace may reflect the dignity with which you created humanity in your image, and in harmony with your creation. Remove from the imaginations of power all thoughts toward oppression, discrimination, or other sins of pride, that we may truly love your image in one another, and in your Name;

Hear our prayer

Incarnate God, you lived among neighbors, friends and enemies alike; you know the intimate and everyday concerns of your people in this and every community. Where there is suffering, continue to heal it. Where there is harm, continue to expose it. Where there is need, continue to feed your people with the abundant Providence of God, from whom all blessings flow. Do not let us forget, either, our responsibility for one another's welfare, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

Resurrecting God, we pray for those who live in the shadow of death, in places of war, in places of terror, in unsafe homes, in uncaring communities. We pray for an end to war, an undoing of terror, a disarming of hatred. We pray for those who have died, known to us and known only to you, that we may one day receive the same mercy that you have for each of them. In your Name we pray*;*
Hear our prayer.

Awe-inspiring God, we thank you for the joys of human living, for the relationships that bring us closer to the knowledge of your love, for the colors of creation that reflect your glory, as the prophet recognized in the rainbow the glory of the living God. We thank you that we are "marvelously made" in your image, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All healing God, we ask for your healing presence in the lives of those we love especially for Tom Lilly, Dr. Claire Persteiner, Johanna Middleton, Viola Sullins, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Ronnie Long, Aiden Ortiz, we pray to you O Lord.
Hear our prayer.

All listening God, we offer before you the deepest thanksgivings and desires of our hearts, silently or aloud.
People add their prayers.
We pray to you O Lord.
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 Everliving God, we give thanks for the ways in which you have allowed the prism of your glory to be reflected through the diversity and beauty of creation, and through your children, made in your image. We repent of the times we have refused to recognize it. We rely on your mercy to restore its vision to us. We give thanks that you always hear our prayers, made in your Name. *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

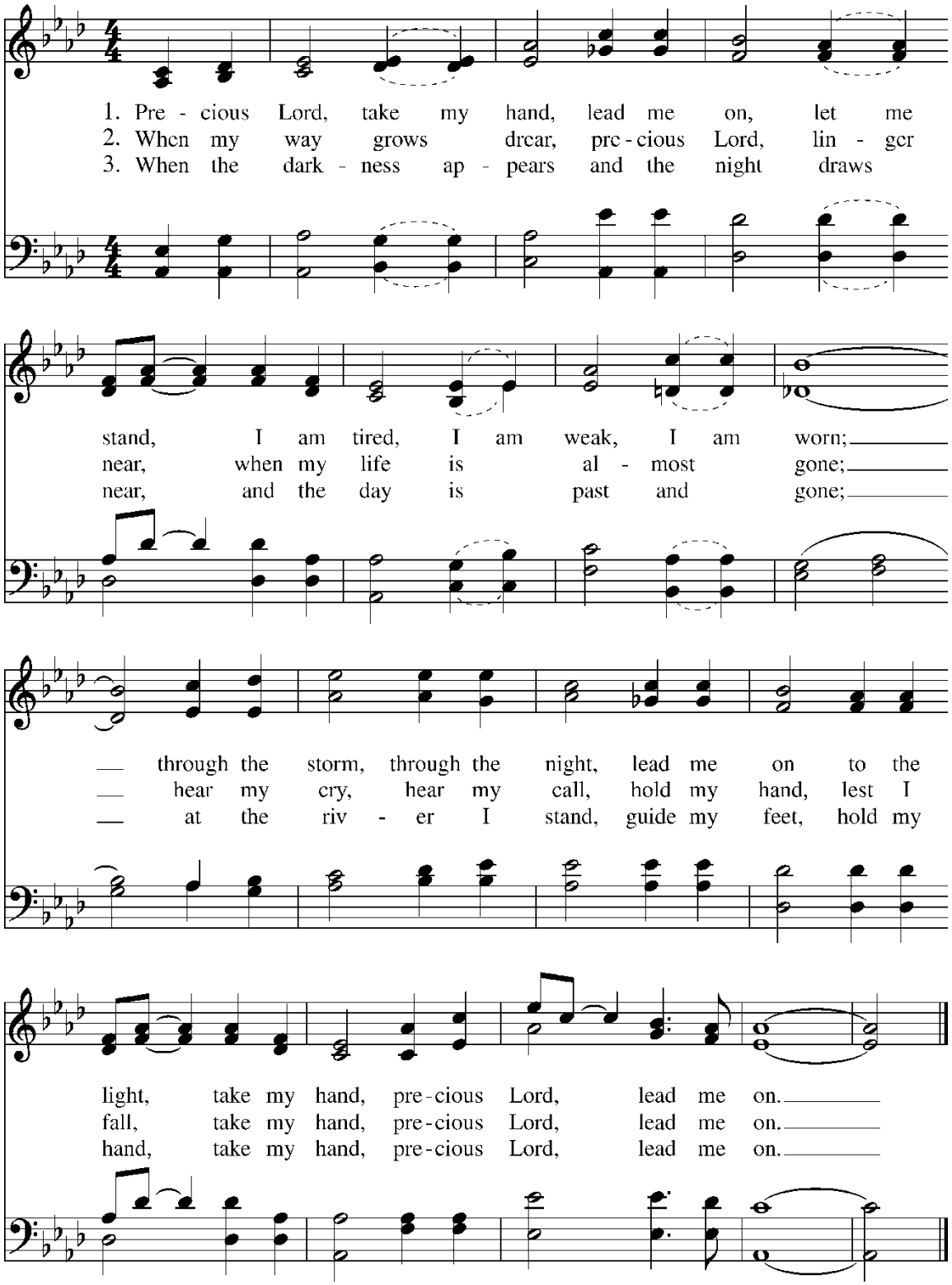
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

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.

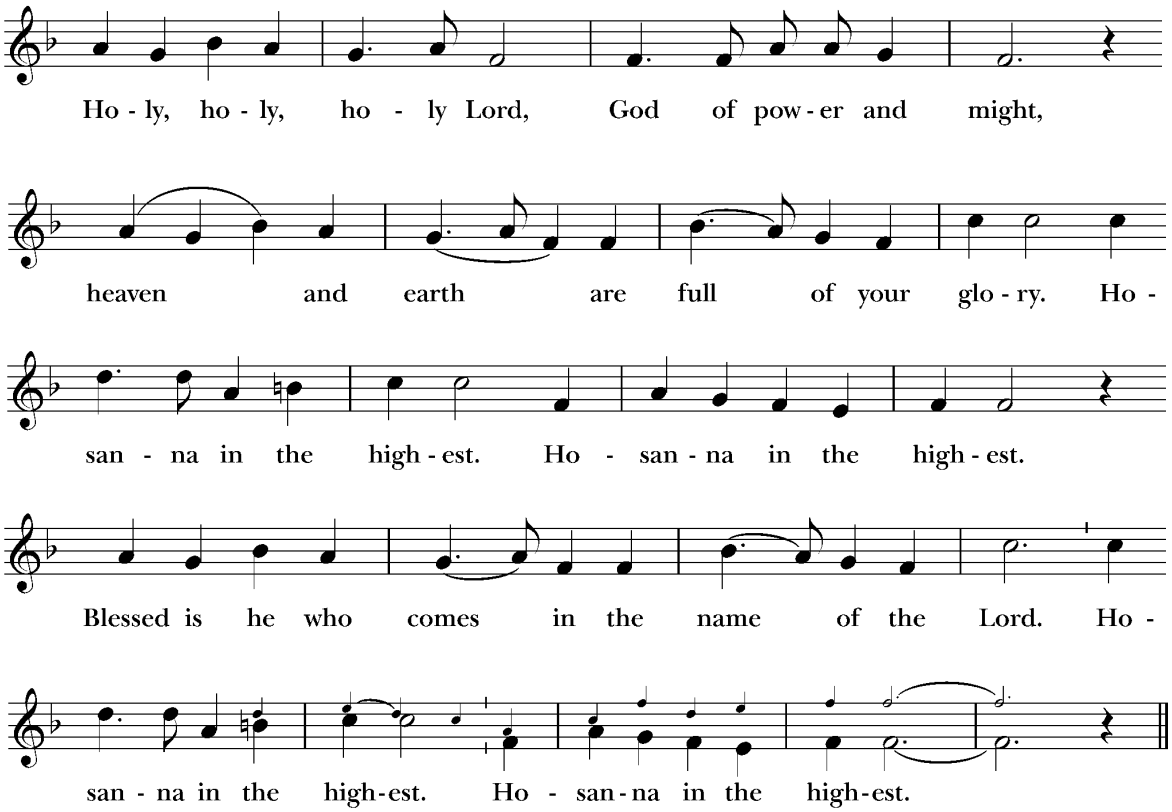
Offertory Hymn: *Precious Lord take my hand* (WLP 800)

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing: ♪♪♪

Sanctus S125



Blessed are you, Gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."♪

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

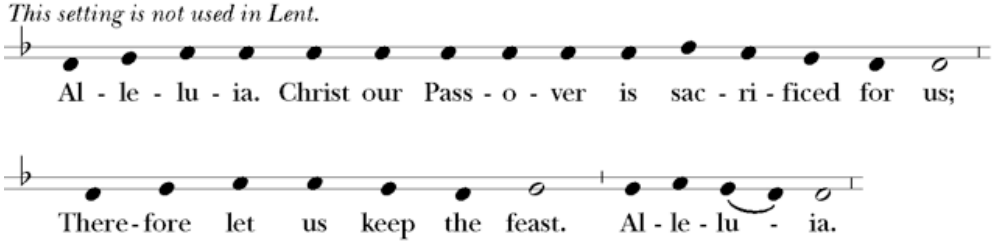
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread (S 152)

This setting is not used in Lent.



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

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.

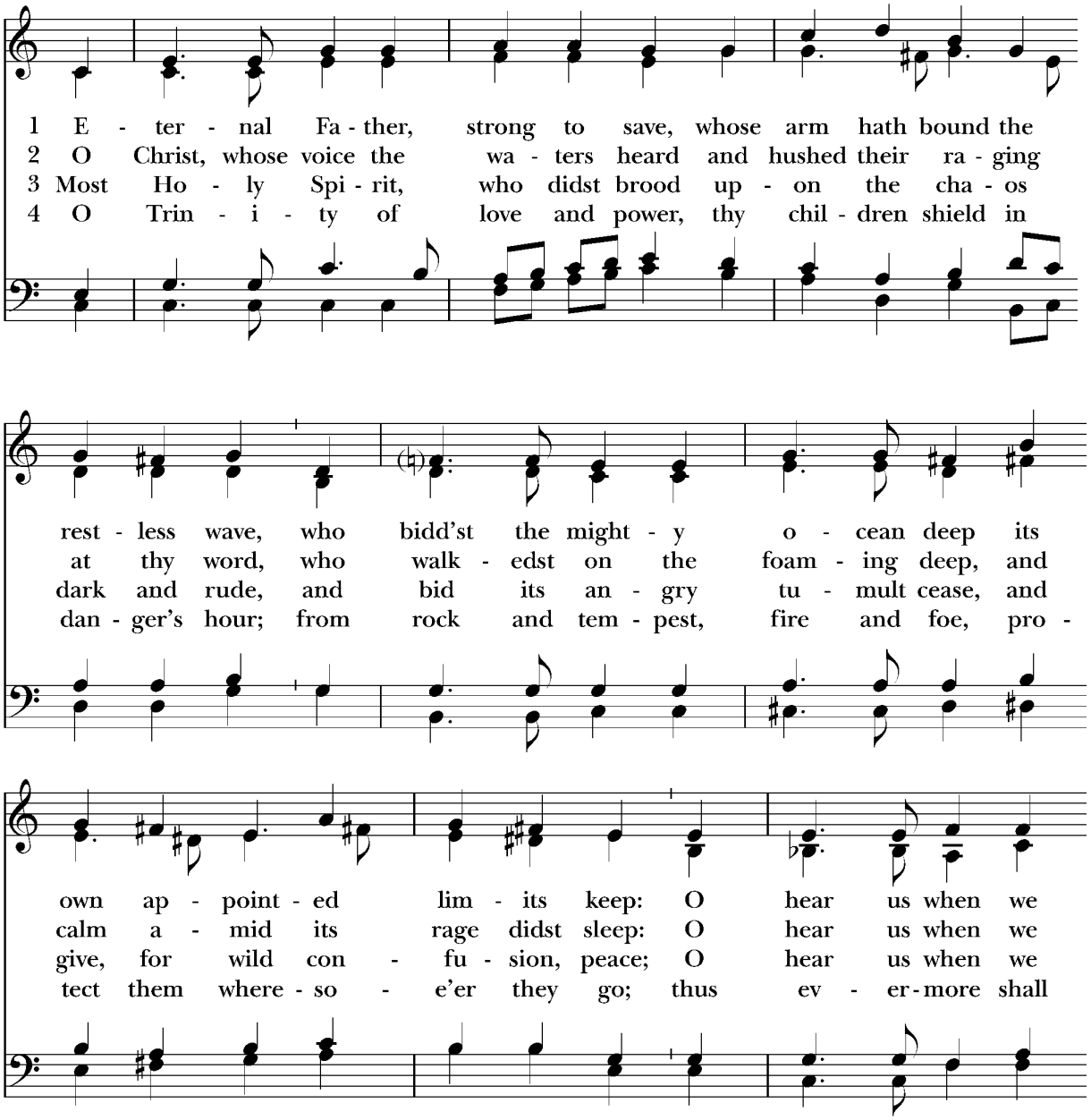
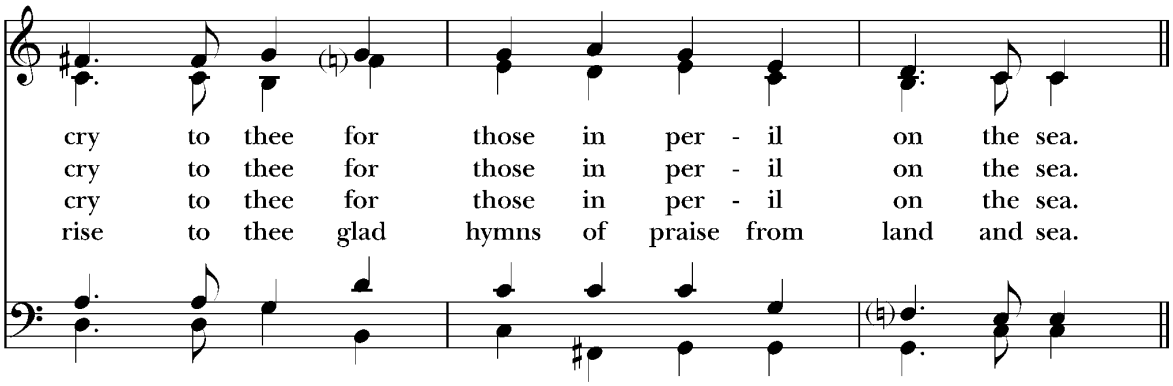
****Note to the congregation: Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the priests of St. Paul's.*

Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant
God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Eternal Father strong to save (Melita) (H 608)



Dismissal

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

Postlude: Hymn Improvisation on *Melita* (Rosalie Bonighton)

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.

Today's Servers

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis and Paula Hampton
Crucifer: Karl Roshong
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video/Photography: David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Lector: Demetrius Carrothers
Altar Guild: Demetrius Carrothers and Karen Swope
Counters: Kelli Green and Cara Warren

Happy August Birthdays

Karl Roshong, 8/3
Stephen Johnson, 8/5
Katie Ryan, 8/12
Thomas Lilly, 8/13
David Lewis, 8/16
Victoria Suba-Roshong, 8/29
Richard Reinbold, 8/31
Cara Warren, 8/31
Tammy Patterson, 8/31

Happy August Anniversaries

Greg and Cathi Johanning, 8/11
Demetrius and Cynthia Carrothers, 8/28

Parish News

Server training today

There are lots of ways you can become more involved at St. Paul's, including as a server during Sunday services. If you'd like to take that step – or just find out more about it – please join us today (Aug. 9) after service in the Guild Hall for more information and training.

You and your voice matter

St. Paul's has embraced a structure of lay committees and ministries to help guide our church. This includes but is far from limited to the Vestry. Our committees and missions also include the Finance Committee, Worship Committee, Discernment Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Harvest Outreach Table, and Altar Guild.

None of the work of any of these can happen without your interest and input. If you are curious, have suggestions or want to get more involved, please let us know. You also are welcome to attend each and every Vestry meeting. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. Some of these meetings are primarily via Zoom, but we ensure there always is someone in the building during the regular meetings if anyone in the congregation wants to attend in person. The next meeting will be Aug. 24.

You also can ask for the Zoom link to the meetings.
If you want to contact Senior Warden M.L. Schultze directly, feel free to call (330) 842-7660 or write pottermommy@aol.com.

Be a part of Bellwether's harvest

Bellwether Farm is inviting people from throughout the Diocese to a series of four Farm-to-Table dinners, with activities ranging from canoeing and fishing to line dancing.
The first of the dinners is this coming Thursday (Aug. 13) from 4-7 p.m.
Bellwether Farm is about an hour west-northwest of Canton and is approaching its 10th anniversary as a camp, retreat and education center for the Diocese of Ohio. It also is a year-round working organic farm.
If you are interested in enjoying one of the dinners, click on the QR code or go to this link. (https://www.bellwetherfarm.com/calendar/events/2026/08/13/farm-to-table-dinner)

Update on the AEP building

This summer, Canton City Council agreed to a contract with the Akron-based architecture and engineering firm GDP Group to study what the former AEP building should become.

The study's cost is $142,000 to evaluate the space and renovation and maintenance costs for the building the city bought for $1 in April.

St. Paul's has more than a passing interest in the building's future. It sits just across the parking lot to our north, and AEP purchased part of our parking lot – with stipulations for our continued use – in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

Much of the building has been empty since AEP consolidated operations downstate.

The GDP study is looking at the space and condition of the building as it is. The city is considering converting the office building into a safety center for law enforcement operations, which would move the police and other departments out of City Hall. AEP is leasing one floor of the building back and plans to have about 100 employees working from the building.

The city says the GDP study is expected to be done in about nine months with construction in late 2027 or early 2028.

LGBTQ+ progress

The Episcopal Church is returning to Minneapolis, MN, in September to mark the 50 years since the 65th General Convention in that city adopted a resolution "affirming that homosexual people are children of God with a full and equal claim upon the church's love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care."

The three-day seminar on Sept. 3-5 will also "reflect on the church's ongoing journey toward LGBTQ+ inclusion."

The gathering, "Full & Equal: 50 Years in Pursuit of a Promise," includes worship, learning, storytelling, and fellowship and will provide tools for advocacy and archiving.

If you are interested in attending, here's the link for registration. https://web.cvent.com/event/421a7a27-e388-40dd-9f16-9d619d5f3fc2/register?environment=P2&RefId=GeneralRegistration&rp=13d88eae-1843-463c-b686-859e3b8ae19a