

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

EXHORTATION

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.

(Silence for self-reflection)

CONFESSION

Let us now make our confession:

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

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

“Eternal Lord of Love”

[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

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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 GENESIS

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen

in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” (Genesis 9:8-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10 (Read responsively)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**²Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

³Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.

**⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

**⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**⁸He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**¹⁰For your name's sake, O LORD,
forgive my sin, for it is great.**

A READING FROM 1 PETER

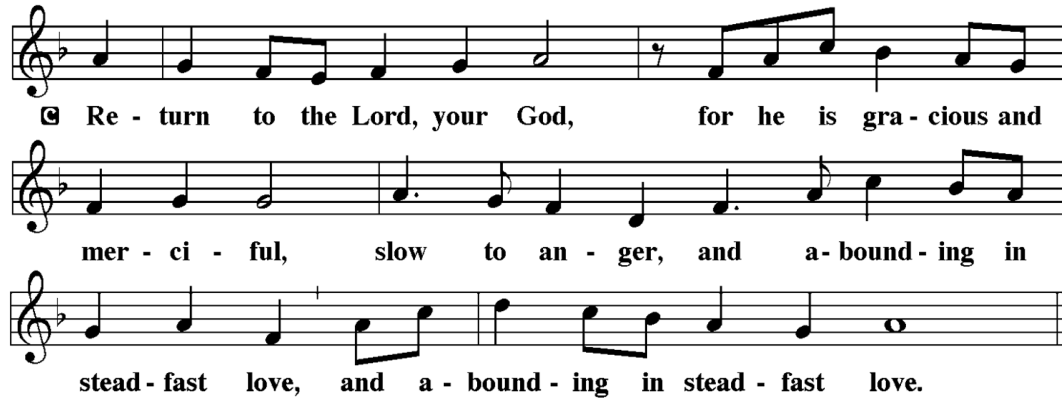
¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. (1 Peter 3:18-22)

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. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:9-15)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Remember and Rejoice”
[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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God our truth, we give thanks for your word which challenges and awakens your people. Help us to listen to your voice wherever it may be that we might always follow in your path. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, rescue communities and creatures from natural disasters. Awaken new life from winter's deep sleep. Preserve your creation from carelessness and destruction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, free all who govern from the temptations of power, greed, fame, and pleasure. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Help us to see the face of Christ in everyone we meet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. We especially pray for those who live amid war and violence. We also lift up the names of everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, grant us health and safety as we assemble in your name. Keep us mindful of all who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you give the promise eternal life to all your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(The Pastor concludes): Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00)

ANTHEM (10:30)

“Once Upon A Tree”

P. Chopin

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come to the Table". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread." and "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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.' and 'Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.'

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, you do not feed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us with these simple gifts which we have 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.

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

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

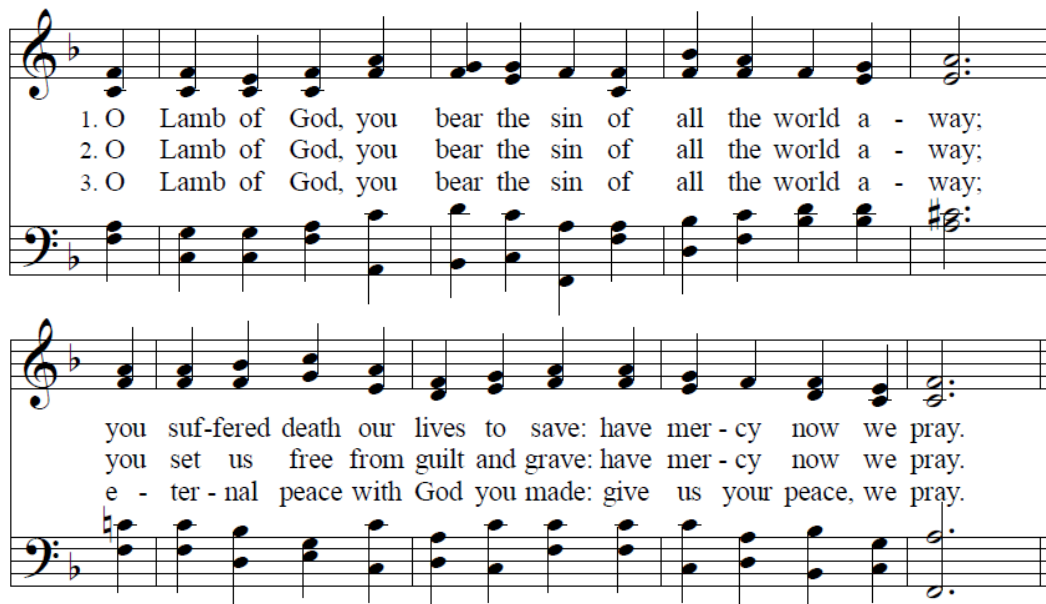
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After 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



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 “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” [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 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (2/18/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Kay Weidensaul; USHER: Pastor Mike;
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Cindy Ritschel; LECTOR: Chris Long
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck
ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke and Madelyn Knecht
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (2/25/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Bill Smoot; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Karen Shoener; LECTOR: Pat Kunkle
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Evan Davis
ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, February 18	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Annual Congregational Meeting to follow the service
Wednesday, February 21	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, February 24	5:30 PM	Worship
	6:00 PM	Progressive Dinner
Sunday, February 25	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	3:00 PM	Winter Nature Series at St. John UCC

Introduction to the Day: On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Rachel Zehner by her family.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN

Pastor Mike will begin a series of six (6) midweek Lenten services entitled, “Symbols of Lent” beginning TODAY, Ash Wednesday and continuing each Wednesday at 7 p.m. as follows: February 14 – “Ashes,” February 21 – “The Color Purple,” February 28 – “Barren Stones,” March 6 – “Praying Hands,” March 13 – “A Money Bag,” and March 20 – “Fish.” Please come to our mid-week Lenten series and ask a friend or neighbor to join you!

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place on Sunday, March 10! 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.

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 "Eternal Lord of Love"

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

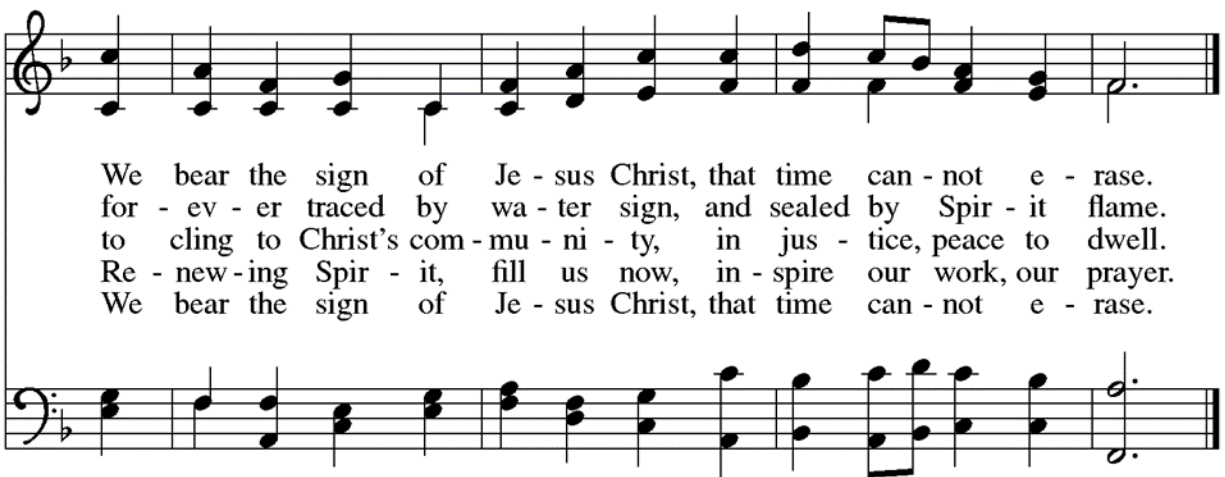
far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Remember and Rejoice”



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be TODAY Sunday, February 18, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. In case of inclement weather, our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, following the late service.

EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower order forms can be found later in this bulletin. Because Easter will be on Sunday, March 31, the deadline to order flowers is Sunday, March 3.

COMMUNION HYMN “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

WINTER NATURE SERIES

Our community's Winter Nature Series continues Sunday, February 25 at 3 p.m. at Salem United Methodist Church. "Porcupine Pat" and the Girl Scouts will present "Ways of Wildlife." All are invited!

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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
Julianne Schenck, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
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	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

SENDING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress”



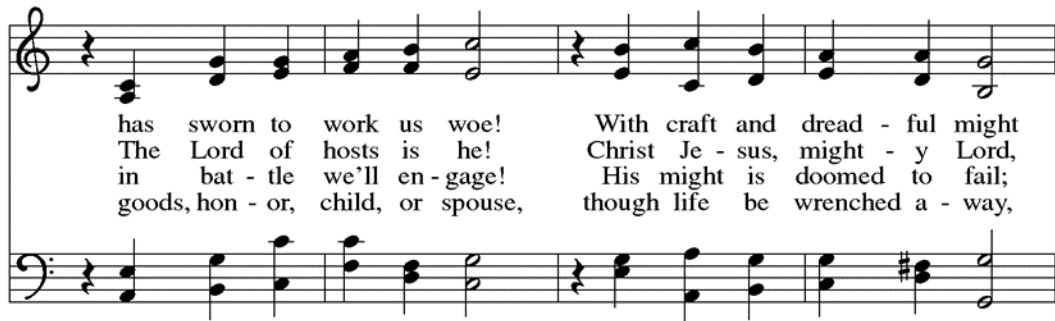
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



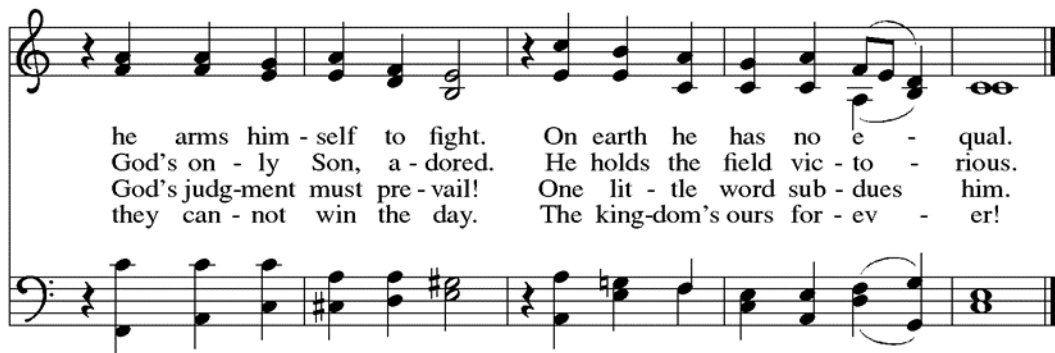
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



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!

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 church by US Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 3, 2024

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

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$10.50	H/M_____
Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
Hydrangeas	_____ X	\$18.00	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.