Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Sunday, January 28, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "The Lord Is My Light" F. Allitsen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

We confess that our hearts are burdened by our own sins and the brokenness that binds us.

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us for all we have done and left undone.

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit - your sins have washed away;

God remembers them no more!

Now live as children of God and rejoice in the promise of eternal life. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" [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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM DEUTERONOMY

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." (Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (Read Responsively)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the deeds of the LORD!

They are studied by all who delight in them.

³His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to

do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. (Mark 1:21-28)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Cast Out, O Christ"
[See back of bulletin]

BLESSING OF OUR PRAYER SHAWLS (10:30 A.M. SERVICE ONLY)

Late last year, Erika Brown, the Staff Chaplain for Geisinger/St. Luke's Hospital, here in Orwigsburg, PA., contacted our church concerning a need for warm shawls for some of their patients. This request went out to the Crafters' Guild and soon became a winter project.

Over the next few months, members and friends of the Guild created over 20 "prayer" shawls to fill this need. Recently, Staff Chaplain Brown was contacted to tell her about our work. She was excited because she said that her supply of shawls had become very low. The Crafters' Guild was happy to do this project and plans to continue it into the future.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With all creation we lift our voices, and we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. Strengthen our commitment to share our gifts and serve those who are in need.

Bless Staff Chaplin Erika Brown from Geisinger/St. Luke's Hospital, her fellow chaplains, staff, and all who work to serve those in need

Bless these beautiful prayer shawls which are gathered here and bless everyone who will receive them. May everyone who receives them know your healing and wholeness as these shawls warm bodies and bring comfort to troubled spirits.

Almighty and ever living God, you love us more than we can hope for or imagine. Allow us to be your body here on earth so that the hungry may be fed, the homeless may find shelter, the naked may be clothed, the weary may find rest, the stranger

may be welcomed, and all people might know your boundless love. To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen**.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read in Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven.

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, help us to teach with confidence and lead your church in love. Open our hearts and minds to your holy word. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for the earth and all of creation. May our waterways flow clean and clear, may our wildlife be protected, and may our whole planet be renewed and restored to life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Just God, we pray for government and community leaders, that they lead with wisdom and rule with justice. Help them to faithfully serve all the people you have placed in their care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all who live amid war and violence, all who are far from home and seek a new life, and all who suffer in any way. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, and for its educators and caregivers. May your gifts always help those in need and may your holy light always guide us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, teach us to model your gift of faith for an unbelieving world. Help us to remember the lives of those who have trusted in your mercy, faithfully followed in your path, and now rest from their labors. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

(*The pastor concludes*): Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8 AM) "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" J. C. Bach ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "Arise, Shine, For Thy Light Is Come" H. Willan OFFERTORY HYMN "Let the Vineyards be fruitful, Lord"

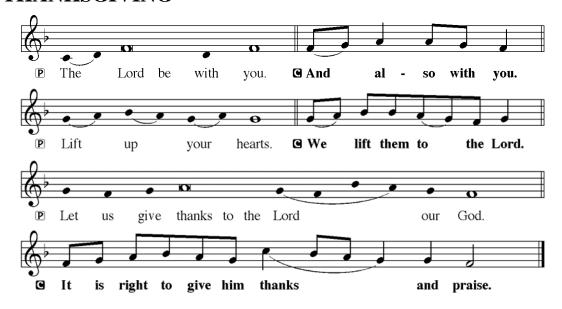


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, you are the source of all good gifts. Your Spirit invites us to gather at this table as we hear your word of life and share in a simple meal. Nourish us and help us to follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

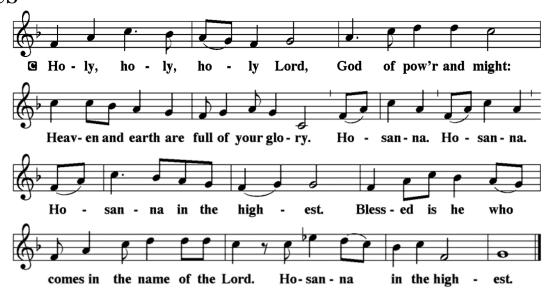
MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 (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.

INSTRUCTIONS

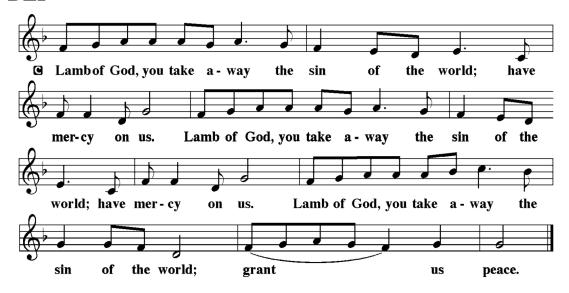
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

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 should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION HYMN

"Healer of Our Every Ill" [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

You claim us from the power of death and the devil, and you give us hope and abundant life. Abide with us in every storm and struggle, and teach us to love one another as you love us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Jesus Shall Reign"

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Introduction to the Day: In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Clark "Duke" Schenck, by Sue, Kurt, and Juli Schenck.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S					
Sunday, January 28	8:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion			
Wednesday, January 31	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bell Choir Chancel Choir			
Saturday, February 3	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion			
Sunday, February 4	8:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion			
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SERVING THIS SUNDAY (1/28/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Amy Dewald

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Bill Smoot

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich and Gwen Wehr

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (2/04/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR: Connie Teter

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tina Butler

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko and Amy Dewald

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

LIBRARY LADIES' NEWS

The Library Ladies plan to decorate our windowsills with crosses for the season of Lent. If you have a cross that you would like included in the display, please bring it to the church by Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

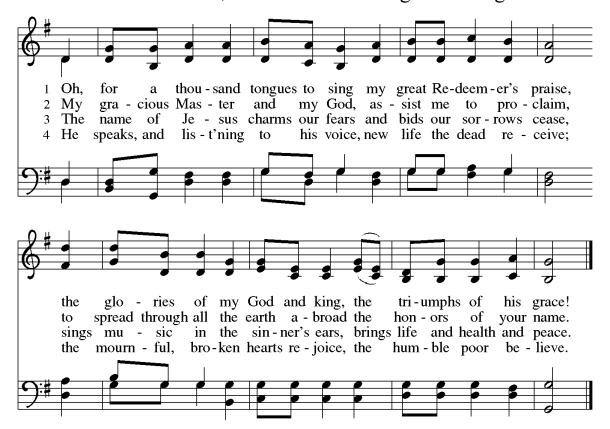
PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Evangelism Committee invites all interested adults to participate in a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, February 24, beginning at 6 p.m. Anyone who attends the Saturday service on that date will be able to join in.

Appetizers will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at the home of Barbara Sterner. At 7 p.m., we will proceed to the home of Michael and Elinda Lado for soup and salad. And at 8 p.m., we will enjoy desserts at the home of Lee and Amy Dewald.

A sign-up sheet for this event is located at the gathering place. If childcare is needed, please let our committee know.

GATHERING HYMN "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,O fallen human race!Look and be saved through faith alone,be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place on Sunday, February 11! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 AM service for Bible stories, fun, fellowship, and a snack. Students ages 11 to 18 are invited to join me between the services (9:15 - 10:15 a.m.) for a Teen Sunday School group.

Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 18, 2024, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. In case of inclement weather, our annual meeting will be held on the following Sunday, February 25, following the late service. Members should mark their new calendars for this important meeting!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Cast Out, O Christ"



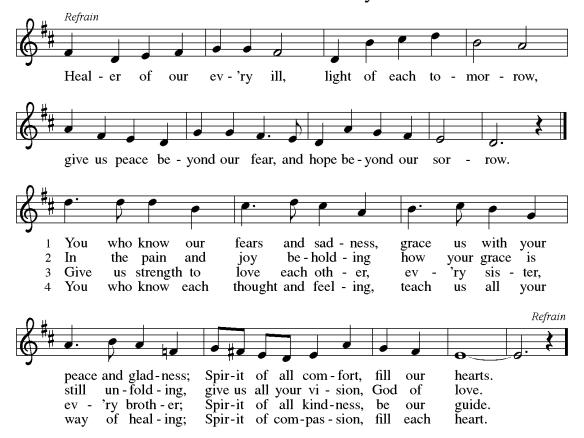
LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Take a copy of our February newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube. And get to know us better!

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. While we treasure the past, we look forward to an even brighter future. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here to the glory of God!

COMMUNION HYMN "

"Healer of Our Every Ill"



SOUP & CHILI SALE

As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday, The Men of St. Paul's will host a Super Bowl Eve Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 10 beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square."

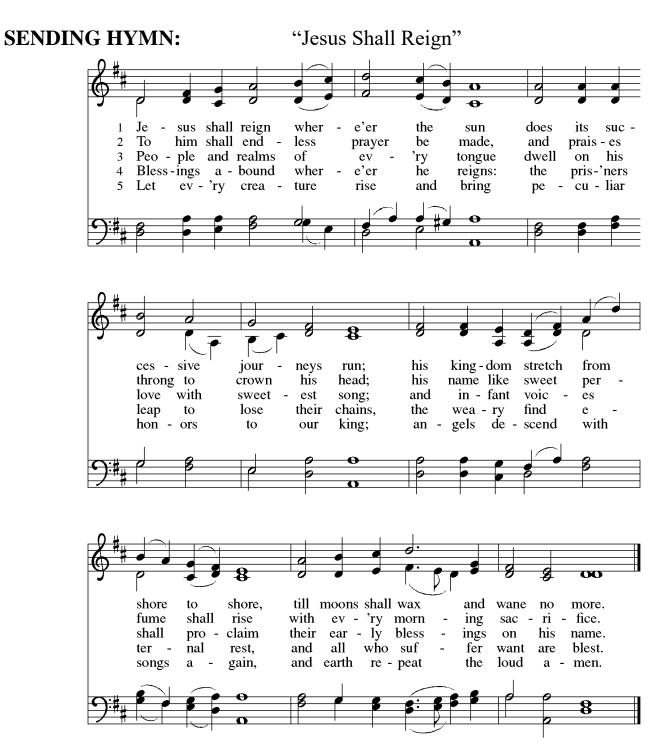
Come early for the best selection of delicious chilis, tasty homemade soups, and just baked breads and pastries.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion will be offered at this service. Please mark your calendars!

VALENTINES FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our STiC group has potted succulent plants and made Valentine's Day cards for our homebound members. Please stop by the Gathering Room to sign our "Valentines."



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Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	<u>jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.or</u>