

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# *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 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 Dan Farrar in honor of in memory of those who courageously gave their lives in service to our country.

The **Throne Flowers** were given by Jennifer & Craig Maurer in memory of Marjorie Hill.

### **Introduction**

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 16:9-15**

*Lydia and her household are baptized by Paul.*

#### **Psalm 67**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)

#### **Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5**

*The Lamb is the light of the city of God.*

#### **John 14:23-29**

*The Father will send the Holy Spirit.*

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

*Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Michael Jordan, and Bobbee DeGordon.*

Today's Hymns from the Tower  
**A Litany of Hope for Memorial Day**

Church Carillon

While we grieve and remember all who died in military service,  
**we are not as those without hope.**

Just as Jesus died and rose from the grave,  
**so too will the dead rise in Christ.**

We recall with gladness those who died in service to neighbor  
and nation.  
**May their memory and sacrifice not be forgotten.**

Bring your peace, O God, to all the earth.  
**That war would be no more.**

Lead us to your promised future,  
**to your blessed day of salvation.**

Wipe the tears from our eyes,  
**for death will be no more.**

On that day, O Lord of hosts, you will gather all people  
on your holy mountain,  
**and serve a bountiful and endless feast.**

Nothing separates us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Neither war nor suffering, life nor death,  
nor anything else in all creation.**

Creator of the universe, make all things new.  
**Let it be so among us now.**

Creator of the universe, make all things new.  
**Let it be so for those we remember this day.**

Creator of the universe, make all things new.  
**Let it be so for this world you love.**

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray,

Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. We especially thank you for those in our military throughout history who have sacrificed their lives for their fellow citizens and for us who came after. As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden, and send your spirit of comfort to them. Be present with all the women and men who are serving in the military today. Let them live for the peace known only from you. Help us to be worthy of their legacy, and keep us mindful of their service, that in all things we may live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**PRELUDE:**

Armed Forces Medley

**GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Marching to Zion

ELW 625

## First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

Steal Away

Shawn E. Okpebholo (b. 1981)

*Steal away to Jesus, Steal away home. I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord, He calls me. He calls me by the thunder. The trumpet sounds within a my soul. Lord, I know I ain't got long to stay here.*

Anderson Rambler, bass-baritone

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by



day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

### Gospel: John 14:23-29

The Gospel according to John, John the 14th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you

hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The Gospel of our Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Dr. Patty Long**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

This Is My Song

ELW 887

**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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem:**                      Requiem                      Eliza Gilkyson (b. 1950)  
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)

*Mother Mary, full of grace, awaken. All our homes are gone, our loved ones taken, Taken by the sea.*

*Mother Mary, calm our fears, have mercy. Drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy. Hear our mournful plea. Our world has been shaken, we wander our homelands forsaken. In the dark night of the soul, bring some comfort to us all.*

*Oh, Mother Mary, come and carry us in your embrace, that our sorrows may be faced. Mary, fill the glass to overflowing. Illuminate the path where we are going. Have mercy on us all. In funeral fires burning each flame to your mystery returning. In the dark night of the soul your shattered dreamers, make them whole.*

*Oh. Mother Mary, find us where we've fallen out of grace. Lead us to a higher place. In the dark night of the soul, our broken hearts you can make whole. Oh,*



*Mother Mary, come and carry us in your embrace. Let us see your gentle face, Mary.*



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.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n 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.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Come to the table of grace.  
Receive the gift of new life.



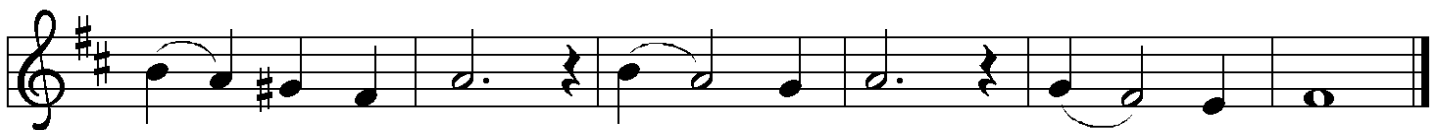
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

Deep River  
Mr. Rambler

arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast? That promised land, where all is peace?*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light      ELW 815

## BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Fanfare on Amazing Grace

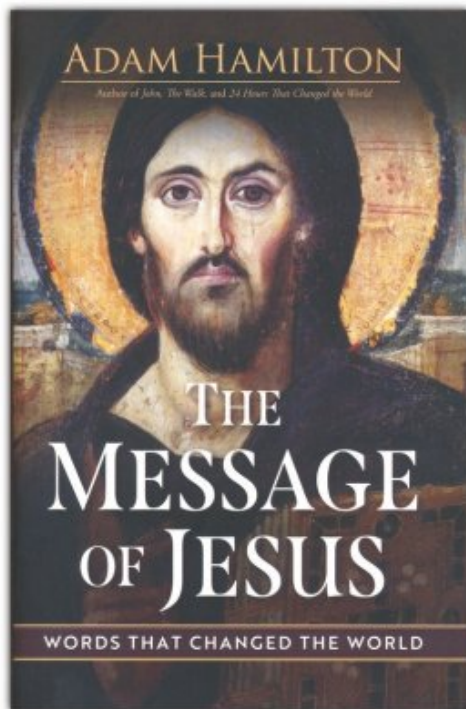
Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

# Adult Sunday School Class

## Joseph and God's Grace

*"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good..."*  
(Genesis 50:20a)

Joseph, favorite son of Jacob, lived a life of challenges and privilege. By God's redeeming grace, Joseph was used to support and protect the people of God's covenant and was a righteous leader in the land of Egypt. During May, we will conclude our study in the book of Genesis and once again be reminded that grace abounds for God's glory and our lasting good. The class meets on Sundays at 11:30, top floor Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

*The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World*

By: Adam Hamilton

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

# Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$396,278
Funds raised	\$397,148
Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 00.00

## Impact Massillon

June 14, 2025. See Scott Larson if interested in helping out. \$15 for the T-shirt.

## Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi:

**Network:** sound media

**Password:** Sound127

Once connected to the Wi-Fi, open the WaveCAST app and tap on **St. Paul's** to access the worship service. If you need help, please see Jim or John.

## Accessible Building Entrances During Construction

Beginning Tuesday May 27, the East side **entrance under the archway** into the church building will be unavailable for use.

Those who park in the **lower lot** on Sundays are encouraged to use the sidewalk along First Street and access the church through the west side door. Or if you want to enter the Parish Hall, you may use the stairs up from the parking lot and enter through the rear door and exit the front door.

Those parking in the **upper lot** and along the street may enter the church building through the east side doors. Parish Hall may be accessed through the main door facing Cherry Rd.

Due to construction, the **chairlift** will be unavailable starting May 25.

Watch for signs updating access as the construction moves forward. Thank you for your patience!



## **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**

*“St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon”  
or “Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's”*

## **Veterans Invited to Flag Day**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00 pm**

**Freedom Farm**

**12943 Kimmens RD SW Massillon, Ohio**

**RSVP to 330-418-9192**

## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Lynn Williamson</b>
<b>Preaching</b>	<b>Dr. Patty Long</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Marilyn Norton</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Dennis Morgan &amp; Jackie Pritchett</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John Liebermann, John &amp; Jennifer Stanko</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

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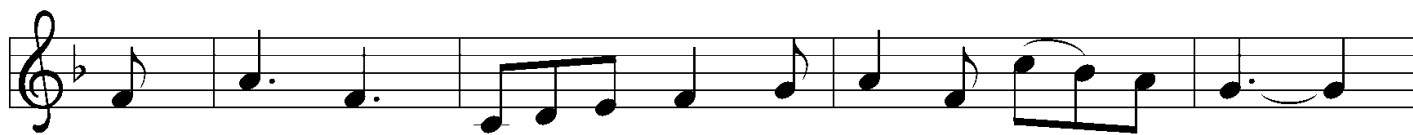
<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	<b>Marching to Zion</b>	<b>ELW 625</b>
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<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	<b>This Is My Song</b>	<b>ELW 887</b>
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<b>SENDING HYMN:</b>	<b>I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</b>	<b>ELW 815</b>
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# Come, We That Love the Lord

## *We're Marching to Zion*



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets  
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

### *Refrain*



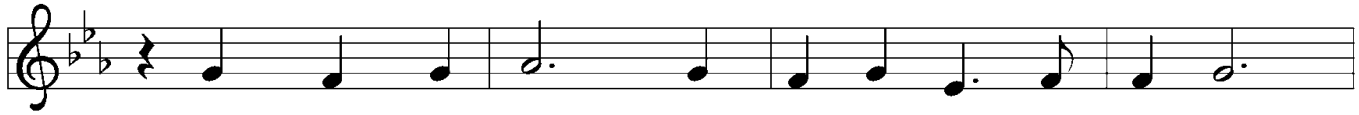
We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



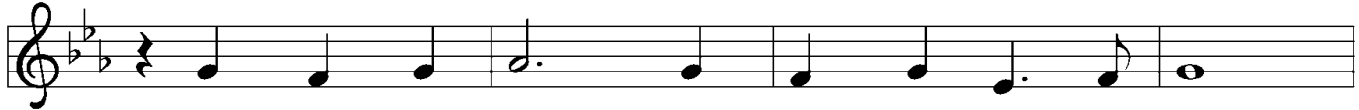
we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain  
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

# This Is My Song



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;  
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,  
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing  
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3

Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957

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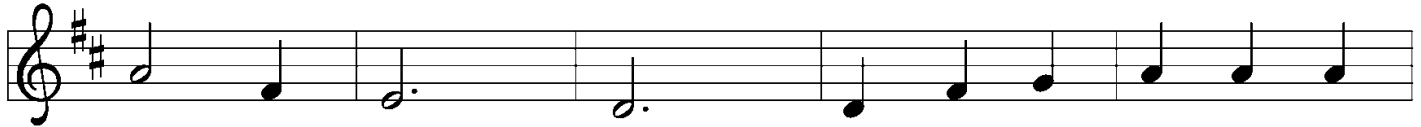
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# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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