

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 3, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Meditation at the Cross"

A. Whitworth

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.

CONFESSION

Let us now make our confession:

(Silence for self-reflection)

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 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory“
[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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 EXODUS

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

(Exodus 20:1-17)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (Read responsively)

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸**the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**
¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
¹²**But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**
¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

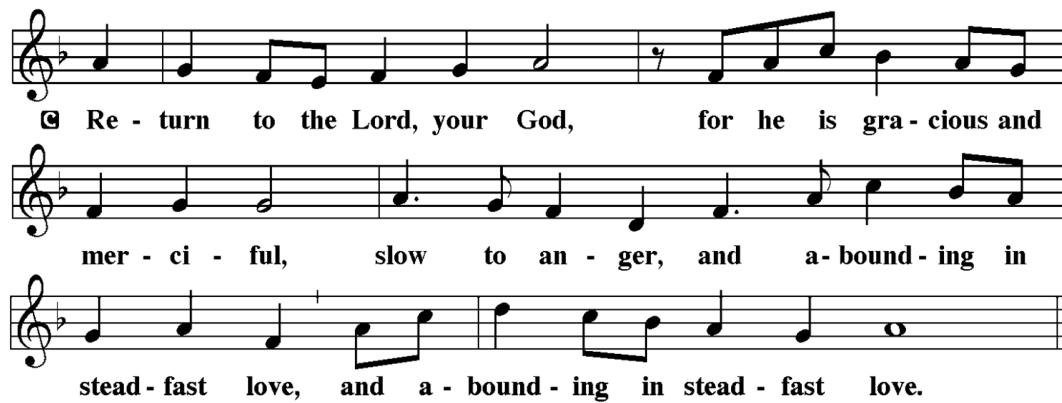
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

(1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

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. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

(John 2:13-22)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”
[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.

We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce air pollution and dangerous emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for an end of strife in every land, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who strive to prevent and treat illness. We pray for all who are sick, ill, or injured, and especially for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain everyone undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We also pray for all who are preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember our loved ones who have lived lives of faithful service, and died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing in this life or the next can separate us from your love. 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)	"Lord Keep Us Steadfast"	J. C. Bach
ANTHEM (10:30)	"Rock of Ages"*	S. Strite

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Come to the Table”

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). It consists of six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed between the staves of each system.

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 do not feed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us with these simple gifts which we have received 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. 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 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” [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 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Allegro"

R. Powell

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Introduction to the Day: The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Bulletins are presented in loving memory of Russell and Rachel Zehner by their children.

* "Rock of Ages" was presented in honor of Joy Wolfe on her 90th birthday, 19 January, by her Pinochle Club (2020).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, March 3	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion Deadline for Easter Flower Orders
Tuesday, March 5	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Wednesday, March 6	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Bell Choir Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 9	5:30 PM	Worship Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 AM Sunday morning
Sunday, March 10	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum and Teen Class Worship with Holy Communion Youth Class Crafters’ Guild Display after both services

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/3/24)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Gloria Dierwechter; LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Dave Krewson
ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/10/24)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Joanne Emerich; LECTOR: Elinda Lado
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Greg Sklar
ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner
COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

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.

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 TODAY, Sunday, March 3.

WELCA NEWS

St. Paul's women will hold a business meeting on Tuesday, March 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss and vote on the designated recipient of the May In-Gathering offering. We will also discuss the upcoming programs. Please bring your suggestions/ideas for future meetings with you.

GATHERING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory“

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diancance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.


MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Our midweek Lenten series, “Symbols of Lent” continue each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Remaining topics include on March 6 – “Praying Hands,” March 13 – “A Money Bag,” and March 20 – “Fish.” Please come to our midweek Lenten series and ask a friend or neighbor to join you!

CRAFTERS’ GUILD

On Sunday, March 10, The Crafters’ Guild Spring creations will be on display in the Gathering Room and available for purchase after the early and late services. Stop by to see our new Easter crafts and Mother’s Day items.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place next Sunday, March 10! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 a.m. service and students ages 11 to 18 are invited to take part from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. with our Teen group. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swodring86@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Our 2023 Annual Report is still available to church members. If you have not yet picked up a copy, you may request one by calling the church office at (570) 366-2316. Please leave your name, address, and phone number, and we will gladly mail one to you!

CEMETERY FUND

Please continue to donate to the Cemetery Fund to help defray our 2024 mowing expenses. Special envelopes are conveniently located in the narthex. Please write “Cemetery Fund” on the bottom of your check.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from him for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Set your clocks (or “spring”) ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. Please use this change as an opportunity to check the batteries in your home’s smoke detectors, too. Fresh batteries could save your life!

ALTAR FLOWER PRICE CHANGE

Effective April 1, 2024, our altar flowers will cost \$35 while our chancel flowers will remain priced \$30. Please take note of this price change.

SENDING HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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
Amy Dewald, 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

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.