Fifth Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 26, 2023

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"God So Loved the World"

J. Stainer

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, 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.**

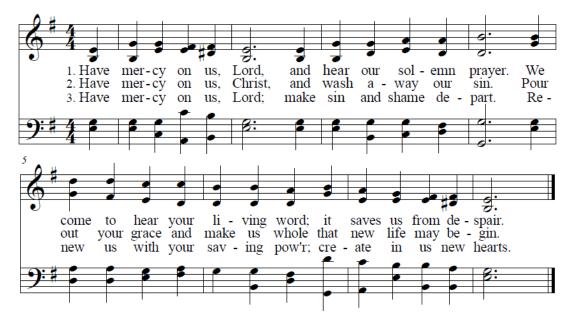
GATHERING HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" [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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us from sin and death. Breathe your spirit upon us, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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 EZEKIEL

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130 (read responsively)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

LORD, who could stand?

⁴But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶my soul waits for the LORD

more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

A READING FROM ROMANS

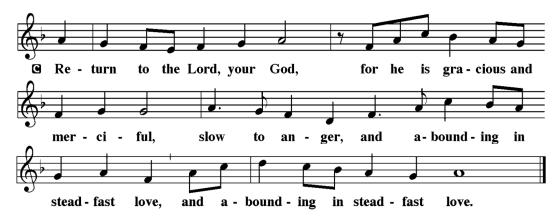
⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:6-11)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.

¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me,

but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. (John 11:1-45)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ the Life of All the Living" [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*.

Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with other churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Restore places in your creation in need of healing. Raise prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Free us from systems that oppress. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of bigotry, prejudice, and hatred. Raise up leaders who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Comfort those who grieve or who are troubled by illness. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Merciful Lord, **receive our prayer.**

Bless the music ministries of this congregation, and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving, as well as lamentation and repentance. Merciful Lord, receive our prayer.

Offer us the promise of new and abundant life even in the midst of death. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal glory. 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) "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" L

L. Smith

ANTHEM (10:30)

"Three Crosses of Shame"*

L. Larson

*Three Crosses of Shame was presented in honor of Kathryn Snyder on her birthday by Tom and Gwen Wehr and family. (2005)



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 in 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



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

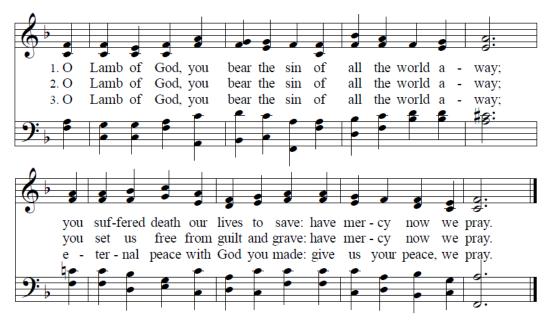
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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



COMMUNION HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" [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 make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"What Wondrous Love is This"

[See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE "March" C. Sergisson

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SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/26/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Barb Sterner; LECTOR: Mike Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Madelyn Knecht ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/02/23)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Karen Travor; LECTOR: Sue Schenck

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Glenda Bright, Gwen Wehr, and Tom Wehr

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S	
Sunday, March 26 8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 3:00 PM	Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 29 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
Thursday, March 30 10:00 AM	Rainbow Friends
Friday, March 31 10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Landingville
Saturday, April 1 10 AM – Noon 5:30 PM	28
Sunday, April 2 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	1 2

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Cindy Ritschel's birthday by her loving family.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of my husband, Charles, by Fern Moyer.

"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 on Sunday, April 2 (not the second Sunday of the month because of Easter) 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.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our second annual Easter Egg-stravaganza is slated for Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please join us in the church gathering room any time during the event to participate in crafts and games and to have a snack. The Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. If you would like to help or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Eger at 570-394-3522 (cell) or via email at swoodring86@hotmail.com.

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 gathering room. For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

WELCA

WELCA will next meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at church. As a member of St. Paul's, you are automatically a member of WELCA and are encouraged to attend. The next In-Gathering offering will be received in May and has been designated for Red Creek Wildlife Center.

Our group has offered to host the WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Details about this exciting event will be in the April newsletter. If you plan to attend, it would be appreciated if you sign the registration form available at the WELCA bulletin board as soon as possible. You have until April 22 to pay. An envelope is on the table for your check made payable to St. Paul's WELCA. The cost is \$11. (This includes \$1 for registration and \$10 for lunch which is optional.)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Our Holy Week worship will begin with the 5:30 p.m. worship service on Saturday, April 1 and then at both Palm/Passion services on Sunday, April 2. Join us to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as the story of his Passion.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on April 6 at 7:00 p.m., as we reflect upon the events of our Lord's Last Supper. The Sharing of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar are part of this service.

Then we will share a "Stations (or Way) of the Cross" service on Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Our worship will focus on our Lord's passion and death as described in the four Gospels. During this service, Scriptures will be read and hymns will be sung that remind us of the price Jesus paid for the sin of the world.

We will joyously worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on April 9 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will be filled with festive music as we celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

Please worship with us and ask your family and friends to join you!

PLEASE SIGN OUR CARDS

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.

GATHERING HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"



HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ the Life of All the Living"



COMMUNION HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"



NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

The Evangelism Committee will host a reception following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 16 for all new members who have joined our church family in the past year. If you have not yet met our newest members, please join us to welcome them.

Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-366-2316 - Ext 11 pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director 570-573-4076 justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152 Karen Travor, Treasurer 570-366-8757 karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary 570-617-9617 cwlutsey@gmail.com Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager iessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org 936-648-6809

SENDING HYMN "WI

"What Wondrous Love is This"

