

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE (8:00 AM)	"The Old Rugged Cross"	R. Wilson
(10:30 AM)	"The Old Rugged Cross"	C. Dobrinski
	Hand Bell Choir	

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 “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”
[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

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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 NUMBERS

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have

sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

(Numbers 21:4-9)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 (Read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

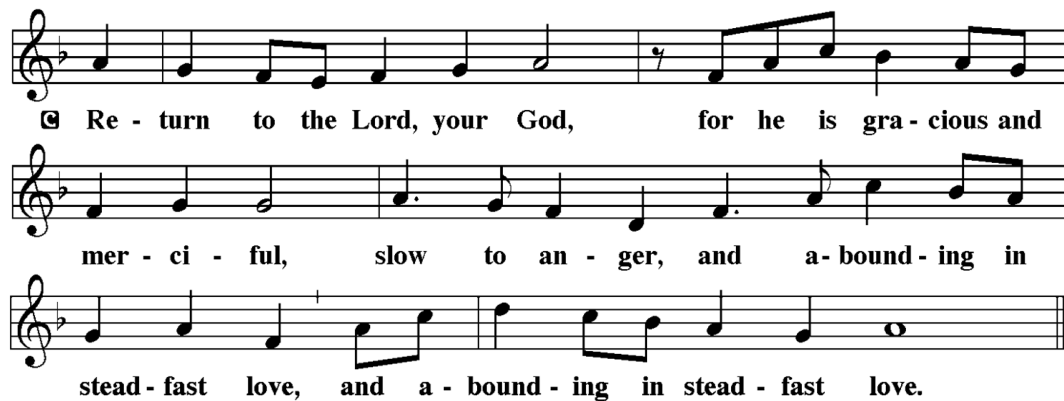
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his

grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.
(Ephesians 2:1-10)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”
(John 3:14-21)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”
[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.

Gracious God, give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Provide a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans, lakes, and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, we give thanks for those who courageously witnessed to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Stop war and violence throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, comfort all who grieve the death of a loved one. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Bring healing to every troubled spirit. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for all people including our enemies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, we believe that all who die in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that in time all your children will be raised to newness of life. 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)

"Amazing Grace"

J. Linker

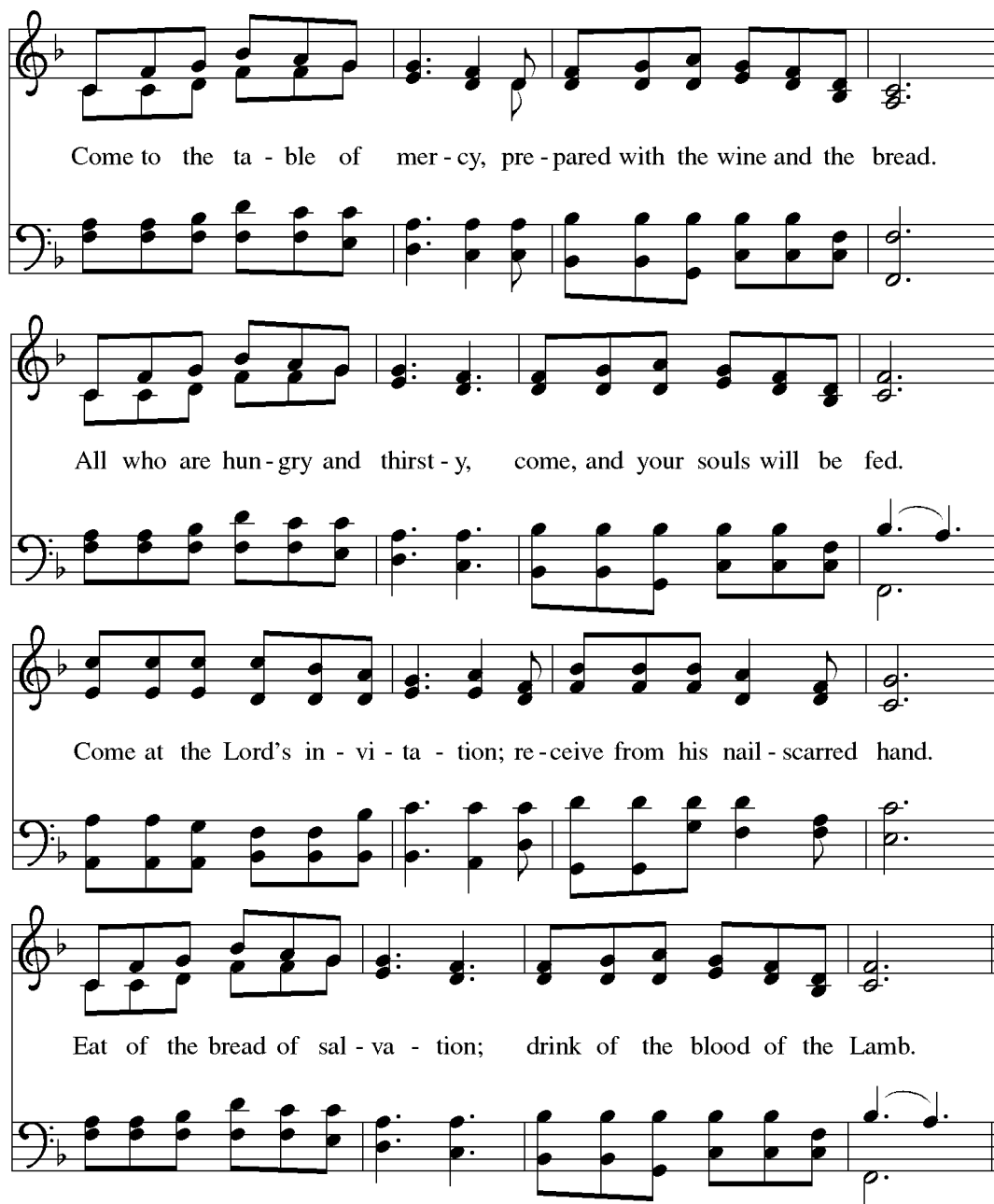
ANTHEM (10:30)

"My Savior's Love"

D. Moen

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Come to the Table”



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: '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.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

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

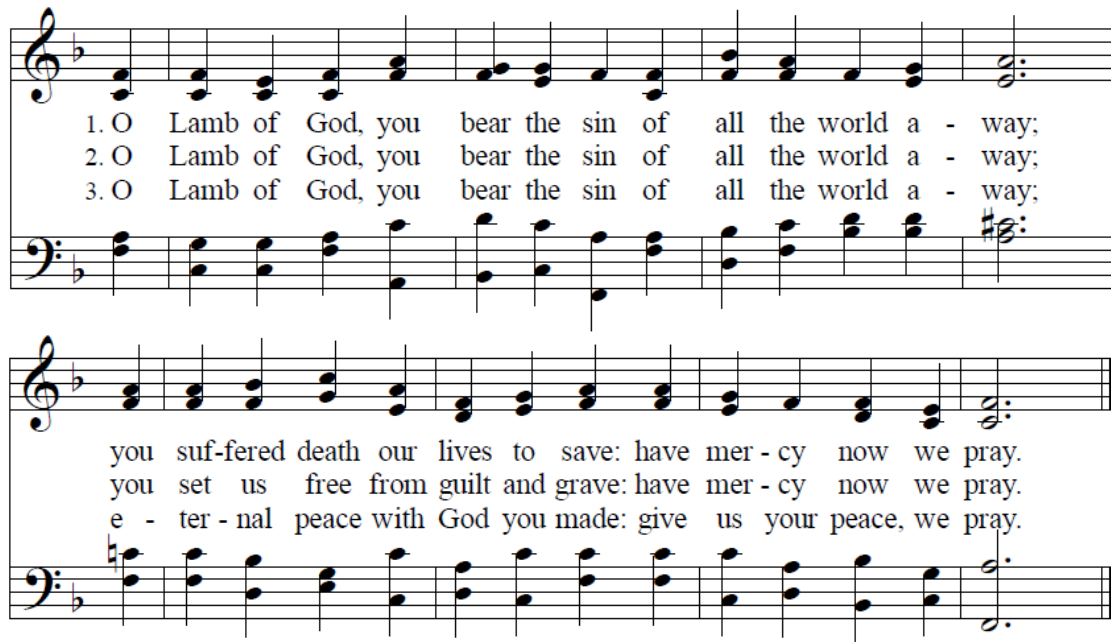
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After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

The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three staves: a treble staff, a vocal staff with three lines of lyrics, and a bass staff. The second system has two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff, with lyrics underneath. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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 (10:30) “Amazing Grace” [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 “Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary in A Minor"

H. Purcell

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Introduction to the Day: The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Altar Flowers are presented in loving memory of my mother, Josephine Rohrer by her daughter, Joanne.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Roy Earle 4th Marine Division WWII IWO JIMA by Danielle and Stu Richards

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 10	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum and Teen Class
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
		Youth Class
		Crafters' Guild Display after both services
	3:00 PM	Winter Nature Series at St. John's UCC
Monday, March 11	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, March 12	1:00 PM	WELCA
Wednesday, March 13	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 16	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, March 17		ST. PATRICK, MISSIONARY
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/17/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Wayne Lutsey; LECTOR: Sarah Eger

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

WINTER NATURE SERIES

The final presentation in the Winter Nature Series will take place TODAY at St. John's UCC at 3 p.m. Cindy Ross will speak about the marvelous healing available in the out-of-doors.

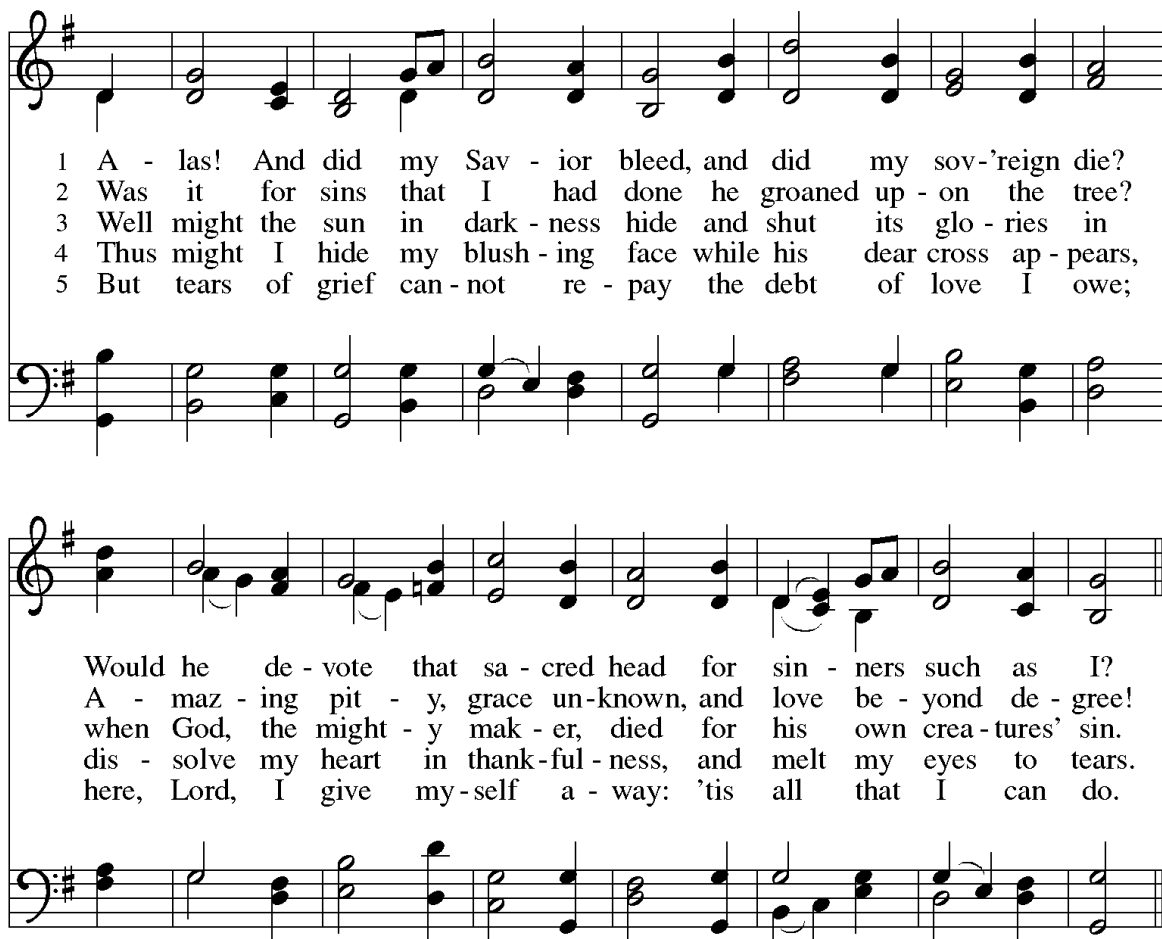
WELCA NEWS

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.

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.

GATHERING HYMN “Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Our midweek Lenten series, “Symbols of Lent” continue each Wednesday at 7 p.m. Remaining topics include on 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

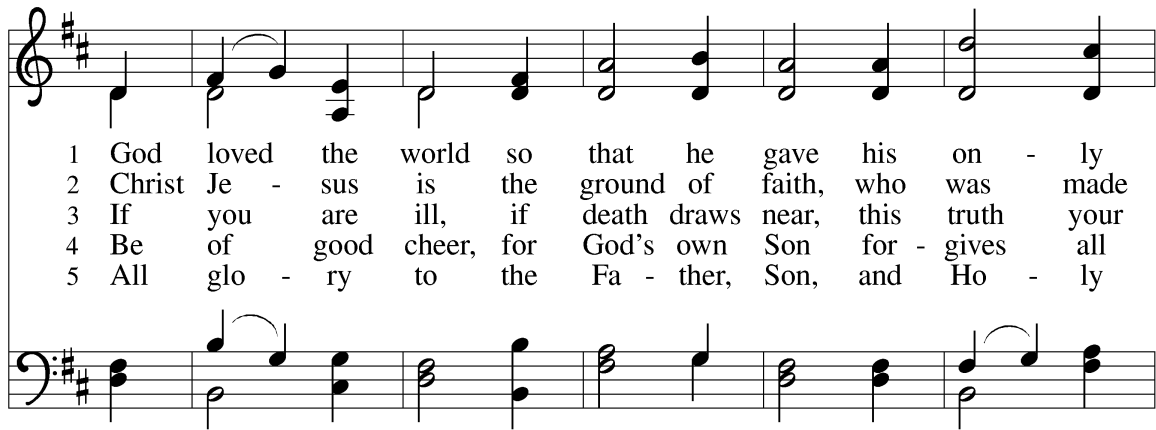
The Crafters’ Guild Spring creations will be on display TODAY in the Gathering Room and available for purchase after the early and late services. Stop by to see our new Easter crafts and Mother’s Day items.

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

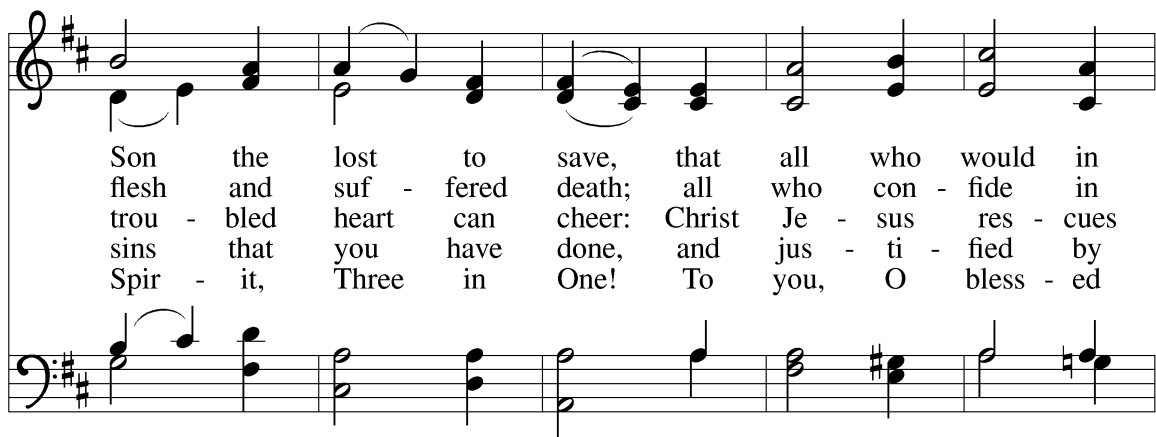
Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

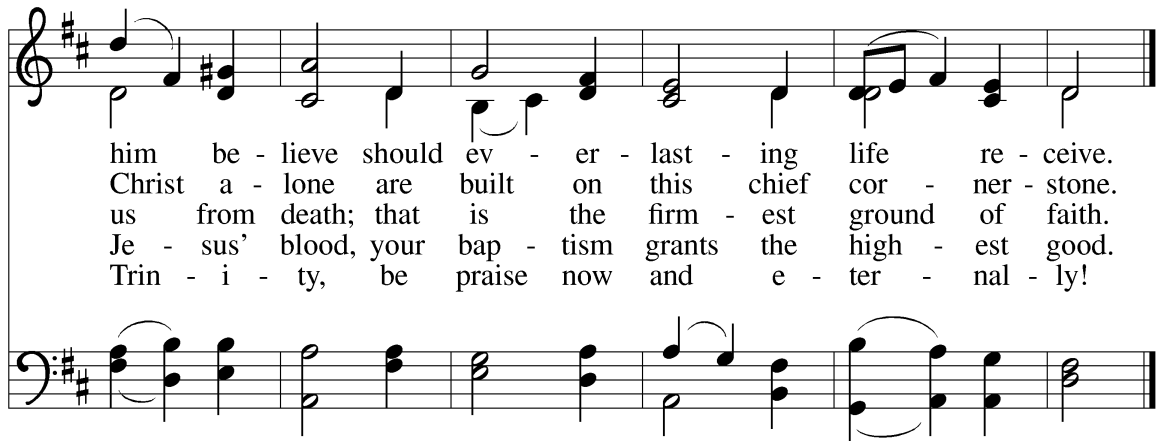
“God Loved the World”



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



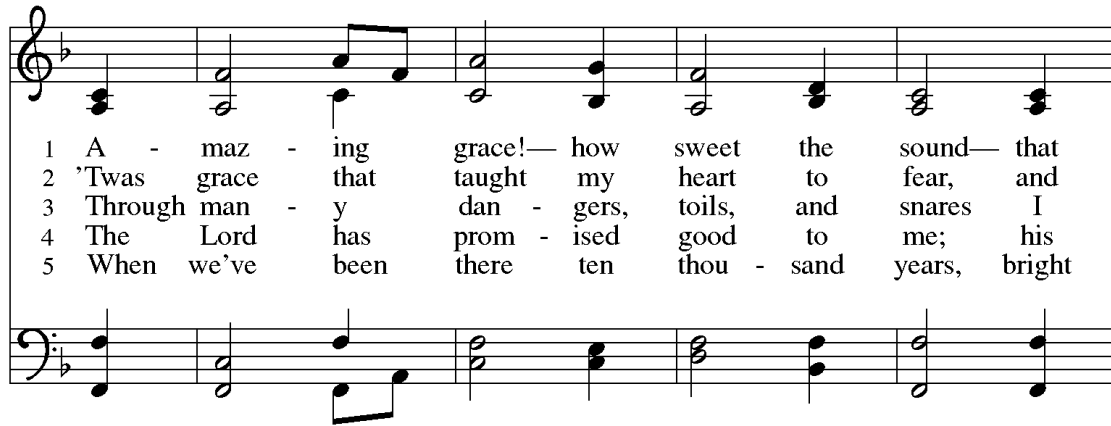
him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

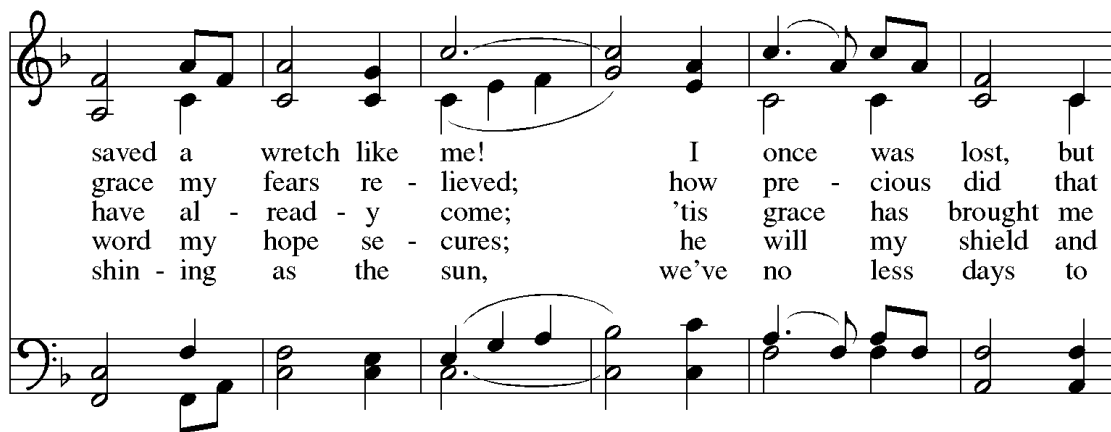
Our Second Sunday School class will take place TODAY! Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come upstairs during the 10:30 a.m. service and students ages 11 to 18 are invited to take part from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. with our Teen group. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell)
swoodring86@hotmail.com.

COMMUNION HYMN

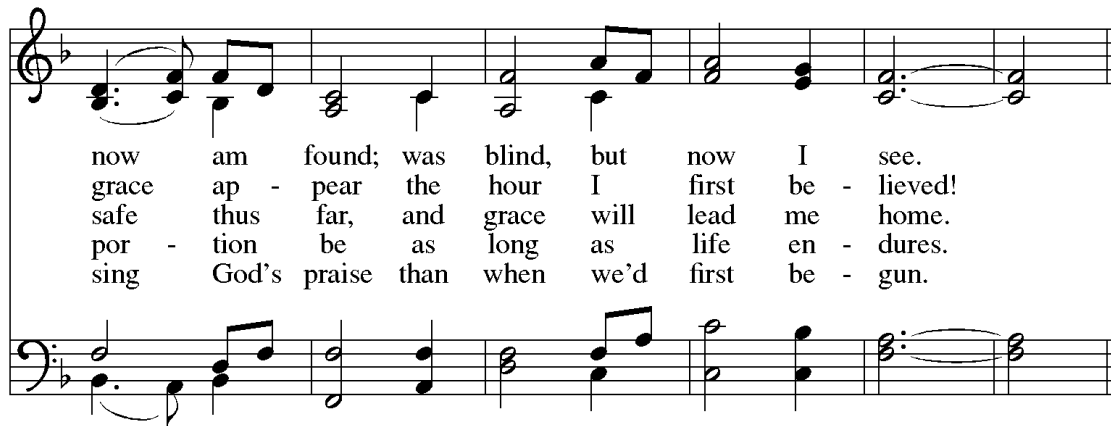
“Amazing Grace”



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised, good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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!

SENDING HYMN

“Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross”

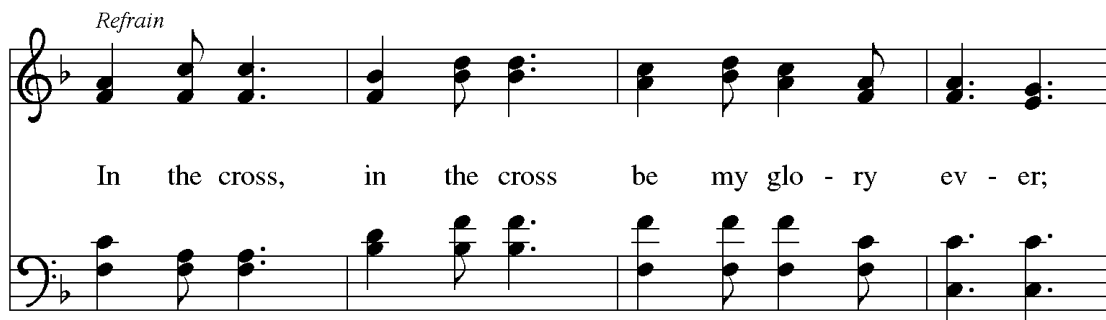


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

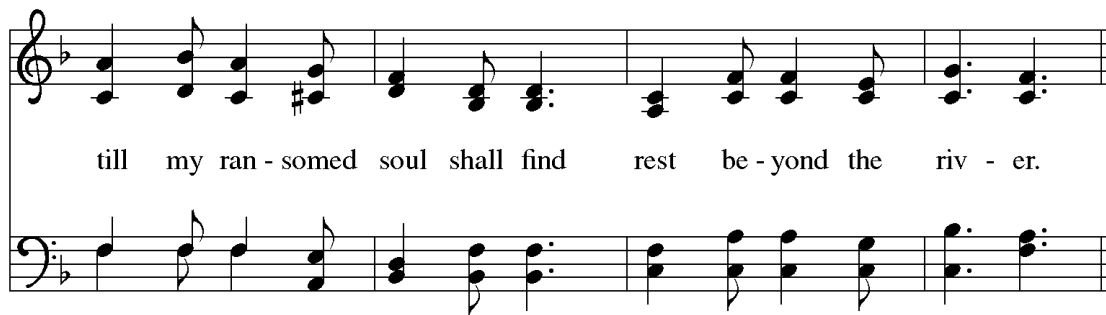


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

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.