

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

*“By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another.”*

JOHN 13:35, ESV



***Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025***

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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 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 at 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: God is among us in this place.

All: God dwells with us in this world.

P: God is making all things new.

All: We will celebrate God's wondrous love.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of new life,

All: we live as though you are still in the grave. We do not rejoice in the good news of liberation for all people without exception. We continue to sin against you and our neighbors by our actions and our failure to act. Shake us out of our complacency, cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and make us joyful participants in the work of bringing about your reign in the world today.

P: We are an Easter people! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has redeemed all of creation. Know that you are made whole, forgiven of

all your sins, and empowered to live out the gospel in joy.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

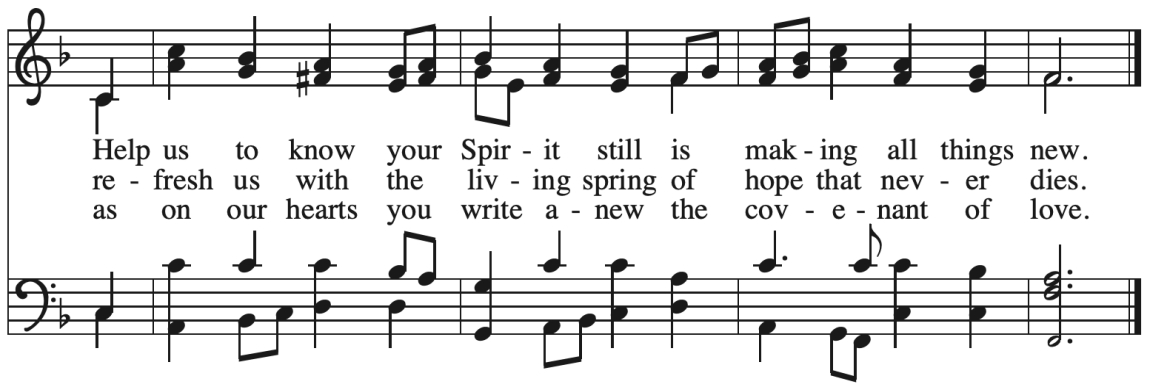
O God, Who Gives Us Life

ACS#1086

1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,

who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.

de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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Greeting

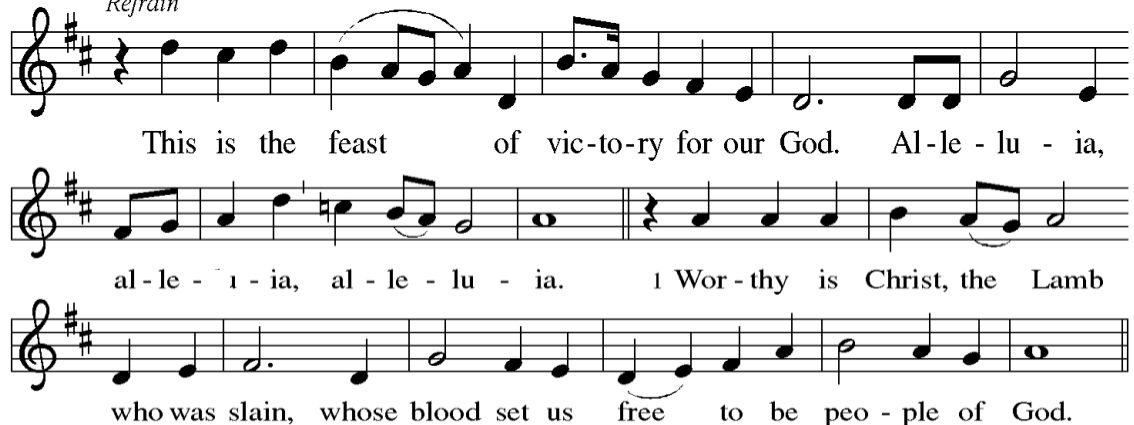
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise:

This is the Feast

Refrain



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 call us to love one another as you have first loved us. It's sometimes much easier than it sounds. Give us the grace, courage, and will to love our neighbors and all creation as ourselves, and in so doing, proclaim your presence here among us. 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 148

A: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

A: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

All: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

A: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

A: He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

A: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

All: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

A: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

All: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

A: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

A: Praise the Lord!

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

#175

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community

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The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to John.

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

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him

in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
 All: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation. Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.

As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.

Hymn of the Day:

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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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: With humility we come before you to offer our prayers for the church, the

world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: What you have made clean we must not call profane. Open our eyes to your way of seeing the world: not through the lens of division but of unity. Push us beyond the limits of our comfort and out into a new relationship with all of your children. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Bless creation, the work of your hands. Fill us with awe at the majesty of all that you have made, and ever remind us of our dependence on it, that we might care for and preserve it for its own sake and ours. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Thank you for the astonishing and beautiful diversity of the world's peoples. Help us to learn from different perspectives rather than force our own on everyone else, for the enrichment of all our lives. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Abide with all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*) Send them your courage, healing, and wholeness, that all might bear witness to your mercy and grace. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Help us to set our egos aside and care for one another. Rather than compete with one another, help us to work collaboratively to ensure that all have their basic needs met. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Bless the memories of those who have gone before us, and help us to honor their lives by living faithfully in our time. God of grace and mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

P: These and the prayers of all creation we lift to you in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also to 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 *"I Hear a Voice in the Garden"* Jon Paige

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Offertory Hymn: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* ELW 678 (verse one)

*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: God, we return these gifts to you in witness to your loving care for us and all of creation.

All: **Accept them for the sake of Jesus, our savior and friend, and use them according to your love for the world. 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: Creating God, you made the earth as a place of encounter... .. So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, anticipating your eternal praise, we bless you in everlasting song.



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: Redeeming God, you have prepared a banquet for us to share with you in your kingdom... ..Great is the mystery of faith.

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

P: Transforming God, in Christ and in this holy meal you show us the shape of love. In broken bread show us the cost of your love and inspire us to love like you. In poured wine show us the constancy of your love and form us to love as truly as you love us. Remake your earth that it may breathe your life. Remake its people that they may resound with your glory. Remake your church that it may look like your Son. Wipe every tear from every eye; make death no more; and take away mourning and crying and pain, that all may find justice in your mercy and freedom in your service, until the beginning

and the ending of all things are one in you, and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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: The Lord makes no distinctions among us; therefore, let us welcome one another without prejudice. Come now to the table of mercy and receive the bread and cup of your salvation. The feast is ready; all are welcome!

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>Jesu, Jesu, Full Us With Your Love</i>	#708
<i>Blest Be the Tie That Binds</i>	#656
<i>Christ, Be Our Light</i>	#715

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: Living God,

All: as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we

be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Blessing of the Quilts

P: Let us pray. Good and gracious God, we dedicate these quilts and kits to your service, trusting that wherever they are sent, they will be more than just a piece of material, but an expression of our love. There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life—how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world. May they be used in your service and become a blessing to all who receive them. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

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: All you heavens, sun and moon, and shining stars,

All: Praise the Lord!

L: Highest heavens, and all the earth, fire and hail, snow and frost,

All: Praise the Lord!

L: Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars, creeping things and flying birds,

All: Praise the Lord!

L: Kings and rulers, men and women, young and old, all the people,
All: Praise the Lord!

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

Sending Hymn:

We Are Called

#720

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to
love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Sending

A: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

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

Postlude

"St Anne"

Healey Willan

Hymn Notes "I Come with Joy" ELW 482

Brian A Wren (1936-) wrote this hymn in 1968 for the congregation he served in Hockley, Essex, England as a summary of the Holy Communion meaning and experience. In 1977 an American hymnal committee desired using it and pointed out to Wren that some of the language was overtly patriarchal. ("As Christ breaks bread for men to share" was changed to "As Christ breaks bread and bids us share.") Several other similar changes were made. It is perhaps this experience that urged Wren as a hymnodist, poet and teacher to focus on the use of inclusive language so that all people would feel equally drawn to a deeply personal experience of Christ.

Wren has often stated that a hymn text should be read separately from its musical setting. In its text form, "I come with joy" does not include the last phrase repetition, but the hymn tune offers the perfect and powerful repeat of each stanzas core message.

DOVE OF PEACE is a sprightly tune from "Southern Harmony" compiled by W Walker in 1835. Notice how the quick upbeat note at the beginning is repeated in the second measure, generating the energy to carry the melody upward to the higher octave. This energy is spooled out until the penultimate measure when, once again, the lowest note from the beginning leaps up to bring the tune to a close.

Gilbert M Martin's flowing arrangement of DOVE OF PEACE is today's prelude.

