

# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
215 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA  
570-366-2316

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

J. Brahms

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN** “Savior, When in Dust to You”  
[See Back of bulletin]

## **EXHORTATION**

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father in heaven, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Prayer, fasting, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare.

I invite you, therefore, to commit yourself to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father in heaven for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*(Silence and self-reflection)*

## **CONFESSION**

Most holy and merciful Father,

**we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole community of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ has served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness; our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways; our exploitation of other people.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend that faith that is in us.

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our wastefulness and pollution of your creation, and for our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

## **PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 which 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.**

## **BLESSING OF ASHES** *(Please hold up your individual package of ashes.)*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

In the name of the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The small package of ashes you have received may be taken home and used to impose the sign of the cross on your own forehead (or the forehead of someone in your family.) If ashes are imposed on a family member, please say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," as you make the sign of the cross.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Joel**

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— <sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your

heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

(Joel 2:1–2, 12–17)

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

### **PSALM 51:1–10**

Have mercy on me, O God,

    according to your steadfast love;

**According to your lovingkindness;**

**in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

    cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my transgressions,**

**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned

    and done what is evil in your sight.

**And so you are justified when you speak**

**and upright in your judgment.**

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

    a sinner from my mother’s womb.

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,**

**and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;

    wash me, and I will be clean indeed.

**Make me hear of joy and gladness,**

**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,

    and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

### **A Reading from Second Corinthians**

<sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

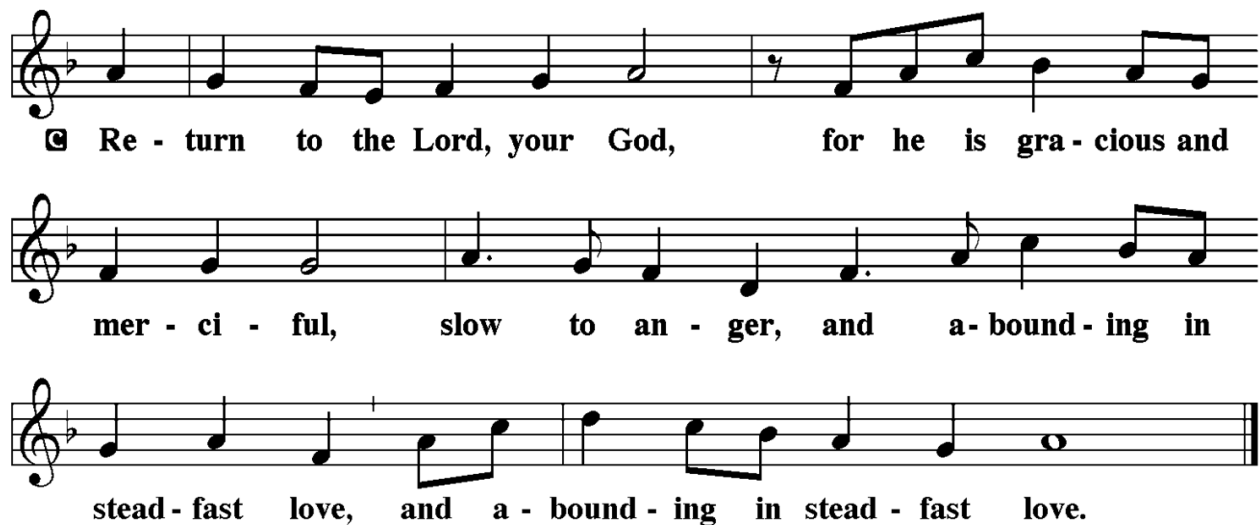
<sup>1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be

found with our ministry,<sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

(2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10)

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said,] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray,

go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup>“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

<sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21)

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

### HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord Teach Us How to Pray Aright”



1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.  
2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.  
3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;  
4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;  
5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength - ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.  
And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.  
a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live;  
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone.  
we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.



## SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED (Read 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**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church to proclaim the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its people, and you declared that it is good. Protect your creation and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the good of all people and raise up advocates to speak for the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope, our help, and our consolation. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially everyone on our prayer list*) and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we begin the season of Lent. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for all those who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*(The pastor concludes):* We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## OFFERTORY HYMN

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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 (Read in Unison)**

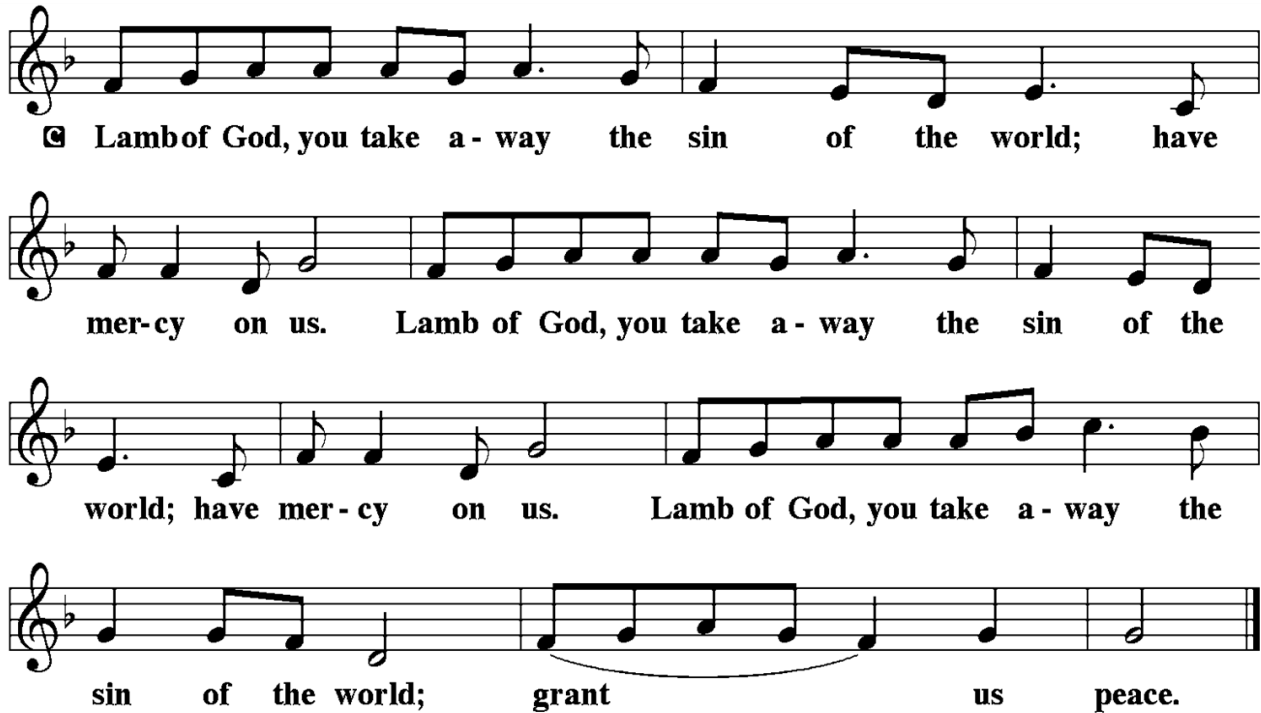
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    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.**

## 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.

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

You were created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen to be holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

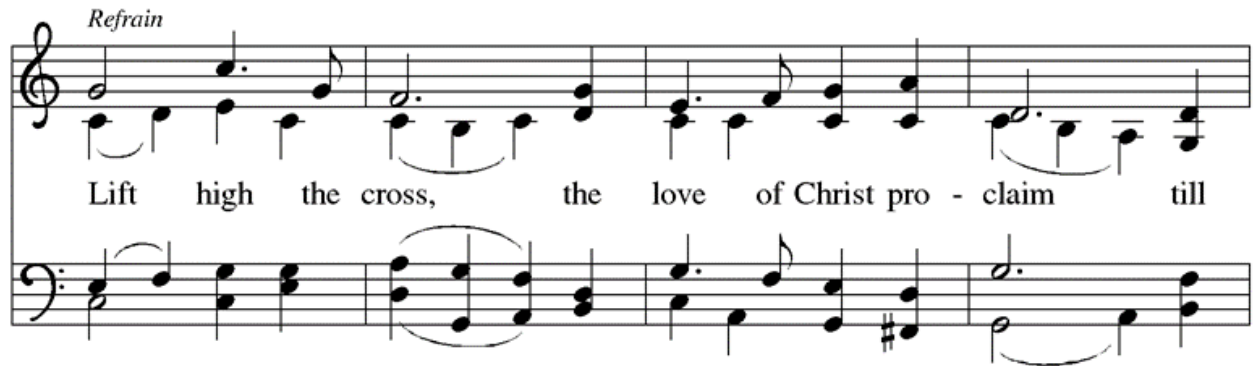
God bless you that you may be a blessing to others,  
in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

## “Lift High the Cross”

*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

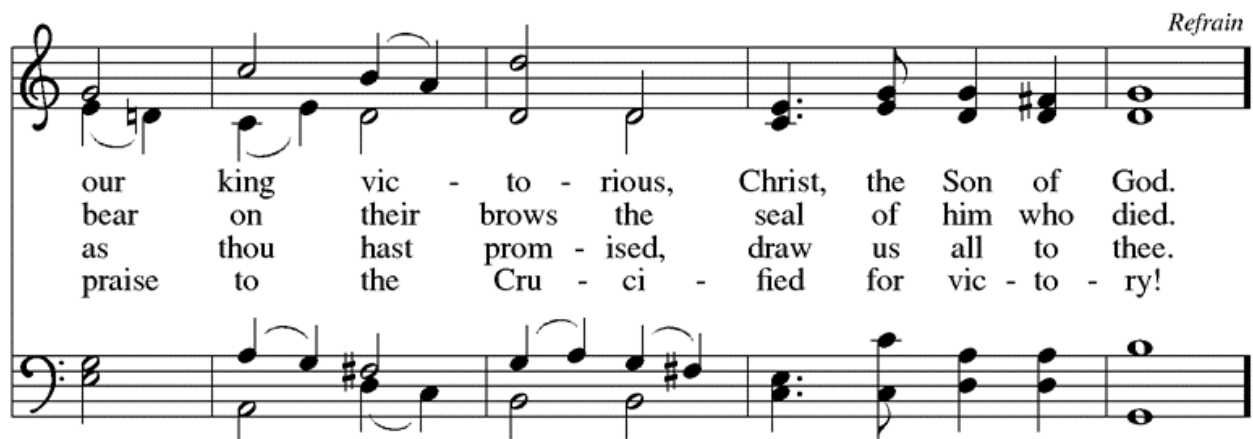


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

**THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace.

You have been marked by the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Please exit through the side (or ramp) door.  
Holy Communion will be available to you as you leave.

**POSTLUDE**

“Chorus in C Minor”

F. Broadhead

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**SERVING THIS EVENING (2/17/21)**

**7:00 PM**

LECTOR: Juli Schenck; GREETER: TBA; USHERS: Barb Sterner and Juli Schenck; ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (2/21/21)**

**8:00 AM**

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; GREETER: Krista Harding

**10:30 AM**

LECTOR: Gwen Wehr; GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Juli Schenck

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

\*\*\*\*\*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED BY OUR FOOD PANTRY**

February is St. Paul's month to provide volunteers for the Orwigsburg Food Pantry opening. Packers will be needed for Friday evening, February 19, beginning at 6:00 PM. The Penn State Girls' Basketball Team may also provide volunteers for this work, but that is not guaranteed. People who are 18 years old and older and who can lift fairly heavy boxes and place them in cars, will be needed from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 20. Our Food Pantry is careful to observe masking and distancing guidelines and all the Saturday morning work is outdoors, as this is a drive-by distribution event.

St. Paul's is one of the largest and most generous congregations participating in the Pantry. Please volunteer and support our Food Pantry in this important work.

**Introduction to the day:** On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S</b>
--------------------------------

Wednesday, February 17	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday w/ Holy Communion
Thursday, February 18	6:00 PM	STiC
	7:00 PM	Adult Forum
Saturday, February 20	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, February 21	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

GATHERING HYMN "Savior, When in Dust to You"

1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,

when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-tur-ing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,

oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,

bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a system of music. The first system includes four numbered lines of lyrics. The second system has four lines of lyrics. The third system has four lines of lyrics. The fourth system has four lines of lyrics, with the last line repeated. The music is written in a standard notation style with notes, rests, and bar lines.

# *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 21, 2021**

No orders will be taken after this date.

-----  
Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Type of flower</b>	<b>How Many</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Sponsorship</b>
Easter 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If additional space is needed for dedications, please use the back of this sheet.

Please detach lower portion of this sheet and place it with your payment in the plate  
in the Gathering Room.