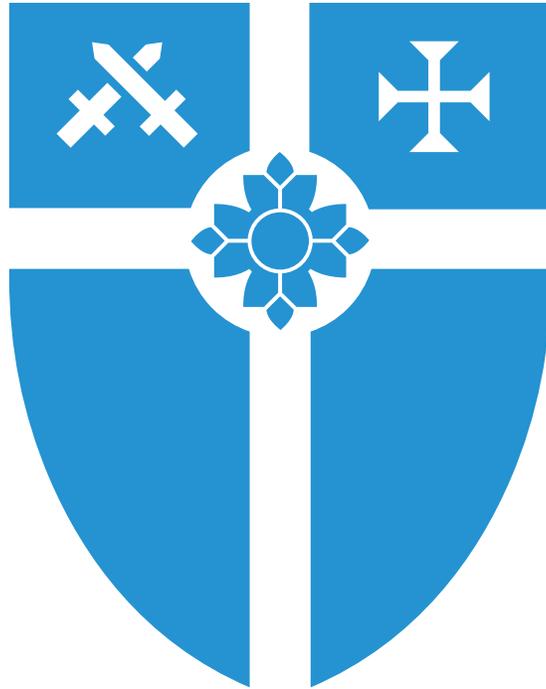


The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 15, 2026, at 11:15 AM



stPaul's
Episcopal

Holy Eucharist Rite II

LIVE-STREAM AND IN-PERSON



Welcome to the kick-off of St. Paul's sesquicentennial year! Today we mark the beginning of a year-long celebration filled with special preachers, new music, parish gatherings, formation for children and adults, and outreach to our community. Together, we give thanks for 150 years of ministry in Winston-Salem and for God's continuing faithfulness in this place, and we look forward to the ways St. Paul's will continue to grow in joyful witness and faithful service. We are so glad that you are here to celebrate with us!

We are excited to premiere today a new hymn as we begin our 150th anniversary celebration of this parish. The text, "All praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord" is by The Rev. Erika Takacs and tells of the life and ministry of our patron saint, Paul. The tune, "St. Paul's" is by Dan Lockair. We are quite fortunate to have both a wonderful hymn writer and celebrated composer right here among us. We are grateful to God for their gifts and for their willingness to share them with us for this special occasion.

The choir, organ, brass and timpani lead us as we will begin to learn it together. We will sing it often in the weeks ahead so it can become quite familiar. The brass and timpani return for our big celebration weekend in May and Dan has done a much more elaborate musical setting which we will premiere that Sunday.

VOLUNTARY | Selections by the St. Paul's Brass

The Word of God

All stand and sing

HYMN 518

Westminster Abbey

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

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

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

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.**

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -
hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who
to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,
your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST READING | Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Sung by the choir.

PSALM 2 | *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

Chant: Bryan Hesford (1930-1996)

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *
 Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
 and the princes plot together, *
 against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 “Let us break their yoke,” they say; *
 “let us cast off their bonds from us.”
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
 the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
 and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 “I myself have set my king *
 upon my holy hill of Zion.”
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
 he said to me, “You are my Son;
 this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
 and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
 and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
 be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
 and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
 for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
 who take refuge in him!

THE SECOND READING | 2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining

in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing

HYMN 137

Wareham

Descant

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in - car - nate
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and Ho - ly

vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

1 that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the
 2 Lord holds con - verse high; and from the cloud, the
 3 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 4 vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
 5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, vouch - safe to bring us

strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

1 moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 2 Ho - ly One bears re - cord to the on - ly Son.
 3 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 4 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 5 by thy grace to see thy glo - ry face to face.

THE HOLY GOSPEL | Matthew 17:1-9

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Erika L. Takacs

All stand

THE NICENE 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | [Form IV](#)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

The People stand or kneel.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel.

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.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's and giving generously so that our ministries and programs can continue to share the Gospel.

You can easily make a contribution by visiting this link: <https://www.stpaulsrs.org/> or scanning the QR code located in the at St. Paul's newsletter.

The Holy Communion

ANTHEM

The congregation joins in singing stanzas 4 and 5 of the anthem.

Erika Takacs

All praise to Jesus Christ our Lord

Dan Locklair



- (Choir) 1. All praise to Je - sus Christ our Lord, who called his ser - vant Paul, _____
(Choir) 2. His heart a - flame with new - formed zeal, he set out to pro - claim _____
(Choir) 3. Paul's wit - ness to the power of God trans - formed the Chris - tian life; _____
(All) 4. O gra - cious God, may we who sing your mer - cies, ev - er new, _____
(All) 5. All praise to Je - sus Christ our Lord, all thanks to Bles - sed Paul, _____



charged him to change his course and find the Way of love for all. _____
the truth of Je - sus, Son of God, the name a - bove all names— _____
his words have long sus - tained the Church in times of joy and strife _____
be im - i - ta - tors of Saint Paul in all we say and do, _____
who through his life and death re - vealed the Way of love for all. _____



The light that flashed a - round him burned a - way his cru - el spite, _____
that Christ has come to set us free from sin and false de - sire, _____
He taught us how to hope, as - sured us all are one in Christ, _____
that when we hear the voice of Christ we'll lis - ten to his call _____



freed him to see the world a - new with kind - er, clear - er sight. _____
that faith in Je - sus' sav - ing grace is all the Lord re - quires. _____
and if we long to see God's love, the cross will e'er suf - fice. _____
and walk in love to make this Church a house of prayer for all. _____

Tune: St. Paul's

Commissioned by St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1876-2026.

All stand and sing

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960)

Refrain
Congregation

(Organ) All things come of Thee, O Lord
and of Thine own have we giv - en Thee.

CHOIR:
Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

- 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:

Sung by all.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS | S 131

Smith

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

he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People stand or kneel, then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Smith

Organ All
 We re-mem-ber his death. We pro-claim his re-sur-rec-tion.
 We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

Celebrant 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Smith

Congregation

(Organ) Al - le - lu - ia al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

CHOIR:
Christ our Passover is
sacrificed for us, therefore
let us keep the feast

(Organ) **Congregation repeats Alleluia**

Facing the People, the Celebrant says the following invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

All baptized Christians of any denomination are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church. Please come forward at the guidance of the usher, or let an usher know if you need communion brought to your seat. Receive the bread (a wafer) with open and outstretched palms. Receive the wine either by drinking from the cup (guiding it to your lips) or by touching the wafer lightly to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please let us know by crossing your hands across your chest. Receiving only the bread or the wine is considered full participation in the Eucharist, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like to receive prayers for healing during communion, a member of the healing prayer ministry will be stationed at the Side Altar.

ANTHEM

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

*O nata lux de lumine
Jesu redemptor saeculi
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere
Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

O light born from light
Jesus is the redeemer of the world
Be worthy of a merciful suppliant
Take praises and prayers
Who was once covered with flesh
You are worthy of the lost
We are effective members
Your blessed body.

HYMN 133

Elmhurst

1 O Light of Light, Love giv - en birth; Je - sus, Re -
 2 Two pro - phets, who had faith to see, with your e -
 3 May all who seek to praise a - right through pur - er

deem - er of the earth: more bright than day your face did
 lect found com - pan - y; the heavens a - bove your glo - ry
 lives show forth your light. To you, the King of glo - ry,

1-2
 show, your rai - ment whit - er than the snow.
 named, your Fa - ther's voice his Son pro - claimed.
 now all

Final Ending
 faith - ful hearts a - dor - ing bow.

THE SENDING OUT OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

The Minister and the People say the following

In the name of this congregation, we send you out bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

All kneel.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

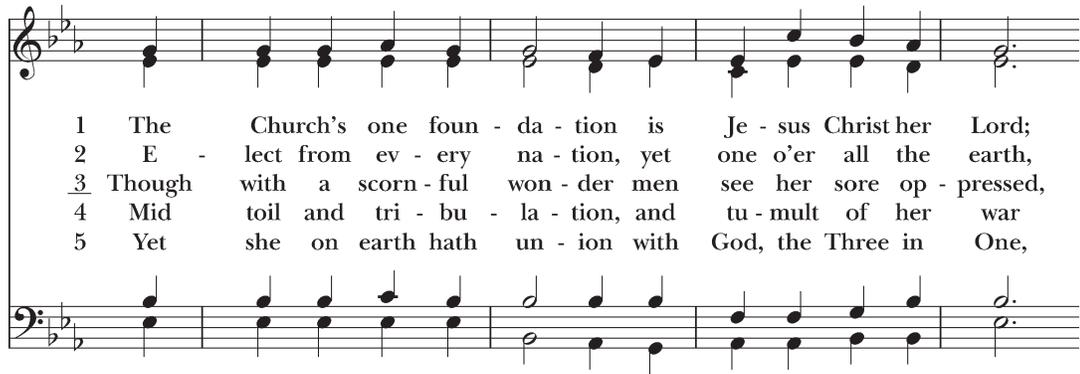
Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

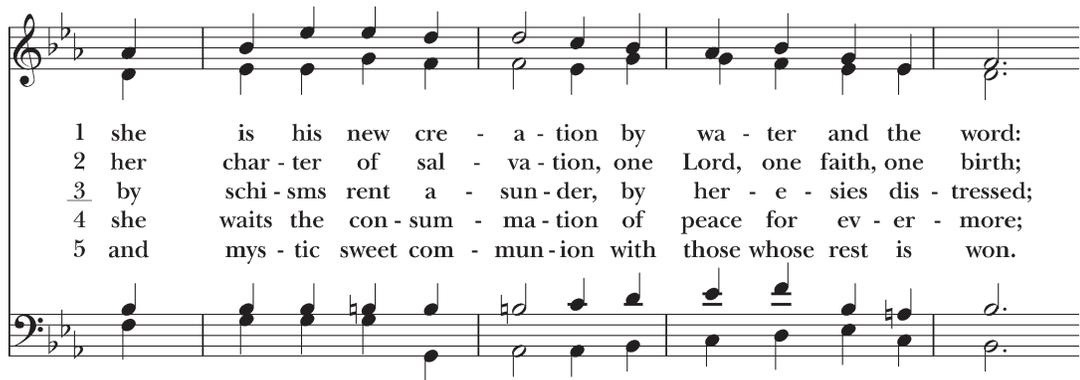
The Celebrant blesses the People, then all stand.

THE DISMISSAL

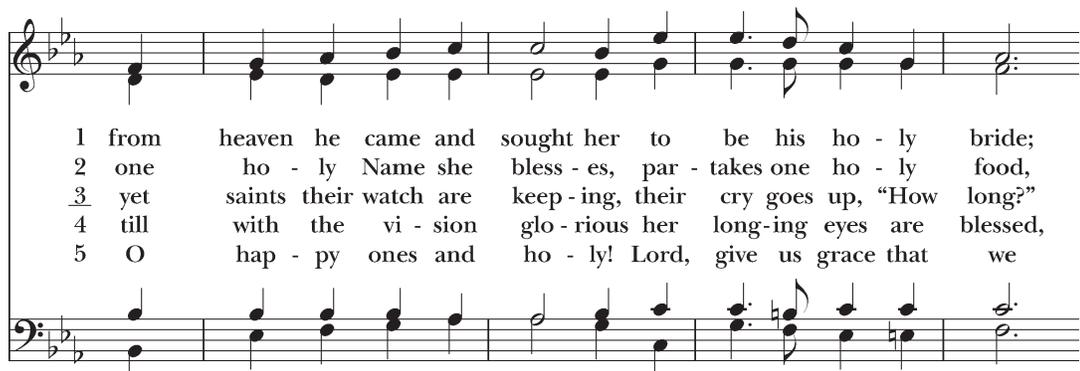
People **Thanks be to God.**



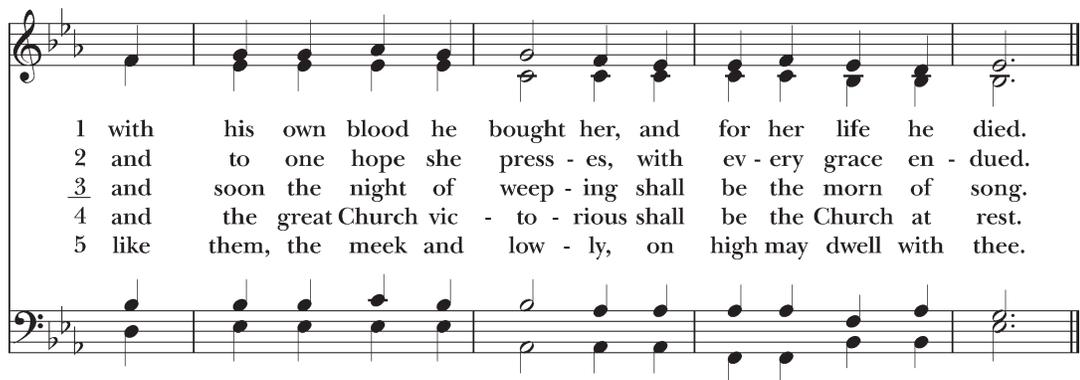
1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of

George Patrick Brown
Henry A Brown Jr.
Patricia Tankard Brown

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Thank you for helping us extend the worship
of St. Paul's to those joining us from home.

Liturgical Notes

As we celebrate the start of St. Paul's Sesquicentennial, we are very pleased to introduce, at long last, a rather remarkable new set of robes for our vergers. These gowns are in a traditional style and beautifully reflect our parish's attention to the liturgical arts and the beauty of worship. They were designed specifically for St. Paul's and include unique elements, such as the two patches that adorn each robe's shoulders. I invite you to say hello to one of the vergers serving today and have a look at these glorious vestments up close.*

The vergers have been serving at the 9:00 and 11:15 services since the fall – which makes them a very new ministry in our 150 year history! Just as a reminder, here are some basic verger FAQ's:

What exactly is a verger again?

A verger is a lay leader of liturgy. Our vergers serve to assist the clergy by preparing for and facilitating worship services, especially those that are more complex. Also, importantly, they serve as ministers of hospitality, helping to welcome and support all those who worship and serve on Sunday mornings, from visitors to ushers to acolytes.

But what do vergers actually...do?

As I recently told the vestry, if you ever look at the vergers and think they don't look like they're doing much, that means they're doing their job extremely well! Most of the work that the vergers do is "backstage." Their busiest time is before the services begin, when they are checking in with lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers, clergy, the Altar Guild, and others. During our services, the vergers are present to help with hospitality and to help address any unexpected issues that arise.

Why do the vergers walk in front of the cross?

The verger preceding the cross in procession is part of a tradition that comes from their ancient roles in the life of the Church. Most importantly, though, the verger's position is a sign of their hospitality. Their job is to escort the procession into the church, preparing a path for the cross to lead all of our worship leaders into their place.

Are vergers "high church" or "low church"?

Vergers can be found in all different kinds of parishes, of every liturgical style, from Westminster Abbey and the Washington National Cathedral to small, "low church" parishes all over The Episcopal Church.

If you have more questions about our vergers, please reach out! I am always happy to talk about the incredible ministry teams that help us to glorify God in our worship.

The Rev. Erika L. Takacs

*Just a note: these gorgeous robes will go away for the more spare season of Lent, but be sure to look for them again at Easter!



A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
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