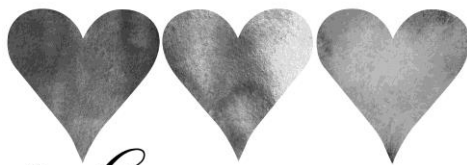


*Welcome to St. Paul's  
The Lord Bless You as You Worship!*



*“Love  
each other  
as I have  
loved you.”*

JOHN 15:12, NIV



***Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 5, 2024***

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
135 Hamilton Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527  
315-536-8165**

email: [office@stpaulspennyan.org](mailto:office@stpaulspennyan.org)

website: [www.stpaulspennyan.org](http://www.stpaulspennyan.org)

Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

***Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve***

## WORSHIP NOTES

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.*

**Prayer Requests** If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

**Face Masks** Are optional however, just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours as home. Thank you!

**Holy Communion** All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) *Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.*

**Pew Cushions** Are available on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

**Hearing Assistance** Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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## We Worship God

**Welcome**

**Prelude:**

*"Dove of Peace"*

*Gilbert M Martin*

*The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God: God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

### **Call to Worship**

P: Sing to God!

**All: We will sing God a new song!**

P: Make a joyful noise to God!

**All: We will make a joyful noise with all creation!**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Risen God,

**All: We confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done. Take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

P: In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior.

**All: Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn:

## *I Come with Joy*

#482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise

## *This is the Feast*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

**P:** Loving God,

**All:** **You have commanded us to love one another, yet it is not always easy. Open our eyes and hearts to see you in the faces of every single human being, that we might be inspired to love them as we love you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### We Hear God's Word

#### Prayer for Illumination

**A:** Almighty God,

**All:** **through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

~ from a collection of prayers posted on the Worship@North website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>

## Psalm 98

A: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

**All: His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.**

A: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

**All: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

A: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

A: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**All: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

A: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.**

A: He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

## 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

## Gospel Acclamation

#172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
Hal - le - lu - jah.  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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## The Gospel

**P:** The Gospel according to John.

**All:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy



may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Sermon**

Rev Lori Nickoloff

Hymn of the Day:

*Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

#358

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con-fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press.

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*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

## Nicene Creed

**A:** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All:** **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Trusting in your eternal love, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of love, guide us to abide in your love, that we may bear the fruit of compassion and kindness. May we honor those who foster love and friendship, including family members, friends, and all who create communities of warmth and acceptance. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

A: Creator of all, inspire us to recognize the bonds that unite us with all living things. May we value the work of those who strive for harmony and peace, including mediators, diplomats, and all who seek to build bridges between people and nations. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

A: Guide our spiritual leaders, pastors, and mentors, that they may lead with wisdom and love, reflecting the teachings of Christ. May they nurture faith, encourage obedience to your commandments, and guide us in the path of selfless love for one another. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

A: Healing God, we pray for those who are in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual care (especially...). May they find comfort and restoration in your love, and may caregivers, therapists, and friends be instruments of your healing and compassion. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

A: God of friendship, we pray for those who strive to create a world filled with empathy and understanding. Strengthen community organizers, volunteers, and all who work to foster connections between people, reflecting the friendship and love you have shown through Christ. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

A: We remember the saints who have gone before us, those who have lived lives of devotion and love. May we be inspired by their example, honoring the

legacy of saints, martyrs, and all who have obeyed your commandments, bearing witness to your love and grace. Ever-living God,

**All: Provide the Word of Life.**

P: We lift all these prayers and more to you, in the name of Jesus,

**All: Amen.**

### **Sharing of Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always

**All: And also with you.**

*Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.*

*(Please be seated)*

### **Offering**

*This month our Local Hunger Offering will be given to **Yates County Christmas Program.***

**Offertory Music**

*"Cleansing Fountain"*

*Gilbert M Martin*

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

**Offertory Hymn:** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (Verse One)* #678

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: Generous God,

**All: all that we have is yours, gifts of your abundant grace and mercy.  
Receive now our offerings out of your own bounty, that they might in  
turn shower your love upon all of creation for the flourishing of all that  
is. Amen.**

## We Share God's Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying: Your mercy endures forever.

**All: Your mercy endures forever.**

P: By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

**All: Your mercy endures forever.**

P: By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

**All: Your mercy endures forever.**

P: By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love. With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: 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.**

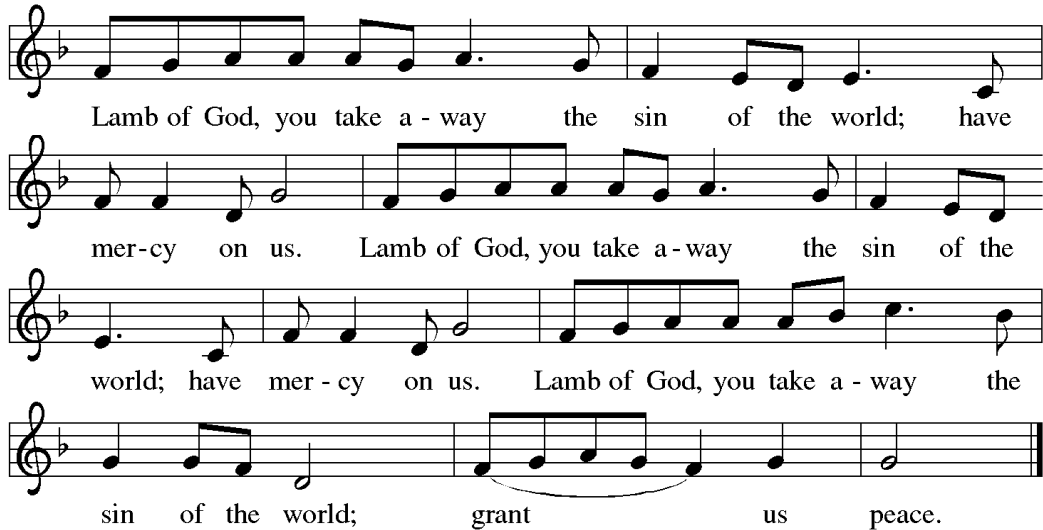
## Eucharistic Invitation

P: Jesus, the one who came by water and blood, invites you into his presence at this table to share in the feast of eternal life. Come and be fed, for all is prepared.

All: **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Hymns During Communion:

<i>What Wonderful Love is This</i>	#666
<i>Loving Spirit</i>	#397
<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	#660

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen**



## **Prayer After Communion:**

A: Blessed Jesus,

**All: in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

## **We Leave to Serve**

### **Announcements**

### **Benediction**

P: Go out into the world as the people of God in this place, and may the God who raised Jesus from the dead grant you grace, the Son who gave his life for you give you peace, and the Spirit who is with you day by day, inspire you to greater service both now and forever more.

**All: Amen**

~ written by Rev Margaret Whyte, and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

### **Litany**

L: If we keep God's commands,

**All: Then we live in God's love.**

L: And no love surpasses this:

**All: To sacrifice for another.**

L: Jesus calls us friends;

**All: No longer are we servants.**

L: So, let us now go forth

**All: And show this love to all!**

*(Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church)*

**Sending Hymn:**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

#389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

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## **Sending**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

*"Palestrina"*

*Ellen Jane Lorenz*

### **"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" ELW 358**

Brian Wren (1936-) is a poet and hymn writer with seven published collections of over 250 hymns. As an early adopter of inclusive language, he is committed to hymns as theology in poetic form. He advocates reading the hymn text as poetry and understands that when set to music and sung, it is, in his words, "praying twice." The quality of his hymn texts allows them to stand alone as poetry.

The first two verses express both our likeness to God and the pain of our separation from God. The third verse acknowledges God's personal call to each of us through God's infinite grace. God's love is shown to be the love of a servant and the fourth verse instructs us in how to share God's Love through Jesus' example. Paradoxically, it is Servant Love that ultimately frees us.

The tune "RYBURN" is in three phrases AAB. The B phrase begins as A but a third higher and uses the same notes that end phrase A but with a slightly different rhythm.

Composer Norman Cocker's (1889-1953) tune "RYBURN" was first used in the 1951 publication "BBC Hymnbook." Known as a great improviser and theater organist, Cocker was organist at Manchester Cathedral and taught at Magdalene College.

