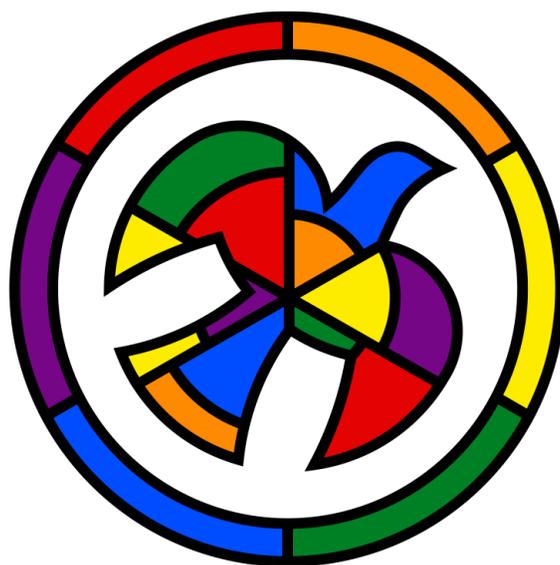


IN CELEBRATION OF AND  
IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF  
THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN SHELBY SPONG  
JUNE 16, 1931 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021  
TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



# THE ENTRANCE RITE

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## HYMN

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.  
text: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

## ANTHEM

*The people remain standing for the anthem in procession as the Presider says*

I AM Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

## THE COLLECT FOR BURIAL

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.

**O** GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we remember before you this day our brother John Shelby. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 53:1-6*

**W**HO HAS BELIEVED what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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

## THE SECOND READING

*My Mantra*, John Shelby Spong, VIII Bishop of Newark

I CANNOT TELL YOU who God is or what God is like. No one can do that. The only thing I can tell you is how I believe that I have experienced God. Even then I must face the possibility that I am being delusional. So, let me speak subjectively for that is all I can do.

I experience God as the Source of Life, which means that the only way I can worship God is by living fully. I experience God as the Source of Love, which means that the only way I can worship God is by loving wastefully. I experience God, in Paul Tillich's words, as the "Ground of all Being," which means that the only way I can worship God is by having the courage to be all that I am capable of being.

I am Christian. That means that when I look at the life of Jesus, as that life has been refracted to me through the tradition and through the scriptures, I see a life so fully lived that I believe I discern the very Source of Life in him. I see a love so wastefully given that I believe I experience the very Source of Love in him. I see one who has the courage to be all that he was created to be, so I experience the very Ground of Being in him. I stand in awe and wonder before this life, and joining St. Paul I say, a profound "Yes" to this life. Yes, I believe that in this life I have met and experienced the very presence of God.

I want to be a follower of this Jesus. I do not follow this Jesus, however, by trying to convert everyone to my understanding of God. I do not bear witness to my truth by denigrating the truth that other people discern. I do not bear witness to the God I believe I have met by spitting on the God that others believe they have met even when their God appears to be different from the God I claim to know. I do not follow this Jesus by being filled with hatred toward Jews, Muslims, Buddhists or Hindus. I do not follow this Jesus by being prejudiced toward minorities or toward people that seem different from the norms that the majorities set up, whether it be left-handed people in one generation or Gay, Lesbian or Transgender people in another generation.

I follow this Jesus by trying to live my life in such a way that I can help build a world in which every human being can live more fully and thus see God as the Source of Life; where everyone can love more wastefully and thus see God as the Source of Love; and where everyone can be whatever it is that God has created her, him or them to be in the infinite variety of our humanity, people of every ethnic and racial background, men and women, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people – indeed the whole human race, for that is the only way to see God as the Ground of all Being. Your call and my call in Christ is simply to live fully, to love wastefully and to be all that each of us can be.

No one can impose a boundary upon those of us who claim to live in this Christ, not even a religious boundary. No prejudice stands intact before the view of this God. No definition can exclude. No tribal limits can be drawn. For us to make the possibility of a universal community where all are free to live life, to love and to be real, is to do the work of the Christ. That is for me the only evangelical and missionary task that is finally acceptable.

Then we can read the scriptures in a new way. They are not recordings of what Jesus actually said. They are not photographs of things Jesus actually did. They are rather portraits painted by Jewish artists. They must be read as one would "read" a portrait. Stand before these pieces of art until you can catch the beauty and the power that the artist was trying to convey. Then the task of worship is to enter into the life of that subject. Create a world where everyone can be who they are. When you and I do that then I think we will understand the Christian faith and we will be empowered to move beyond all of our security boundaries into a new humanity into what Paul Tillich called "the New Being." That is finally what Christian life is all about.

HYMN



1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of chang - ing ways.  
 2. Through the years of hu - man strug - gle walk a peo - ple long de - spised,  
 3. We are Black and we are A - sian, In - di - an, His - pan - ic, White,  
 4. We are man and we are wo - man, all per - sua - sions, old and young,  
 5. Should the threats of dark pre - dic - tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan - der - ing their sep' - rate ways?  
 gays and les - bi - ans to - geth - er fight - ing to be re - al - ized.  
 we a rain - bow co - a - li - tion, all of va - lue in thy sight.  
 each a gift in thy cre - a - tions, each a love song to be sung.  
 may thy blaz - ing phoe - nix Spir - it res - er - rect the Church a - gain.



God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we, thy peo - ple,



ours the jour - ney now and e - ver, now and e - ver, now and e - ver - more.

*music: New Dimensions, Julian B. Rush (b. 1936)*

*text: Julian B. Rush (b. 1936)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

*John 11:17-27*

*Gospeler* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

**W**HEN JESUS ARRIVED, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

HOMILY

The Right Reverend Susan Ellyn Goff

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Presider* For our brother Jack, let us pray to God and Jesus Christ who said “I am Resurrection and I am Life.”

God, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Jack, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Shelby* “I found myself strangely energized ... by the religious yearnings of people... who were no longer actually part of the church. They were searching for meaning but outside the traditional structures of religion. I admired their honesty and yearned to be in dialogue with them.” *Here I Stand* (285)

*People* **Help us to become all we are meant to be.**

*Presider* You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*Barbara* “It was the experience of being loved that opened my eyes to see the love that is all around me, something that I had never been able to see before. It was the presence of love that empowered me to be able to receive love and then required me to give it away.” *Eternal Life: A New Vision* (201)

*People* **Help us to become all we are meant to be.**

*Presider* You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*Shelby* “We prayed for our daughter because that is what love does. We held her in our hearts before God as we do all those we love when they are in ‘trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.’” *Unbelievable* (242)

*People* **Help us to become all we are meant to be.**

*Presider* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*Barbara* “...growth is painful...we have sacrificed the one who was presented to us as our eternal and omnipotent protector. That loss, however, is balanced by our gaining what Paul called the “glorious liberty of the children of God.” (Rom 8:21) *A New Christianity for a New World* (75)

*People* **Help us to become all we are meant to be.**

*Presider* Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*Shelby* “Life is precious. I have loved my journey through it. I want the moment of my departure to be celebrated in a manner similar to the way the moment of my arrival was greeted, with joy and with great expectations. If in life we have touched the transcendent and the eternal, and have shared through self-consciousness in the life, love and being that flows through the universe, then I believe we can find the courage to lay this phase of that journey down when it is appropriate to do so and to enter what is to come.” *Eternal Life: A New Vision* (201)

*People* **Help us to become all we are meant to be.**

*Presider* Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## WELCOME

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

*music:* Gerald Near (b. 1942)

*text:* George Herbert (1593-1633)

**K**ING OF GLORY, KING OF PEACE, I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee;  
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.  
Small it is in this poor sort to enroll thee;  
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people stand.*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

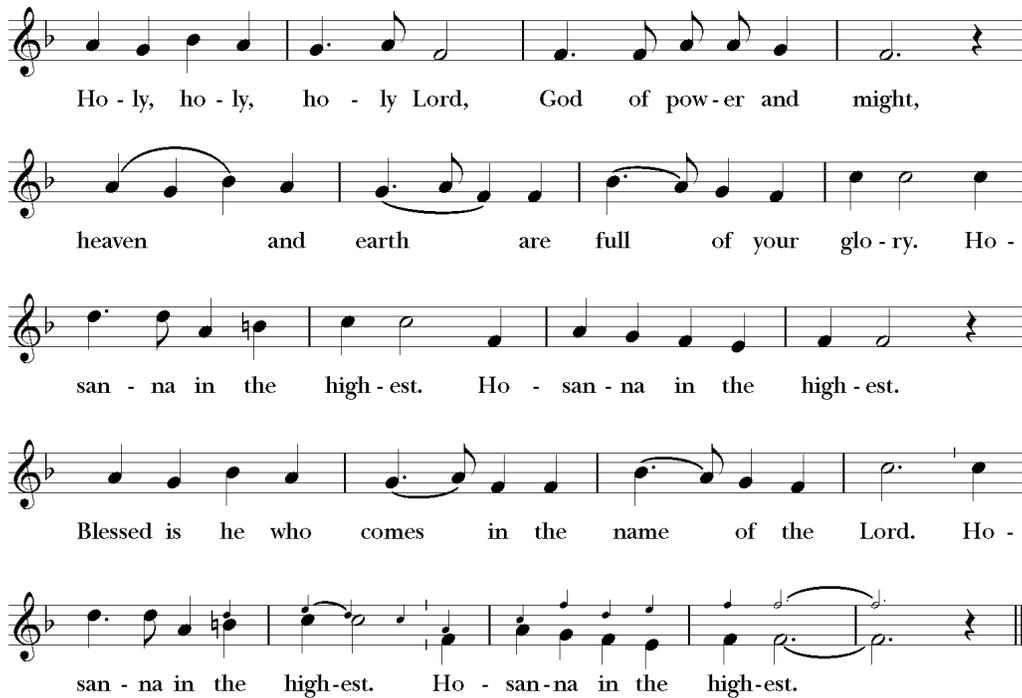
*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop continues*

**A**LL THANKS AND PRAISE are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*music:* From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

*text:* Mass Ordinary, Fifth century

*The people stand or kneel as the Bishop continues.*

**G**LORY AND HONOR ARE YOURS, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*The people say with the Bishop*

**D**YING, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

*The Bishop continues*

**S**END YOUR HOLY SPIRIT upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Paul, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*The people say with the Bishop*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

*The Bishop continues*

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

**O**UR FATHER in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Bishop breaks the bread followed by silence.*

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor; then All*



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

*Cantor*



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

*Cantor*



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

*music:* Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

*text:* Refrain is based on Luke 24:35, verses are taken from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. An usher will signal when you can go forward to receive the bread. If you are unable to come forward, but desire Communion, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought to you in your pew. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to receive, you are invited to come forward for a prayer; please indicate your desire for this by crossing your arms across your chest.

### ANTHEM

music: Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

text: Psalm 23

**T**HE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD,  
I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
For you are with me, you will comfort me.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### HYMN



- 1, 6. Will you let me be your ser - vant, Let me be as Christ to you;
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, We are trav - 'lers on the road;
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you In the night - time of your fear;
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
5. When we sing to God in heav - en We shall find such har - mo - ny,



- 1, 6. Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my ser - vant, too.
2. We are here to help each oth - er Walk the mile and bear — the load.
3. I will hold my hand out to you, Speak the peace you long — to hear.
4. I will share your joy and sor - row 'Til we've seen this jour - ney through.
5. Born of all we've known to - geth - er Of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

music: *The Servant Song*, Richard Gillard (b. 1957)

text: Richard Gillard (b. 1957)

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*The people stand, saying together*

**A**LMIGHTY God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE COMMENDATION

*Presider* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

*People* **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

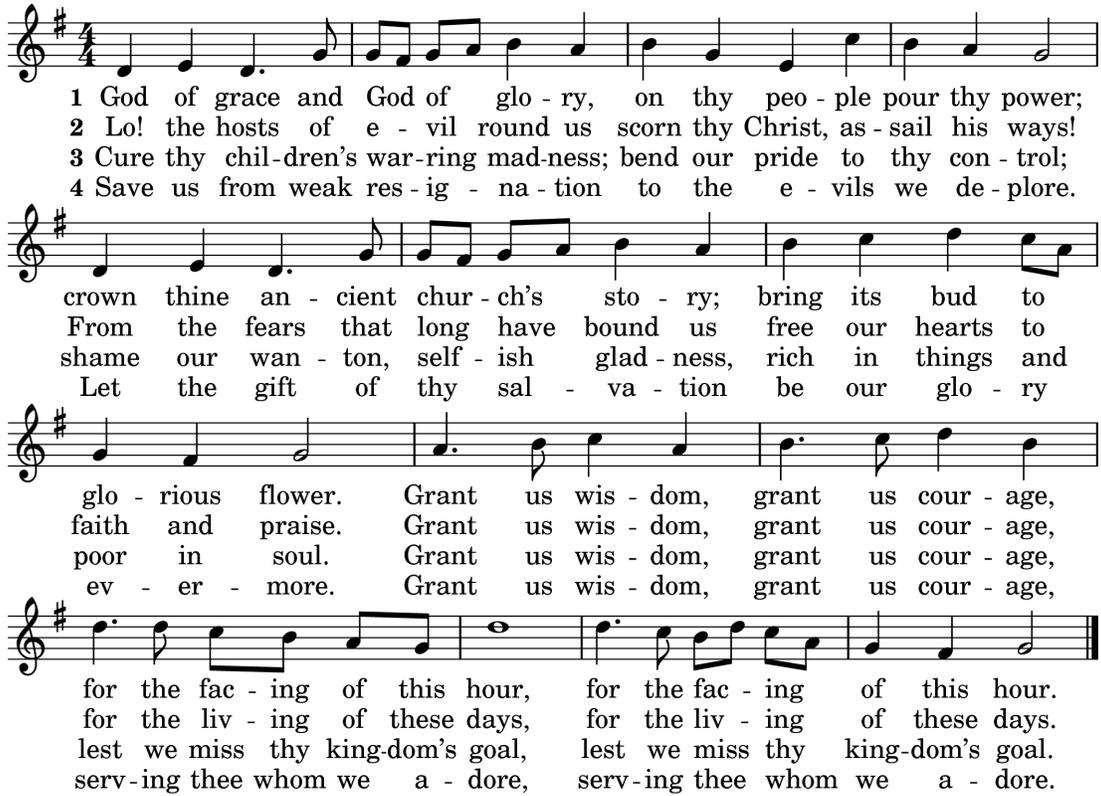
*Presider* You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Presider* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Jack. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

*People* **Amen.**

## HYMN



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;  
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!  
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to thy con - trol;  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore.

crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its bud to  
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to  
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and  
Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry

glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

*music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932)*

*text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt.*

## THE BLESSING

**G**OD, send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us.  
Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us.  
Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
be with you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Nun Danket Alle Gott, BWV 79*

J. S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

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## PARTICIPANTS

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### *Clergy*

The Right Reverend Susan Ellyn Goff, *Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority*

The Reverend Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*

The Reverend Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate Rector for Parish Life*

The Reverend Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care*

### *Homilists*

The Reverend Wallace Adams-Riley

The Reverend James Sell

The Right Reverend Susan Ellyn Goff

### *Musicians*

Dr. Christopher Reynolds, *Director of Music and Organist*

The Saint Paul's Choir

### *Lectors*

Michelle Walker

Ellen Elizabeth Spong

### *Gospeler*

The Reverend William Queen

### *Intercessors*

Katharine Shelby Catlett

Barbara Holley

### *Verger*

Stephen Peple

### *Crucifer*

Peter Huff

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ST. PAUL'S  
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS