

Let us now make confession:

Almighty God, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

Know that God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

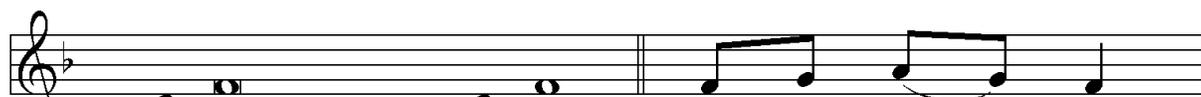
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

#324

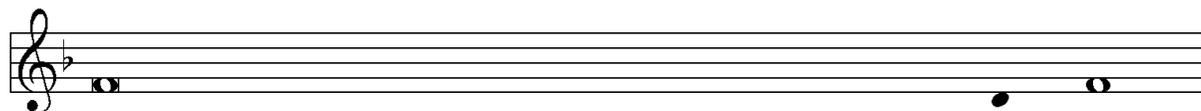
GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



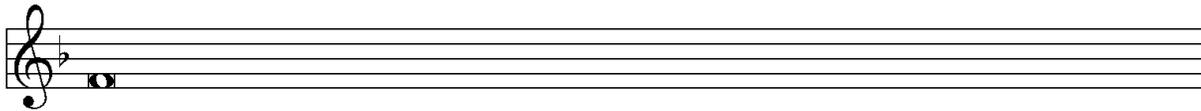
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



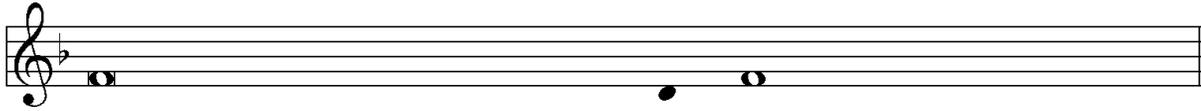
Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



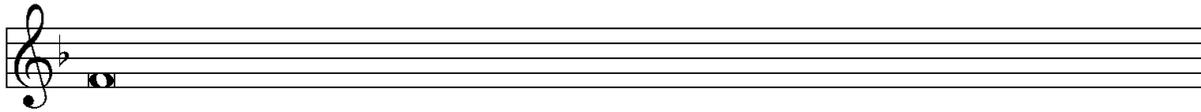
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



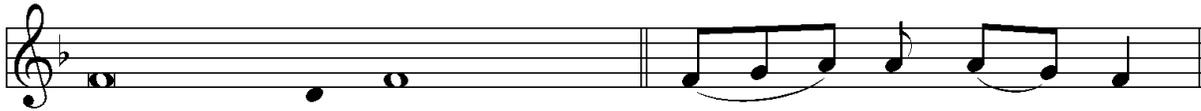
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A Reading from Genesis

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

(Genesis 12:1-4a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (Responsively)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD himself watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

⁶**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

A Reading from Romans

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

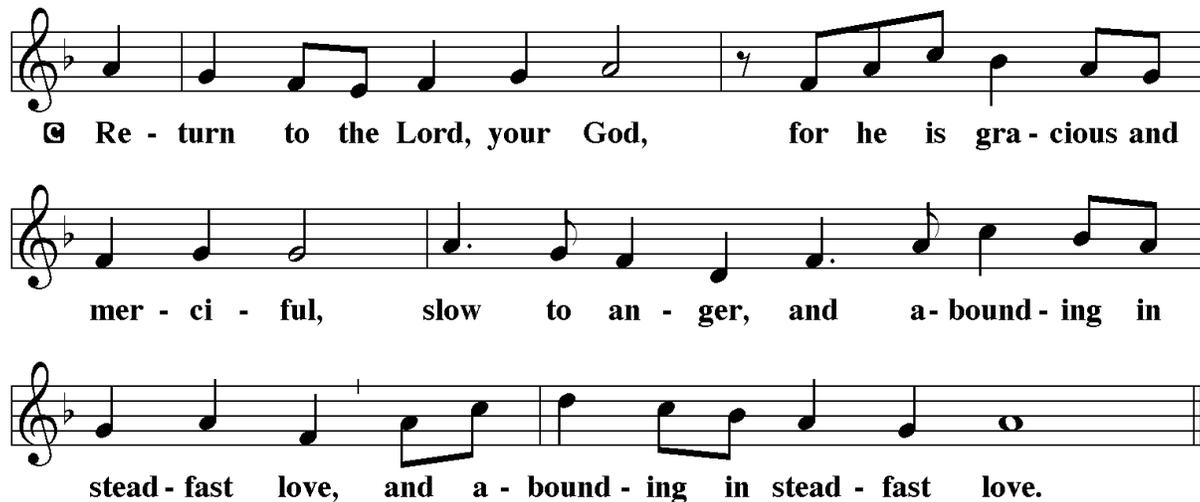
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(Romans 4:1-5, 13-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☒ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

(John 3:1-17)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God So Loved the World”

#323

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (In Unison)

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of rebirth, empower your church throughout the world to be a voice of hope for those who fear judgement or condemnation and give us confidence to proclaim your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rebirth, nurture and bless all signs of rebirth around us: budding trees and new shoots, thawing lakes and warm breezes, and animals awakening from hibernation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rebirth, protect those who advocate for the needs of children, migrants, and victims of violence. Guide lawmakers, lawyers, judges, and law enforcement officers, to be just and merciful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rebirth, restore hope to those who remain in the depths of depression or despair. Bring mercy and relief to those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially...*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rebirth, we thank you for the children of this community and for the people and ministries that care for them. Bless parents, children, and all whose desire for family remains unfulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rebirth, we give you thanks for all the saints who now rest in the promise of eternal life. In your time, unite us with them in your everlasting kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

For 10:30 service ushers: Take the offering plates from the table in the back of the church. Receive the collection along the center aisle, from front to back, then walk behind the last pews and up the side aisles to receive the collection on the outside aisles, again from front to back. Return to the back and wait for the Communion Assistant to come forward with the alms basin.

Offertory (8:00) “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” L. Smith

Anthem (10:30) “*Once Upon a Tree” P. Chopin
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of wonder, you set a table and invite us to feast with you. You give us gifts to share with others, so that everyone may be blessed. Open our eyes to daily see your goodness and mercy. Help us to welcome everyone to come to your table. Open our hearts and minds and come to us through Jesus Christ now and forever.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - 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

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

DISTRIBUTION

The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament in their pews. Those who do not desire to receive the Sacrament may come forward to receive a blessing.

AGNUS DEI

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 HYMN “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

#484

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, Ever-living God, for you have fed us with heavenly food and drink. Give us abundant life now and strengthen our hope for a greater life yet to come. Help us to know your love for us in Christ Jesus and teach us to share that Godly love with our neighbors everywhere. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

#666

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Forgive others, as you have been forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Postludium”

R. Blake

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Gail, Greg, Ruth Rarick, and Sheila Hollenbach’s birthdays by Jeff Rarick.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Ann and Lamar Butler by Tina and Scott Butler.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of my mother, Josephine Rohrer on her birthday, March 7, by Joanne Emerich.

***Anthem** is presented in honor of Justin McClure by the Worship & Music Committee (2015)

A REMINDER ...

When we gather to worship, everyone is encouraged to complete the Friendship Pad located in your pew. Please pass the Pad to your neighbor and return it to the center aisle. Visitors are encouraged to also sign our Welcome Book in the narthex. If you have a special need or concern, please share it with the Greeter at the door—or with the Pastor.

SERVING TODAY (3/8/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Gail Rarick; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Jim Spotts; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Robin Zimmerman;

USHERS: The Swick Family; **GREETER:** Doug Travor;

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter; **COUNTERS:** Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/15/20)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Gail Rarick; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Sue Reier; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Jeff Ritschel;

USHERS: Scott Butler and Joyce O'Rourke; **GREETER:** Scott Butler;

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr; **COUNTERS:** Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Dana Jenkins

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
--------------------------------	--	--

Sunday, March 8	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	9:15 AM	Property
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting
	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, March 10	1:00 PM	WELCA
Wednesday, March 11	6:00 PM	"B.Y.O.B. Lenten Meal
	7:00 PM	Lenten Service
	7:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 12	6:30 PM	Financial Peace
Saturday, March 14	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, March 15	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship

Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316 Ext. 11
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-573-4076
Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152
Karen Travor, Treasurer karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-8757
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-366-8766
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	936-648-6809

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Spring Justice Retreat - March 28, 2020

This retreat will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville, PA. The theme will be: Diversity - Reaching Across Barriers to Live as God's People. Information is available at our WELCA bulletin board. Deadline to register is March 14, 2020. Also please help us provide personal hygiene items and/or school supplies for the In-kind collection that day. A box has been placed in the narthex.

“B.Y.O.B.” LENTEN SOUP & BREAD MEAL

[B.Y.O.B., means that you can “Bring your own bowl.”]

Please join us for a “simple” Lenten meal of soup and bread on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 6 PM in our gathering room. Everyone is welcome! Every crock pot of soup and/or a loaf of bread (with soft butter) is appreciated, but no one is required to bring anything. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering place for those who would like to share. Beverages, napkins, butter knives, spoons, and bowls, if you need/forget one will be provided. Our Lenten service begins at 7 PM. Choir practice will follow the service.

SPECIAL WELCA MEETING

All of St. Paul's women are encouraged to attend an informal planning session (no program) on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the large Sunday School room. We have several upcoming events which need to be discussed. Your input will be appreciated.

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion and place in the offering plate in the Gathering Room
or return by U.S. Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 22, 2020

No orders will be taken after this date due to Blue Mountain Farms' deadline.

Your name: _____

Type of flower	How Many	Price	Total	Sponsorship
Asiatic Lilies	_____X	\$8	_____	H/M_____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (Purple)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (Pink)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (White)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____X	\$15	_____	H/M_____

TOTAL \$ _____