

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 26, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“A Lenten Prelude”

L. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXHORTATION

Trusting in God's mercy, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love, as together we are strengthened and renewed by God's Word and Sacraments.

(Silence for self-reflection)

CONFESSION

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. 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.

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 lives 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

“A Mighty Fortress”
[See back of bulletin]

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

1. Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer. We
2. Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin. Pour
3. Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part. Re -

5
come to hear your li - ving word; it saves us from de - spair.
out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die.”

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”

⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (read responsively)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

⁶**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁸**You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

⁹“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

¹⁰**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”**

¹¹Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹²**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

A READING FROM ROMANS

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before

the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

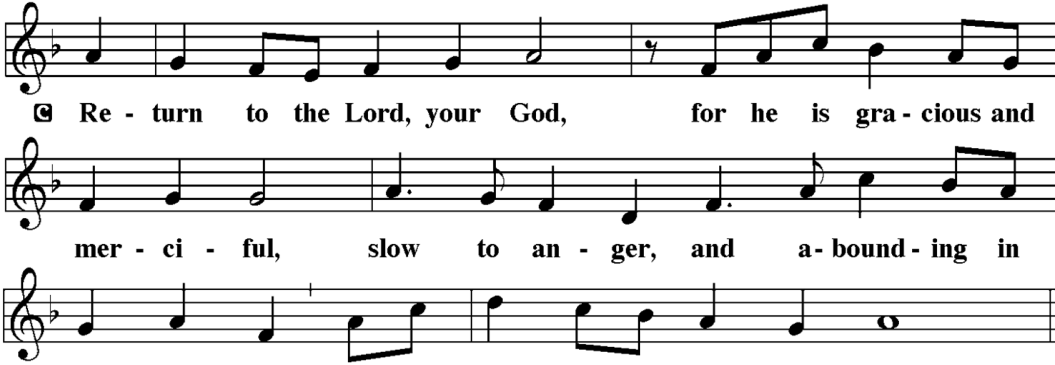
¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

(Romans 5:12-19)

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.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

[See back of bulletin]

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

Sustained by God's mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Sustain your church as we travel in the wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to all who are entrusted with your ministry. Guide all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world may be nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness. May equity and peace abide in every land and nation. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bring hope to all those whose lives have been devastated by earthquake, flood, famine, fire, or violence. We also pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others. Help us to welcome visitors as you have welcomed us. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the lives of the faithful departed. Unite our prayers with theirs until our journey is complete and we finally find rest in you. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00)

“Adagio”

J. Loeillet

ANTHEM (10:30)

“Walk With Me, Lord”

D. E. Wagner

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Come to the Table”



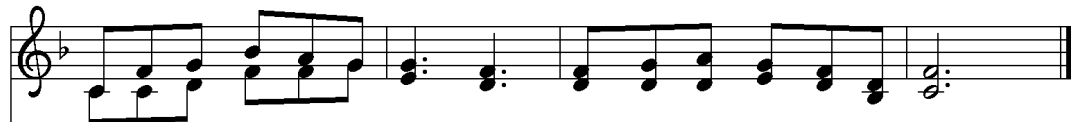
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



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 our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us with these gifts which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho-san - na in_ the high - est.

BLESSING AT THE TABLE

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

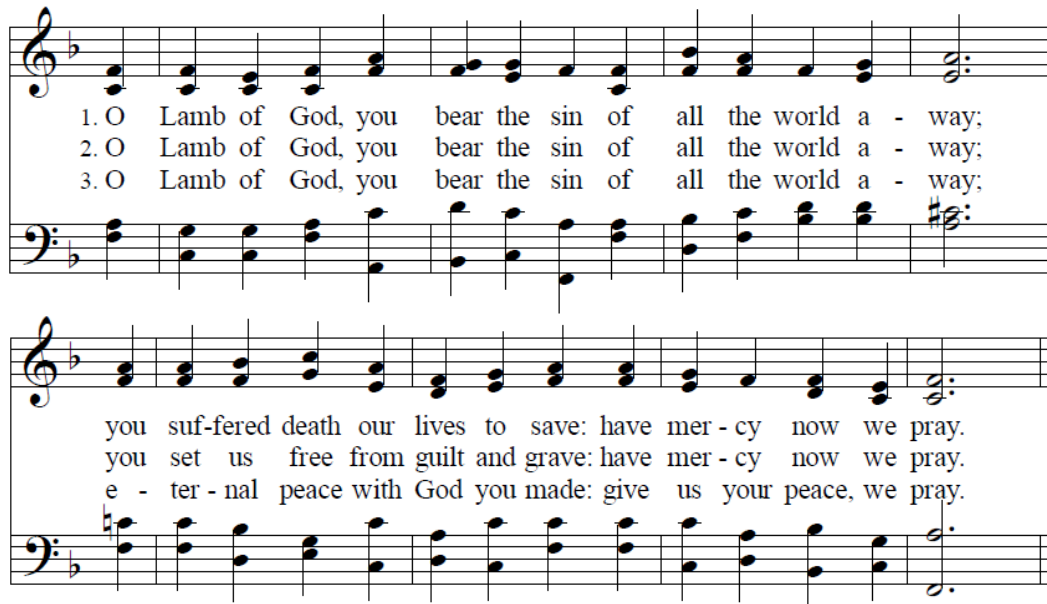
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

INSTRUCTIONS

All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest. Those who are unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament as they sit in their pew.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN “On Eagle’s Wings” [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and as a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Jesus, Still Lead On” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Postludium”

F. Wagner

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SERVING THIS SUNDAY (2/26/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike;
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jim Spotts; LECTOR: Julianne Schenck
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Doug Travor
ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/5/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Tina Butler; LECTOR: Sarah Eger
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave Krewson
ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, February 26	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, February 27	6:30 PM	Property
Tuesday, February 28	6:30 PM	SSCC
Wednesday, March 1	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, March 3	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Tumbling Run
Saturday, March 4	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 5	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

Introduction to the Day: Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at Easter. This focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to new life. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Harry W. Lafko by his family.

Chancel flowers are presented in loving memory of Tom Wertman by Faith, Cody, and Kendra.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Franklin Kamp by Tina Butler and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike will begin a series of five (5) midweek Lenten services entitled, "Gathered Around the Cross" at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. This series will continue each Wednesday at 7 p.m. during the month of March.

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children ages 1 to 10 years old will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Please join us Sunday, March 12, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. You can also call, text, or email me with questions or to volunteer. Sarah Eger: (570) 394-3522 (cell); swoodring86@hotmail.com.

WELCA

WELCA will next meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. at church. The next In-Gathering offering will be received at the May meeting. It has been designated for Red Creek Wildlife Center. The women of St. Paul's will host a WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29. All women of St. Paul's are automatically a member of this group. Information and registration are available on the WELCA bulletin board. More information will be in the March newsletter. Sign-up sheets have been placed on the table near the bulletin board. Your volunteering of food items, beverages or time will be greatly appreciated.

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room, or return it to the church by U.S. Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 12, 2023

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$9.50	H/M _____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M _____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____ X	\$17.00	H/M _____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ _____ CASH CHECK # _____

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.

GATHERING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



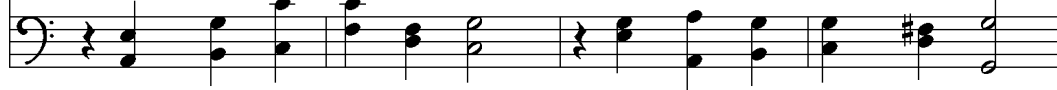
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!



HYMN OF THE DAY “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

EARTH DAY EVENT PLANNED

Volunteers are needed for STiC's up-coming Earth Day event scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. A description of events and sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism committee would like to continue sending cards, signed by our church family, to members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., military personnel, and college students away from home.) Cards are located on the small table with the prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) upon entering or before leaving church.

COMMUNION HYMN

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,
say to the Lord: “My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no
fear; un-der God’s wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by
day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God’s giv - en a com-mand to
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Continued...

Final refrain

All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

SENDING HYMN

“Jesus, Still Lead On”



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

