

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# *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 worshippers 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 Jan Geuy In celebration of Monte & Jan's 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Introduction**

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 1:6-14**

*Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure*

#### **Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (*Ps. 68:4*)

#### **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*God will sustain and restore those who suffer*

#### **John 17:1-11**

*Christ's prayer for his disciples*

**Hymns from the Tower**

**Prelude:**

Festival Fanfare  
Handbell Choir

Church Carillon

Jason Krug (b. 1978)

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb! Amen.

**Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.**

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us  
beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle  
rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We  
give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for  
joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down  
barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new  
creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and  
forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

God Is Here!

ELW 526

**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.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Acts 1:6-14**

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.

### Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35



<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;**  
**as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence**  
**of God.**

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the**  
**clouds;**

**I AM is that name, rejoice | before God! R**

<sup>5</sup> In your holy habita- | tion, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

<sup>6</sup> **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;**  
**but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,  
when you marched | through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God,**  
**the | God of Sinai,**

**at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

<sup>10</sup> **Your people found their | home in it;**  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R**

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;  
sing praises | to the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;**  
**you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe pow- | er to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.


<sup>35</sup> **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God! R**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**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 17:1-11**

The Gospel according to John, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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

**SERMON**

**Rev. Mark Kreemer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

**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.**

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world,  
let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of  
new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERTORY**

Quiet Praise  
Handbell Choir

Dan R. Edwards (b. 1951)



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**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 new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.



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**                      The Lone, Wild Bird- Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

**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.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:**                      I Come With Joy                      ELW 482

**BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude:**                      Toccata in E, [BuxWV 157](#)-Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637–1707)

**In our prayers today we will remember**

Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, *Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily, Denise Korn, Eric Theiss, Wayne Miller, Jessie Shaffer.*

## Adult Sunday School

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Parish Hall

### Redeemed for What?

*You were bought with a price...* (1 Corinthians 6:20a)

As we continue through Eastertide, we will reflect on the meaning of redemption. If we believe the death and resurrection of Jesus redeemed us, perhaps we must ask, now what? For what purpose have I been redeemed? What difference should it make in how I live now? Please join us for Bible study and conversation as we meet together at 11:30 on Sunday morning, top floor Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.

*Visit our website for more information: <https://stpaulsmassillon.org/adult-sunday-school>*

### Rehearsals for the St. Paul's Steelband

*We will rehearse today at 1 pm, then move back to our Wednesday 6 pm rehearsals.* If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eleanor or catch her after service. There's no need to bring anything for the first rehearsal. For those of you that just want to watch and listen, you are free to stay for as long as you like. We can't wait to get started making music together! For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE



### Game Night-May 17th

Join us in the lounge at 5:00 pm for a fun night of games and fellowship.

Bring your favorite board or card game(s), beverage, and an appetizer to share. Bingo for prizes will also be available.

# Impact Massillon June 13<sup>th</sup>

St. Paul's will once again be participating in Impact Massillon. Will be working on two homes locate on 9<sup>th</sup> street north of State, Parking this year will be on 8<sup>th</sup> street, the old Massillon Hospital administration lot. Please see Scott Larson or John Stanko if you can help us make a difference in this neighborhood.



## Attention Graduates



We are looking to feature our graduating seniors in the June Newsletter.

If you are or know of a graduating senior (high school or college), please submit a photo, and any information you would like highlighted, i.e., participation of activities in school such as band, sports, clubs, etc.

Include plans for your future, any educational plans, employment plans, travel plans, or anything you'd like to include. This is the time to brag about yourself 😊

## Children's Activity Bulletin

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Standing Together as One*

John 17:6-11

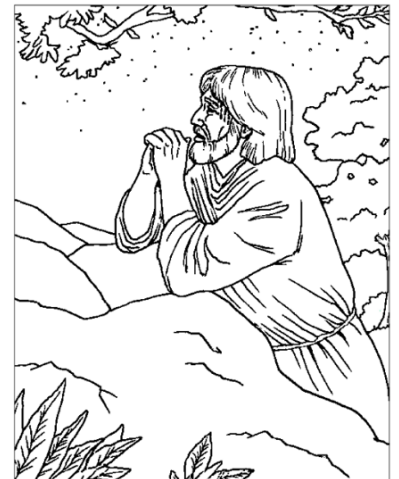
Word Search Puzzle

B L X K A Z F F A T H E R X P  
G L S S M Y O U R S E N J R E  
M O K E E C P T N D A B A P R  
I N C T D G W I E G A V E M X  
N G V M P O A Y T G X X W R E  
E E Y J N M E A N V D B V K P  
E R K K E B W I C C H O L Y L

## Children's Activity Bulletins

Crayons and Children's Activity Bulletins are available at the side entrance. These are a fun way to spread today's Gospel to our younger ones

Coloring Page



Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Let us know you were here.  
Please sign the St. Paul's Friendship Register at the end of your pew.

## Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God’s house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

- **Parish Hall Window Wells Repair** – Estimated cost: \$169,000  
Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.
- **Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall)** – Estimated cost: \$150,000  
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.
- **Organ Maintenance and Restoration** – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000  
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

## 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.



My Church  
by Pushpay



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

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

## 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

## 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”*

## Did you know?

Our website is being updated weekly. You can find current announcements, the electronic calendar, watch any of our Worship Services, revisit a concert, find a bulletin or newsletter from 6 months ago, read about the history of our church, and much more.

Stop by and check it out. **StPaulsMassillon.org**

## **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>David Stoner</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Dick &amp; Robin Cordes</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Greg &amp; Lynda Klein</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Sue Ambrosic</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John Lieberman, Rev. Lynn Williamson</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Scott Larson, Thomas Haake</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

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**GATHERING HYMN**                      God Is Here!                      ELW 526  
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**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      Be Thou My Vision                      ELW 793  
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**SENDING HYMN:**                      I Come With Joy                      ELW 482  
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# God Is Here!

ELW 526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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# Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



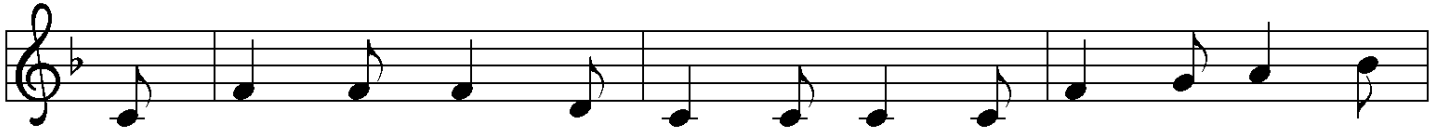
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

# I Come with Joy

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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