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The Word of God

**PRELUDE**

*Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*, BWV 654

Johann Sebastian Bach

**ENTRANCE HYMN** | *O praise ye the Lord! (Laudate Dominum)*  
*The people stand.*

Hymnal 432

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

BCP p. 355

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.*

**SONG OF PRAISE** (*Mathias*)

S278

*The "S" numbers are found in the front of the blue Hymnal 1982*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

*The people sit.*

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 31 | Hackett, Daw, Vogt

*1x organ, 2x choir, 3x, all; thereafter, all*

**ANTIPHON**

You have re - deemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me. **ANTIPHON**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength. **ANTIPHON**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me. **ANTIPHON**

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and “A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN** | *Praise to the living God (Leoni)*

Hymnal 372

*The people stand and sing verses 1-2 before the Gospel; Verses 3-4 after the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL**

John 14:1-14

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told his disciples, <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**

*The people sit.*

**THE NICENE CREED**

BCP p. 358

*The people stand.*

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**

BCP p. 388

*The people stand or kneel.*

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **THE CONFESSION**

BCP p. 360

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister 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 Priest stands and says*

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**

BCP p. 360

*The people stand.*

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*                And also with you.



*The People stand or kneel. 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,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

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 Paul 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.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BCP p. 364

*People and Celebrant*

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD** (*Gerald Near*)

S 155

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

NOTE ON RECEIVING COMMUNION: *All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament regardless of age or denomination. Those who have not been baptized are welcome to receive a blessing—indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Intercessory prayer teams are available to pray with you at the back of the nave.*

**COMMUNION HYMN** | *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness* (*Schmücke dich*)

Hymnal 339

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

BCP p. 366

*The people stand or kneel.**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.

**BLESSING****POST-COMMUNION HYMN | *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Großer Gott)***

Hymnal 366

*The people stand.***DISMISSAL**

BCP p. 366

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**POSTLUDE***Exultate*

Gerwyn Thomas

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The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector  
 The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector  
 The Rev. Funmi Odidi, Volunteer Priest Associate  
 The Rev. Josh Wilson, Pastoral Resident  
 Dr. Sean Vogt, Director of Music  
 Lectors: Jenny Fayter, Kris McCusker  
 Intercessor: Marta Van Hoose  
 Chalice Bearer: Carol Detmer, Richard Detmer  
 Prayer Team: Deanna Bartsch, Jennifer Handy, Michael Sykes, Tanya Sykes  
 Acolytes: Molly Bartsch, Ben Bartsch, Nick Roach, Hayes Owen  
 Ushers: Ryan Deken, Tristin Casteel, David Owen, Tom Neff  
 Altar Guild: Jim Calder, Holly Cunningham, Krystal Marsh, Macie Peek, Mary Hooper  
 Technical Team: Rex Fayter, Adam Thrash  
 Flowers by the Flower Guild

**FLOWER DEDICATION**

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

**For those with cancer:** Albert, Dennis, Doug, Earl, Jeff, Leigh, Lois, Margaret, Mark, Marsha, Mary Beth, Matt, Maxine, Molly, Pat, Sage, Sherry, Theresa, Tim, and Trevor.

**For those in cancer remission:** Andie, Jim, Katarina, and Mandy.

**For those healing from surgery:** Aidan, Ashli, James, Jason, Kate, and Jim.

**For those with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers.**

**For those experiencing mental health issues.**

**For those with other needs:** Alyssa, Anna Dean, Bernice, Bobby, Byrena, Dan, David, Jane, Emily, Erika, Greg, Hannah, Henry, Jack, Jerry, Kandace, Kim, Kristin, Lisa, Linda, Marcie, Marian, Martha, Miranda, Nicole, Poston, Sam, Sarah, Vanessa, Waylon, and Zach.

**For those imprisoned including:** Abu-Ali, Charlie, Corinio, Gregory, Joe, Michael Tyrone, and Tyler.

**For those experiencing homelessness including:** Adrienne, Andrea, Carol, Cindy, Connie, Deborah, Donna, Jacki, Jeri, Jessica, Joe, Kanasha, Kelsey, Kimberley, Kristi, Laura, Leanna, Lonetria, Lori, Melissa, Renada, Sharon, Tiffany, and Trista.

**For all veterans and those in military service and their families, including:** Benjamin, Brianna, Chris, Evan, Gaven, Jeffrey, Josh, Kaitlin, Nate, Topher, Trevor, and Sean.

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## WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Last Sunday of Christian Education for the program year*

- 7:30 a.m. | **Rite I Service** with Gospel Piano
- 8:45 a.m. | **Rite II Service**, Ancient and Modern
  - Nursery available 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
  - Children's Church
  - Intercessory Prayer available
- 10:00 a.m. | **Christian Education**
  - Catechesis | Catechesis Rooms, Parish Hall, 2nd floor
  - Parents' Group | Wise Room, Parish Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
  - Rector's Forum | Parish Hall
  - Youth Sunday School | Sewanee Room, Parish Hall, 2nd floor
- 11:00 a.m. | **Rite II Service** with Choir, Organ, and Livestream
  - Intercessory Prayer available
- 5:00 p.m. | **SNL**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A Reminder from the Altar Guild

Ladies, before coming to the rail to receive the Eucharist, the Altar Guild gently reminds you to please blot your lipstick. This helps us to keep the linens clean and stain-free.

### Scatter Survey Update

Our church leadership attended the Scatter Conference this past week, where they learned more about our results and the best way to share that information with all of you. We thank you for taking the time to participate in the Scatter Survey earlier this year. Stay tuned!

### Rector Sabbatical Quickly Approaching! | May 4-August 3, 2026

This will be the final Sunday service before our Rector, The Rev. Dr. Blaess, continues her well-deserved sabbatical, returning to us in early August. She plans to visit her family in Montana and her husband's family in Arizona, visit friends in North Carolina, and, otherwise, lie low at home to catch up on reading and writing. We can't wait to hear stories from her time of renewal and rest when we welcome her back.

### First Baptist Castle Street: The Gospel Above All Bible Study | Monday-Thursday, May 4-7 & 11-14, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Allen Chapel AME Church, 224 S. Maney Ave.

We have enjoyed the privilege of cultivating and strengthening our relationships with our Black sister churches in downtown Murfreesboro, notably First Baptist Castle Street and Allen Chapel AME. Our brothers and sisters at First Baptist have extended a generous invitation for us to partake in their two-week Teacher Certification Bible Study which will be held at Allen Chapel. This eight-session Bible study will give you a fresh perspective on the supremacy of the gospel over the trappings and temptations of modern society. Lead your group to a greater awareness and practice of gospel culture, gospel mission, gospel renewal, and gospel unity. The lessons will be led by students of FBC's Teacher Certification 201 class. The deadline to register is April 27, or until the class is full. Please see the [link](#) in our weekly e-newsletter to register. \*Book purchase price is \$21/person.

### Men's Club | Thursday, May 7 | 5:30 p.m. fellowship; 6:00 p.m. dinner; Parish Hall

Join us for a time of fellowship. Contact Ken 631-920-5300 for side dish suggestions or any questions you may have.

### Youth Sunday | Sunday, May 10; All services

We will celebrate Youth Sunday with youth leading worship in a variety of roles—including preachers, Peyton Owen and Molly Bartsch. We will also recognize graduating seniors and those children transitioning from catechesis and choristers.

### Baptism at St. Paul's | May 24, 2026, 11:00 a.m.

If you or a loved one wish to be baptized and/or if you have any questions about the baptism process, please contact our Baptismal Shepherds at [baptism@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org](mailto:baptism@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org) or Josh Wilson at [josh.wilson@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org](mailto:josh.wilson@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org) by Monday, May 4, 2026. There will be a baptism information session and rehearsal on Saturday, May 23.

### Vacation Bible School | June 8-12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

VBS registration is open! Exploring 5 foundational truths about the nature of God. Get kids ready to embark on a wild, creature-filled adventure at Rainforest Falls where kids learn that God is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever. Age 3 to rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The cost is \$20 a child. Contact Cindy at [Cindy.Guevart@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org](mailto:Cindy.Guevart@stpaulsmurfreesboro.org) with any questions! It is also now on the homepage: [www.stpaulsmurfreesboro.org](http://www.stpaulsmurfreesboro.org).



### Offering

To make an offering online with your debit/credit card, scan the QR code with your smart phone camera. A link will appear, click on it to open our website's giving page. You can select the fund you want to give to (i.e. pledge fulfillment, general offering, CONNECT, etc.) and leave a note in the memo line, if desired. Text giving is also available, text GIVESTPAULS to 73256 (ex., GIVESTPAULS \$100).

