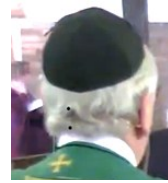


From The Zucchetto - a.k.a. Zucchini by the PiC

The 4th Week in Easter Season
“And Can It Be” a hymn by The Rev. Charles Wesley



In May of 1738, Charles Wesley, an Anglican priest, wrote the hymn “And can it be” which we sang last Sunday. I commend it to you for your personal devotion and reflection as we, the Saints of St. Paul’s, continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God our Savior Jesus Christ.

To listen to this great hymn, please google “And can it be that I should gain.” The best version is found on YouTube.

Here it is verse by verse, stanza by stanza, with my brief reflections on each.
1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

In the first stanza, Wesley expresses amazement over the love expressed in God the Son dying for him; it is a mystery that we who caused his death now benefit from it. The questions “Died He for me, who caused His pain?” and “How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” reflect deep wonder at God’s mercy.

2. 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design? In vain the first-born seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine. 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds enquire no more.

In the second stanza, Wesley calls for adoration at the incomprehensibility of God’s love and mercy in our Lord’s sacrificial death. Even the angels cannot fully comprehend the depth of God’s love.

3. He left his Father's throne above — so free, so infinite his grace — emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me!

Here Wesley celebrates Christ’s humility and grace in leaving His heavenly throne to die for humanity. It references the incarnation and the redemptive work of Jesus, highlighting the unending mercy that reaches even the most underserving sinner.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night; thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

With the fourth stanza Wesley reflects on personal liberation from sin, using imagery of imprisonment and chains. The verse draws on biblical metaphors, such as the liberation of Peter and Paul, to illustrate the freedom we experience through our relationship personal with Christ Jesus.

5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine; Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th’ eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

The final stanza rejoices in the results of Christ’s amazing and merciful work which is the assurance of our salvation for there is no condemnation for those who have been made alive in Him. In Him we may boldly approach God’s eternal throne while we await the reception of our crown which the Lord has promised to all who love Him.

Pray for the Church and the Body of Christ

The Daughters of the King are dedicated to supporting the prayer needs of 1St. Paul’s. They are available in the west corner of sanctuary every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service for private prayer. You can also submit intentions in the prayer box in the narthex. To add names to the prayer list, please contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise renewed. *Please pray for:*

*Family of Marie Elnor Hale; Family of Glenda Kay Shasteen;
Abby, Brad Mathis, Dana Medford, Jorn Jamison,
Cathy Hargrave, Fr. Gordon*



EVENTS

May 2 - Funeral Service for Marie Hale Gunter - 2:00pm

May 10 - Monthly Birthdays & Mother’s Day Special Coffee Hour

May 15 - Reception for St. Paul’s School

May 21 - ECW Board Meeting online

May 24 - ECW General Meeting following service

May 30 - 9:00am—Lunch: Discernment Retreat, Holy Listening

<https://www.prekindle.com/event/16761-holy-listening-letting-god-lead-dallas>

Bishop Rob Price offers **Healing Prayer Service** once a month throughout the diocese. This service focuses on seeking spiritual, emotional, or physical restoration through prayer, Scripture and anointing with oil. The next one is scheduled for **6 p.m., May 6, at Transfiguration, 14115 Hillcrest Road in Dallas**. The June healing prayer service is scheduled for 6 p.m., June 24, at Our Merciful Savior Episcopal Church, 500 S. Jackson Street in Kaufman.



June 1-5: 3:00-6:00pm
Donations Accepted

9am-4pm: June 3, 4, & 5
Volunteers Needed
Sorting & Organization

Saturday, June 6



St. Paul’s Episcopal Church



“The Lost Sheep” by British artist Alfred M. Soord (1868–1915). His work often combined religious themes with strong narrative and emotional impact.

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Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Robert P. Price, *Bishop*

The Rev. Gary D. Hill, *Priest In Charge*

The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*

David Gish, *Music Director*

Cathy Hargrave, *Organist*

4th Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2026

Service Times at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY

10:30 am. HOLY EUCHARIST
11:45 am. FELLOWSHIP, CLARDY HALL

MONDAY

9:00 am. CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am. MORNING PRAYER II
6:00 pm. BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY

8:00 p.m. COMPLINE SERVICE <http://stpaulstx.org> Facebook

Sunday, April 26th

LEM/ Lay Readers Karen Smith
Lector Nancy Wyant
Acolyte Matt Wolff
Thurifer Laurel Pence
Vestry Person of the Day: Elizabeth Porter, Frank McKee
Intercessory Prayer: Laurel Pence
Tech Team: Director-Jeff Faunce; Titles-Jennifer Faunce;
Audio-Brad Mathis; Cameras-Nick Stone
Social Media-Georgianna Harrison
Altar Guild: Laurel Pence, Nancy Wyant,
Georgianna Harrison

Hymns and Songs for the Day

Processional	Christ is Alive	H #182
Gospel	Jesus Chris is Risen Today	H #207
Offertory	The Wonderful Cross	A3 #169
Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	H#647
Communion	The Summons	A3 #168
	Create in Me	A3 #28
Procession to the World	This Little Light of Mine	A3 #178

More Than Enough — Donate Digitally!

Open your phone's camera and aim it at this QR code. This will take you directly to our donation page at www.stpaulstx.org/giving where you can donate to our Giving Program.

Thank you for your support!



Holy Eucharist

Collect

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

First Lesson— Acts 2: 42-47

Lector: A reading from the Book of Acts

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23 (read in unison)

Lector:

The LORD is my shepherd;

All:

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; leads me beside still waters.

He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist

The Epistle - 1 Peter 2: 19-25

Lector: A reading from Peter's First Letter

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Hymn

The Gospel - John 10: 1-10

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Today's Stewardship Pearl



"But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint." "But those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31