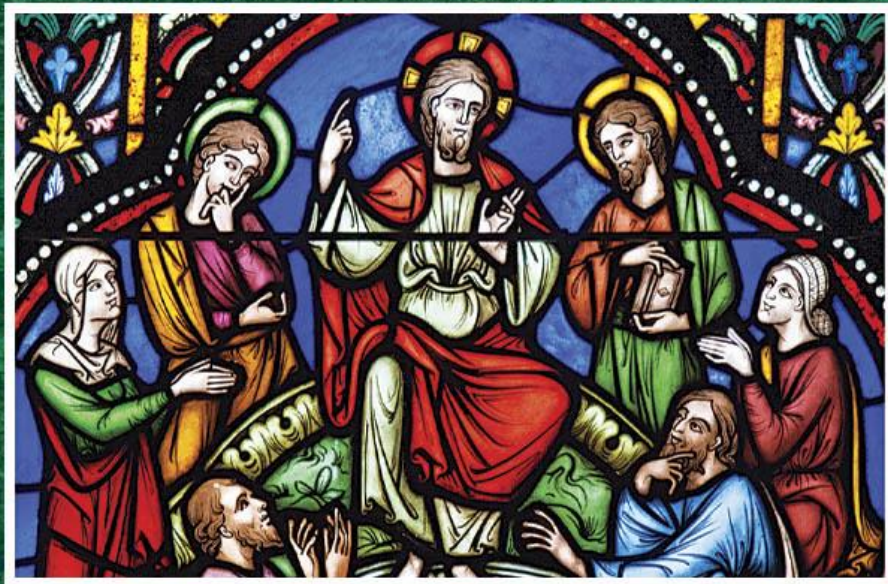


# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Blessed are you*  
LUKE 6:22



# *WELCOME*

To our Church Family

*We're Glad You're Here!*



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

### ***You are welcome at the table!***

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

### **Altar Flowers**

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Gladys Zepp's daughters Carla, Cindy, Nancy, & Karen in honor of her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Introduction**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

### **Readings and Psalm**

- **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

*Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water*

- **Psalm 1**

*They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died*

- **Luke 6:17-26**

*Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full*

**The Westminster Strike**  
**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Prelude**

Arioso

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

**ELW 717**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>1</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves  
that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so** | **with the wicked;**  
**they are like chaff which the wind** | **blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way** | **of the righteous,**  
**but the way of the wicked shall** | **be destroyed.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

The holy gospel according to Luke the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for

power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

**ELW 754**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERTORY**



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



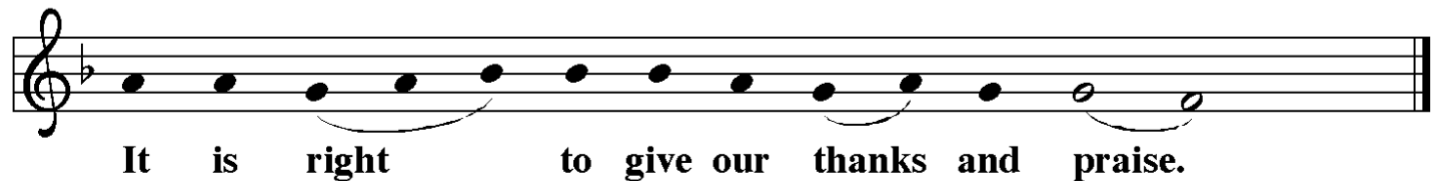
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, .....And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





san-na. 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.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## **COMMUNION SONG**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**COMMUNION**

**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

We Know That Christ Is Raised

**ELW 449**

**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

Sonata II Allegro

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

### **In our prayers today we will remember**

*Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Ralph Buster, Dan Lint, Jo Schweitzer, Rich Sadler, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts, and David Fox.*

### **Music Notes**

Many thanks to Mason Meyer for subbing for Abby today. Mason is the Senior VP of the Rubber City Radio group with WONE, WQMX, WAKR, and 1073 Alternative Cleveland. He also manages an events business and digital advertising solutions business for Rubber City Radio. In his free time, he loves to practice organ and substitute in a variety of churches. He also loves golfing, cooking, and landscaping at home. His most unique interest is as a 30-year licensed pyrotechnician who has performed hundreds of large fireworks displays for holidays, private events, and celebrations.

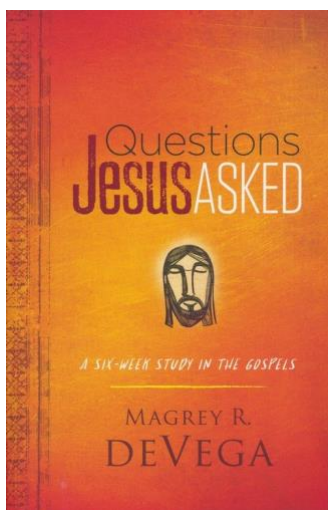
# Adult Sunday School Class

God is Faithful - Always!

*For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust.... (Psalm 71:5a)*

## Why This?

Ever wonder what in the world God is doing? Have you ever asked - where is God's justice, where is his grace? The Genesis stories we explore in February will help us answer these questions and hopefully increase our trust. Please join us at 11:30 each Sunday to study and discuss Scripture and enjoy the fellowship. We meet on the top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked*?

## Women's Lenten Retreat

Prayer: Let's Talk to God

March 1, 9 am to 3 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

You are invited to attend a Women's Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 1, from 9 am until 3 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is prayer. Bible study, practical strategies to improve a life of prayer, and worship will be included. The retreat is being led by LaShell Williamson and Patty Long. So that all women might enjoy the full day, you are asked to bring your own light lunch. Beverages will be provided. Reservations are desired but not required. All are welcome.

## Capital Campaign Report

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$377,000</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$348,174</b>
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 28,826</b>

### Monday Evening Bible Study

#### Exploring God's Promises: A Bible Study on Biblical Covenants

Beginning January 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

Join us for an inspiring Bible study series as we dive into the Biblical covenants that shape the story of God's relationship with humanity. Each week, we'll explore a different covenant found throughout Scripture and reflect on how these promises reveal God's love and faithfulness.

This study is co-led by Pastor Tina Crog of St. Jacob Lutheran Church and Pastor Ash Welch of Christ Lutheran Church. We will gather in the welcoming atmosphere of Tremont Coffee shop in downtown Massillon (215 Erie St N, Massillon, OH). Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, all are welcome to come, learn, and grow together in faith. Bring your Bible and a friend!

### Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.



# Community Social Media Pages

## Facebook & Instagram

Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

## Facebook

Search “*St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Massillon*”

Search “*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul’s*”

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## Upcoming St. Paul’s Cathedral Concerts

These concerts are FREE and open to all. Your freewill offering is gratefully received.

**Sunday, February 23, 4 pm**

### **Minnita Daniel-Cox, Soprano**

Dr. Daniel-Cox is Professor of Voice and Vocal Area Coordinator at the University of Dayton. She holds degrees from Bowling Green State University (BM) and the University of Michigan (MM, DMA). As creator of the Dunbar Music Archive, Dr. Daniel-Cox has presented her research and recitals in venues around the world. The concert will feature the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, set by composers Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Adolphus Hailstork, Florence Price, Sylvia Hollifield, Will Liverman, and H. Leslie Adams.

**Sunday, March 9, 4 pm**

### **OPUS 216, String Ensemble**

Equally versed in classical and non-classical styles, our ensemble has created a niche experience for high-level performances that can cover any genre, from classical to French café jazz, Top 40, hip hop, South American and midcentury American jazz, Irish and American fiddle, original music, and improvisation.

Trained at top-tier conservatories like the world-renowned Cleveland Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard and others, our musicians make Cleveland their home for its vibrancy, professional development opportunities, arts and culture. When they aren’t performing events with OPUS 216, ensemble musicians perform nationally and internationally, from Lincoln Center in New York City, to subbing with major orchestras, such as the Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and others. Ensemble musicians have performed onstage across the country with everyone from John Legend to Michael Buble, Brian Wilson, Andrea Bocelli, and more.

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**GATHERING HYMN**                      Let Justice Flow Like Streams                      **ELW 717**  
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**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      Jesus, the Very Thought of You                      **ELW 754**  
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**SENDING HYMN**                      We Know That Christ Is Raised                      **ELW 449**  
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**Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Dave Stoner</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Carol Butler</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greg &amp; Lynda Klein</b>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Shane Jackson &amp; Barb Palmer</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Sue Ambrosic</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John &amp; Linda Litman</b> <b>Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>



# Let Justice Flow like Streams



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

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# Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;  
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call  
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.  
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!  
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!  
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

# We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Text © John B. Geyer.

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