

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

Gathering Music *Andante espressivo* by Hedwige Chrétien (1859-1944)

Opening Acclamation

The People's responses are in bold.

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Celebrant invites the People to confession.

Confession and Absolution

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Celebrant pronounces absolution on the People.

Trisagion *sung three times*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has lyrics: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,". The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line and a treble line. The second system also has two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has lyrics: "Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The piano accompaniment continues with a bass line and a treble line. The score ends with a double bar line.

setting: ver. *Hymnal* 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)
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Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

In our hearts, O God, you have written a covenant of grace, sealed by the obedience of Jesus your Son. Raise us up with Christ, the grain fallen to earth that yields a harvest of everlasting life. Bring us to glorify your name by following faithfully where he has led. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:9-16 *sung by a cantor or schola*

How shall a young person cleanse their way? *
By keeping to your words.

With my whole heart I seek you; *
let me not stray from your commandments.

I treasure your promise in my heart, *
that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; *
instruct me in your statutes.

With my lips will I recite *
all the judgments of your mouth.

I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *
than in all manner of riches.

I will meditate on your commandments *
and give attention to your ways.

My delight is in your statutes; *
I will not forget your word.

The Gospel *John 12:20-33*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Christ.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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, She* is worshipped and glorified. She 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 Holy Spirit is the spirit of Wisdom, the feminine Sophia, and the Hebrew Scripture calls the Spirit "ruah," a feminine word, to describe the feminine aspect of the Godhead, the breath of God.*

***Here "catholic" means universal. It refers to the belief that the message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is a "universal" one that the Church proclaims to everyone, everywhere and always.*

Prayers of the People

The Prayers of the People during Lent have been written and are being prayed by parishioner members of the Race and Social Justice Coalition at St. Paul's. These prayers invite us more deeply into reflection on our continual call to repentance and reconciliation, as together we build God's beloved community.

The intercessor says

With all our heart, mind, and body, we pray to be led more deeply into Your justice, as it rolls down like mighty waters. *(Amos 5:24)*

We pray to unite our Church and all people in a mission to transform our divided country and world into your kin(g)dom. Let us work to encourage "a revival of love as a way to a liberating and life-giving relationship with God, with others, and with all God's creation on the planet we call Earth." *(Presiding Bishop Michael J. Curry)*

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for those who suffer in places of civil unrest, injustice, and intolerance, and for the world still battling the global pandemic of Covid-19. We pray for healing for the sick, comfort for the dying, and protection for the poor, the homeless, and the neglected. Help us build a world of justice and mercy.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray that all of us may continue to awaken to the ways in which we perpetuate but can work to heal racism, anti-Black bias, and white supremacy. We pray for new and just solutions to de facto segregation in schools, discriminatory housing policies, and voter disenfranchisement.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for our local communities, that all may have sound and stable housing and good food to eat; we ask your guidance for those in positions of public trust, especially in this city of Norwalk, that they may serve justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every resident.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for all those who are living with mental illnesses, addiction, loneliness, or despair, that they may find hope and healing, no matter where they live, whom they love, or the color of their skin. We remember those in prison, particularly all those unjustly incarcerated.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for the departed.

We remember also today all those whose violent deaths have spurred us to confront our deeper structures of racism, remembering especially Atatiana Jefferson, Emmett Till and the more than 4,000 lynched in the United States from 1882-1968 (*Equal Justice Initiative*), and George Floyd.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

We pray for all the concerns of this community.

God of Healing,

Guide us with your grace.

The People add their own prayers aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying

We offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, knowing that You, O Holy One, are hearing us better than we are speaking. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!

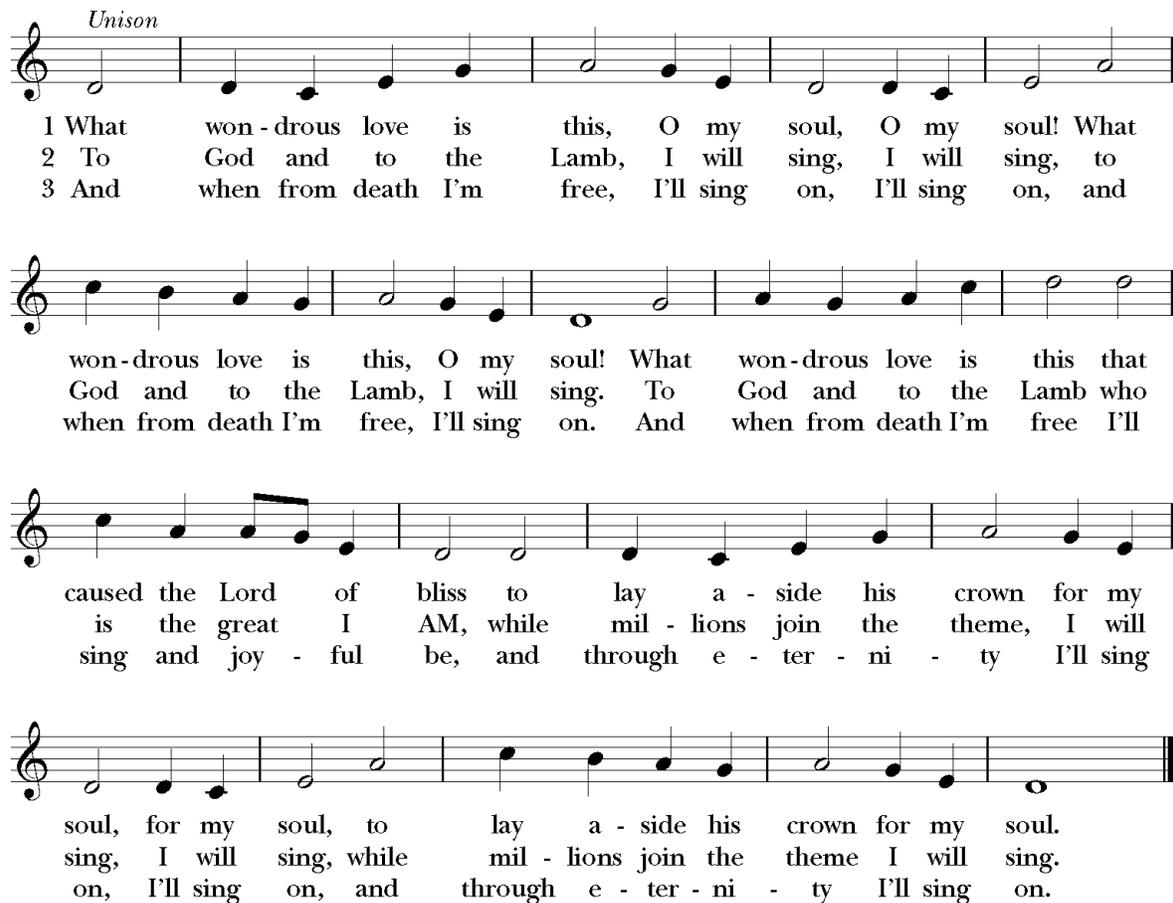


The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

Hymn at the Offertory

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835
music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that through our pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and renew our commitment to walk in newness of life.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy, and we join with saints and angels for ever praising you as together we sing:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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 in the high - est.

setting: David Hurd (b. 1950)
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The Celebrant continues

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.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and 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 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

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)
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The Communion

This is the Bread of Heaven,
Broken for the life of the world.

While the Celebrant communicates those in the church, the whole assembly shares in a time of reflection and prayer, contemplating the Presence of Christ in the gifts of bread and wine, along with the larger reality that we ourselves, along with all creation, are the Body of Christ. (Colossians 3:11)

Anthem at the Communion *sung by the St. Paul's choir*

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up:
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.

I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.

For God so lov'd the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

words: John 3:14-16, 12:32
music: Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

After a period of silent reflection, all pray the following prayer together

**O God, you made us from the dust of the earth,
and our lives are as brief as the grass of the field,
yet you sustain us in the wilderness,
and you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Now raise us up, and help us turn toward you
with open hearts, beholding your glory,
that by your grace we may receive everlasting life. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

May God grant you pardon and peace, that you who have been nourished by God's Word and Sacraments may bring forth the fruit of repentance.

And the blessing of God Almighty: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth into the world to share the love of Christ with humble and grateful hearts.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Maestoso – Piu mosso* by Johann Speth (1664-1709)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

St. Paul's on the Green
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