

SERVICE OF SONGS



Dr. Paul Chike Dike (OON)

(1944 - 2026)

Officiating: Rev. Fr. Damian Akut
Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja

Date: 12th May, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Venue: Novare Hall, Zone 5,
Opposite PDP National Secretariat

Service of Songs

1. **Arrival:** 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
2. **Opening Prayer:** 5:00 PM
3. **Hymn:** (i) Blessed Assurance
(ii) How Great Thou Art
4. **First Reading (Family):** Ecclesiastes 3: 1-22
5. **Hymn:** Shall We Gather at the River
6. **Second Reading (Staff):** I Corinthians 15: 51-57
7. **Gospel Reading:** John 11:17-26
8. Homily
9. **Hymn:** When Peace Like A River Attendeth My Way (It Is Well):
10. D-G's Condolence Message
11. Eulogies
12. **Hymn:** Only Remembered by What we Have Done
13. Vote of Thanks
14. **Closing Hymn:** God Be With You Till We Meet Again
15. Closing Prayer



HYMN

1) BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
[Chorus]

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His
love. [Chorus]

2) HOW GREAT THOU ART

I. O Lord my God, When I in awesome
wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have
made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling
thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe
displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God,
to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou
art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God,
to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou
art!

2. When through the woods, and
forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the
trees.
When I look down, from lofty
mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle
breeze. [Chorus]

3. And when I think, that God, His Son
not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly
bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.
[Chorus]

4. When Christ shall come, with shout
of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill
my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how
great Thou art!" [Chorus]



FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-22)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will

fear him.

Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account. And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment—wickedness was there, in the place of justice—wickedness was there.

I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.” I also said to myself, “As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals.

Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?”

So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

The Word of the Lord



3) SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

1. Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

2. On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day. [Refrain]

3. Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.
[Refrain]

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace. [Refrain]

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15: 51-57)

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be

changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

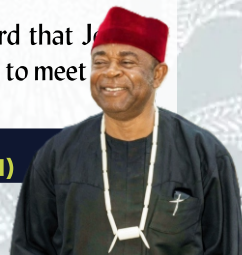
The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 11: 17-26a)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. Bethany was less than three kilo metres from Jerusalem, and many Judeans had come to see Martha and Mary to comfort them over their brother's death.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet



but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for."

"Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her.

"I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die.

The Gospel of the Lord

4) WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER ATTENDETH MY WAY (IT IS WELL):

1. When peace, like a river attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

"It is well, it is well with my soul!"

Chorus:

It is well, it is well
with my soul, with my soul
It is well, it is well,
with my soul!

2. Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,

And hath shed His own blood for my soul. [Chorus]

3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—

My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Chorus]

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;

If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life

Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul. [Chorus]

5) ONLY REMEMBERED

1. Fading away like the stars of the morning,

Losing their light in the glorious sun
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,

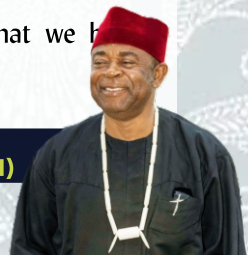
Only remembered by what we have done.

Refrain:

Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered by what we have done;

Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,

Only remembered by what we have done.



2. Shall we be miss'd though by
others succeeded,
Reaping the fields we in springtime
have sown?
No, for the sowers may pass from
their labors,
Only remembered by what they have
done. [Refrain]

3. Only the truth that in life we have
spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have
sown;
These shall pass onward when we are
forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we
have done. [Refrain]

4. Oh, when the Saviour shall make
up His jewels,
When the bright crowns of rejoicing
are won,
Then shall His weary and faithful
disciples,
All be remembered by what they have
done. [Refrain]

5) GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

1. God be with you till we meet
again,
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet
again!
'neath His wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again!
[Refrain]

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.
[Refrain]

4 God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before
you;
God be with you till we meet again.
[Refrain]





The Management and Staff of the National Gallery of Art sincerely express profound appreciation to all dignitaries, government officials, members of the arts community, friends, family members, professional associates, and well-wishers who honoured the Service of Songs held in memory of our late Pioneer Director-General.

Your presence, prayers, tributes, words of encouragement, and overwhelming show of love and solidarity have provided great comfort and strength during this period of mourning and reflection.

We are deeply grateful for the support extended to the Agency as we celebrate the remarkable life, vision, and enduring legacy of a distinguished leader whose contributions to the growth and development of the Nigerian visual arts sector remain invaluable and unforgettable.

May the Almighty God richly bless and reward you all.

