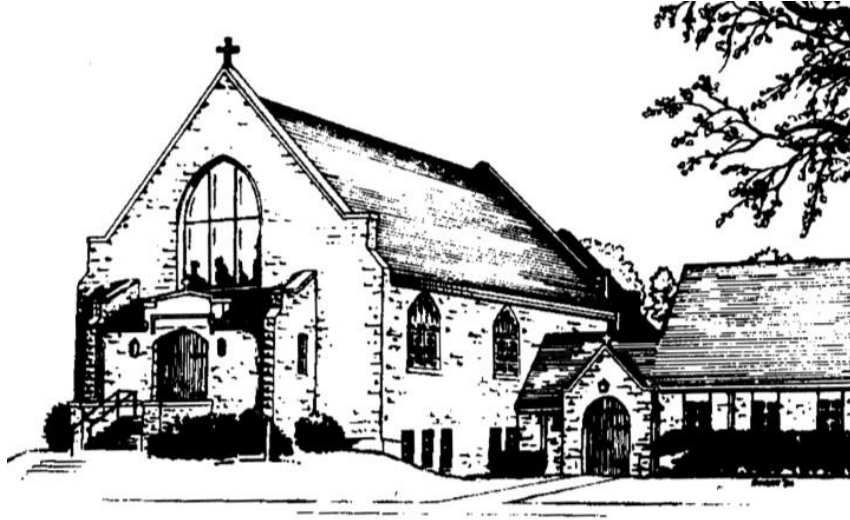


# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## May 11, 2025



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255

Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

870-793-2203

### Today's Ministers

<i>Officiant:</i>	Cameron Gillespie
<i>Chalice Bearer:</i>	Ardis Gillespie
<i>Lector:</i>	Dwight Ford
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Karis Ford
<i>Ushers:</i>	Mike Smith & Fuller Bumpers
<i>Choir Director &amp; Organist:</i>	Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	Steve Massey
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Sarah Drake & Beverly Grigsby

This Week's Community Meal (5/14/2025): Team Olson

*This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Susan Waldrip Jeffery to the glory of God and in loving memory of my Mother, Coleen Shane Waldrip.*

# The Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion: Rite Two

## The Word of God

### Entrance Hymn 671: *Amazing Grace! How Sweet The Sound*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
\*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.*

*Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.*

*The people standing (as able), the Officiant says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Officiant says*

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.**

Gloria - Sung (S278)

(BCP 356)

Officiant and People

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - - - - - men.

## Collect of the Day

*Officiant*            The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant*            Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **First Reading: Acts 9:36-43** *read by Ray Sullins*

*Lector:* A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

*Lector:*                The Word of the Lord.

*People:*                **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23** *read by Mara Harn*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### **Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17** *read by Graydon Harn*

*Lector:* A reading from Revelation.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”  
And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures,  
and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever!  
Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.  
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

*There is no procession. The Lector remains at the lectern to read the third reading, using the same form as the first two.*

## **Sequence Hymn:** *Follow The Way of Love*

Love is patient, Love is kind  
It does not envy, it does not boast  
It is not proud, it is not rude,  
It is not self-seeking.  
It is not easily angered,  
It keeps no record of wrongs,  
Love does not delight in evil,  
But rejoices with the Truth !

It always protects,  
Always trusts,  
Always hopes,  
Always perseveres

It always protects,  
Always trusts,  
Always hopes,  
Always perseveres

(repeat all)

(ending)

Love is patient, Love is kind,  
Follow the way of love, follow the way of love  
Follow the way of love, follow the way of love

## **Third Reading**

**John 10:22-30**

*There is no procession. The Lector reads the third reading from the lectern, using the same form as the first two.*

*Lector:* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** Karis Ford, Mara Harn, Graydon Harn, Ray Sullins, and Dean Sullins

**Nicene Creed** *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

*All stand, as the People and Officiant say together.*

**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.**

**Prayers of the People, Form IV – *found on page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer*  
*Led by Sam Sullins***

*People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

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.

We pray for our wardens, vestry, and those who will choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for God's people and equip us for our ministries.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Cindy Perkey (5/14), Steven Stalker (5/14), Deann Coleman (5/16), Mike Smith (5/16), Logan Warden (5/16), Mickey & Lisa Powell (5/11), and Tim & Kim Dunlap (5/12).

*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 **especially:** Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Cindy Perkey, Tammy Kipfer, Ann Stephenson, the Healey family, Nick Avants, Sally Fittsizer, and the Sullins family.

**We pray also for family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested:** Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mark & Jennifer, Susan, Jody Gayle, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Jim & Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Counts, Walker, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Georgina Mosser, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Neva Miles Hector, Q, the family of Gabriel Fields, Lois Work, Jeff Owens, Marci Ward, the family of Norma Mobley, Wilma, Edie Knowles, Mitchell & Wilma Dobson, and Sharon Runyan.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Sam Anschultz, 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 Officiant adds the following Collect:*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Confession**

*BCP 360*

*The Officiant says*



Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

*The Officiant remains kneeling and says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Peace**

*All stand. The Officiant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements- Sam Sullins**

## **The Holy Communion**

*The Officiant may begin the Offertory with the following or another Offertory sentence.*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**Offertory Anthem: No Superman**

Karis Ford

**Doxology: 43 v.4**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

*The people's offerings of money or other gifts are received. The officiant reverently places the offerings on the altar.*

*The Officiant opens the tabernacle, reverently places the ciborium containing the consecrated bread on the altar, and pours the consecrated wine from the flagon into the chalice.*

*The Officiant then continues*

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

*People and Officiant*

**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.**

*The Officiant says the following Invitation*

**The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

*and may add*

**Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith, with thanksgiving.**

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

**Communion Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth***

*After Communion, the Officiant says*

Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

*On 365:*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your  
Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his  
Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to  
love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Post Communion: *We Are Soldiers in The Army***

We are Soldiers, In the army,  
We have to fight, Although we have to cry  
We have to hold up the freedom banner  
We have to hold it up Until we Die!

My mother was a Soldier  
She had her hand on the Gospel Plow  
But one day she got old, She couldn't fight anymore,  
She said I'll stand here, and fight anyhow.

We are Soldiers, In the army,  
We have to fight, Although we have to cry  
We have to hold up the freedom banner  
We have to hold it up Until we Die!

I'm so glad I'm a Soldier  
I've got my hand on the Gospel Plow  
One day I'll get old, and can't fight anymore,  
and I'll stand here, and fight anyhow.

We are Soldiers, In the army,  
We have to fight, Although we have to cry  
We have to hold up the freedom banner  
We have to hold it up  
Until we Die!

## **Dismissal**

*Officiant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

## **Organ Postlude**