

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love”

L. Larson

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 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, 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 JEREMIAH

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know

me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-12 (Read responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

A READING FROM HEBREWS

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

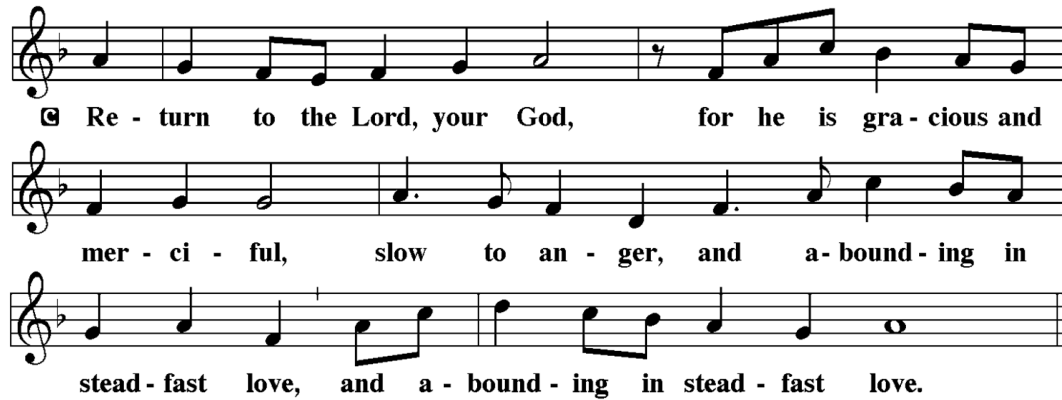
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:5-10)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. (John 12:20-33)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”
[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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with great beauty. Preserve the complex diversity of living things. Strengthen local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Protect advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. We especially pray for the embattled people in the Middle East and Ukraine. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer in any way. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list and those whose needs are known only to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us always. Support the ministries and outreaches of this congregation. Move us to continually reach out to any who are lonely, grieving, angry, frustrated, sorrowful, or depressed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to do the work of the gospel and trust in your everlasting 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)

"In the Cross"

L. Linker

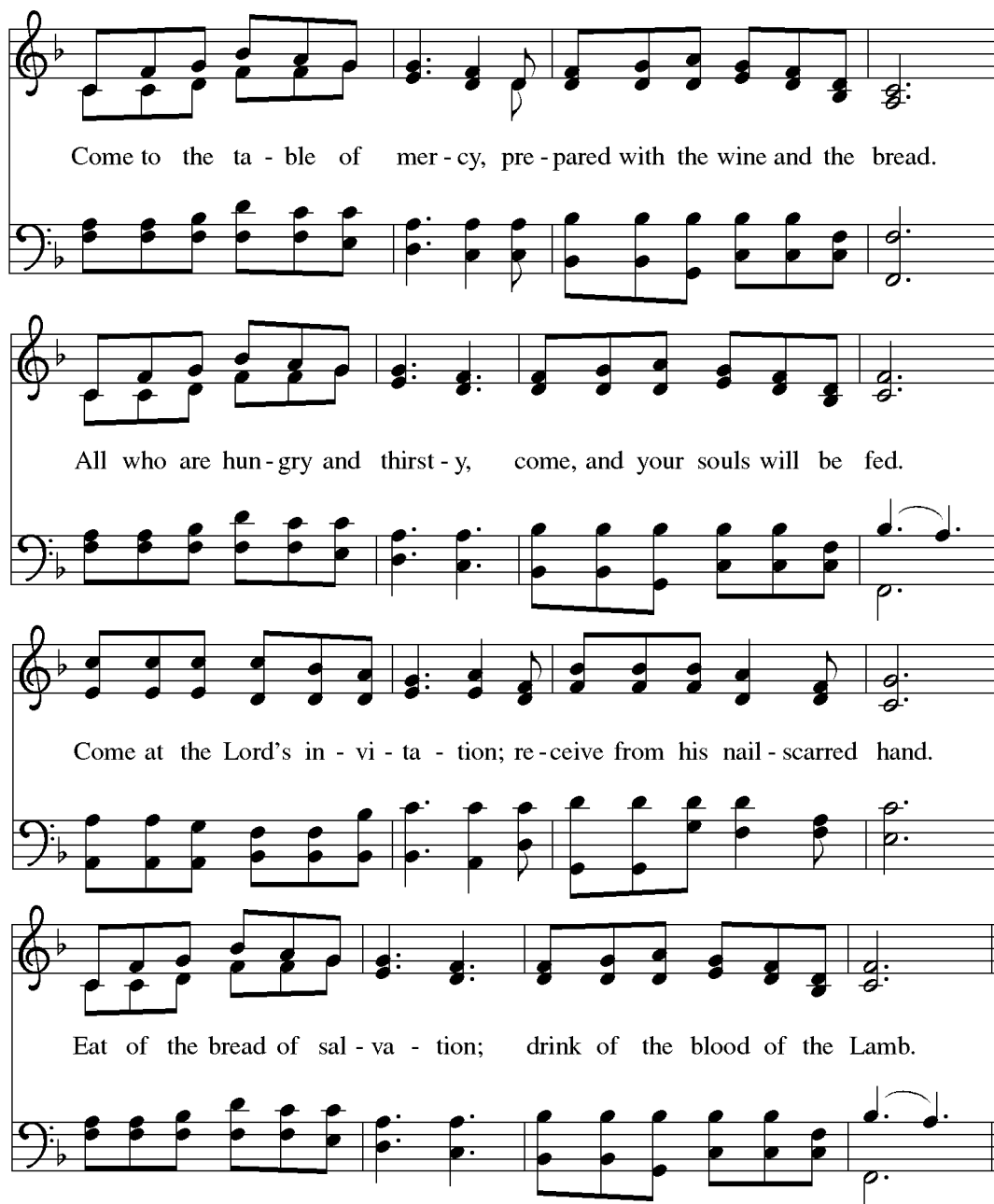
ANTHEM (10:30)

"A Clean Heart"*

B. Harlan

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

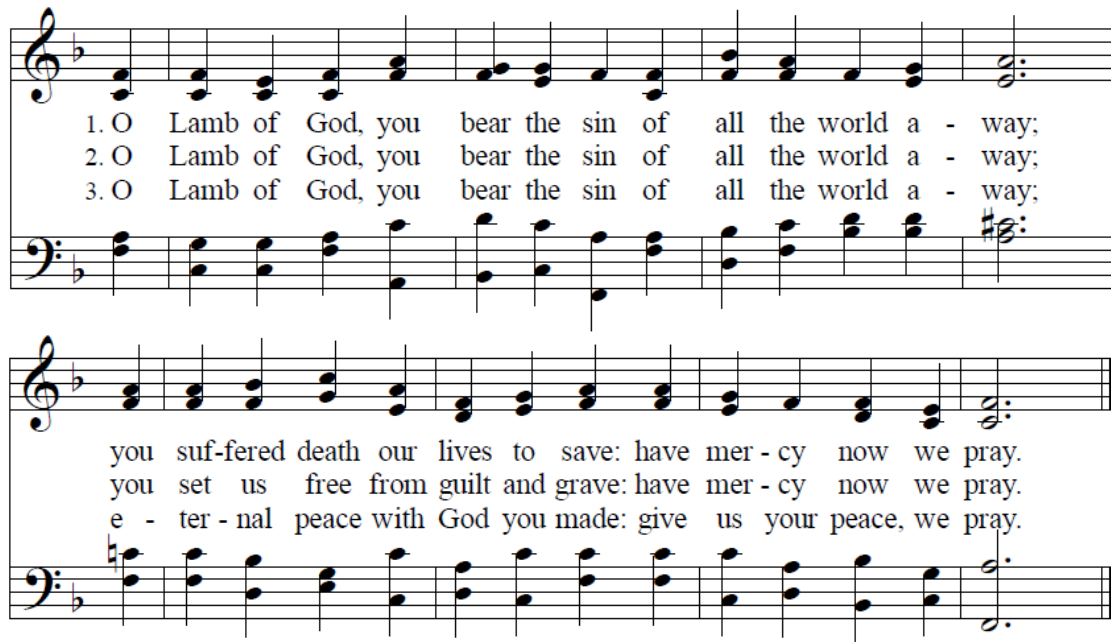
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After 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 “Bread of Life from Heaven” [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, Still Lead On” [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

J. S. Bach

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Introduction to the Day: God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We worship together, sharing in word and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Altar Flowers are presented in loving memory of Eric Christopher Shaud by Nancy Kaiser

Chancel Flowers are presented in memory of my brother, Eric C. Shaud, by Crystal Brensinger and family.

Chancel Flowers are presented in loving memory of Edgar and Edith Kriner by their family.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Nancy Lado’s birthday.

* “A Clean Heart” was presented in memory of Franklin Kamp by Tina Butler, and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler (2008).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, March 17		ST. PATRICK’S DAY
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday, March 20		
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 23		
	10:00 AM to 12 Noon	Easter Egg-stravaganza
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, March 24		PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING THIS 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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/24/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

10:30 AM

GREETER: Doug Travor; USHERS: Jerry Goessel and Jeff Ritschel;

LECTOR: Tom Wehr; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Cindy Ritschel

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner


WELCA

St. Paul's women are invited and encouraged to attend the Spring Cluster event of the Women of the ELCA Schuylkill County District which will be held on Saturday, April 13 at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hegins. Details are available on the WELCA bulletin board. There is a sign-up sheet along with an envelope for your check to cover the cost. Carpooling will be available. Easter Sunday is the last day to register.

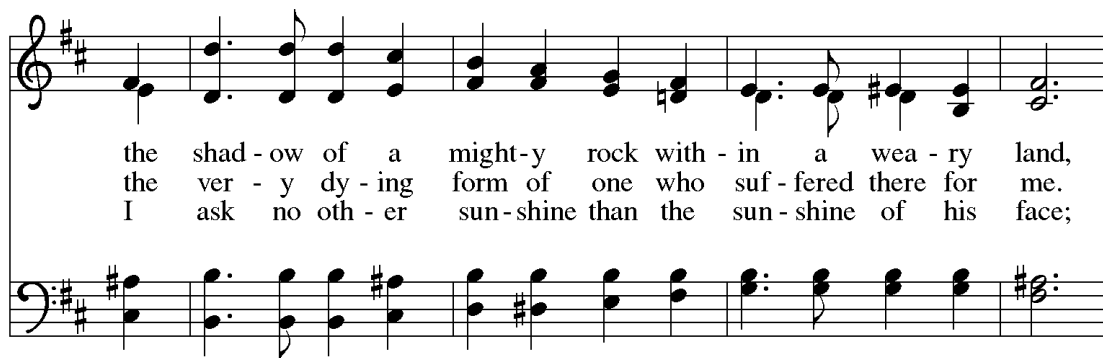
STiC

As a preview to its Earth Day events, STiC will provide coffee and treats following 8:00 a.m. service and before the 10:30 a.m. service today. Please come enjoy some fellowship and sign up to volunteer to help out with the Earth Day events on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13.

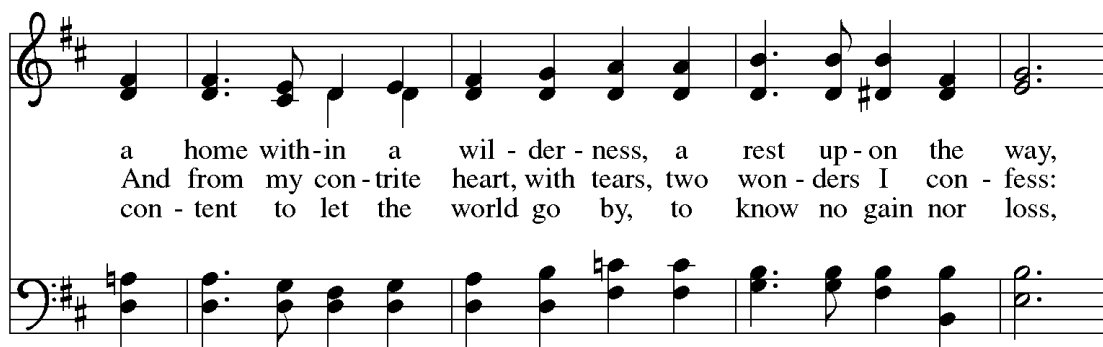
GATHERING HYMN “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”



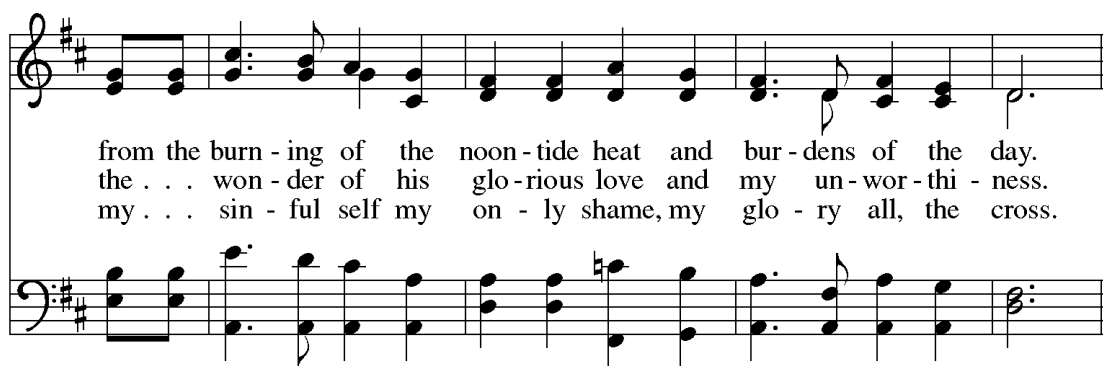
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will not be meeting on Palm Sunday, March 24 or Easter Sunday, March 31. We will resume on Sunday, April 7.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

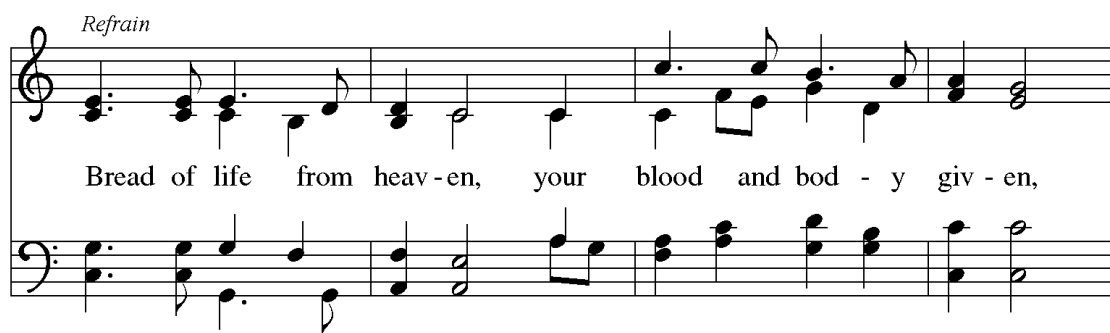
Our third annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza" will take place on Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Please join us in the church gathering room, any time during the event, to participate in crafts and games, have a snack, and the Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. This is a community event, so feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Any adults or teens wishing to help at the event may sign up in the gathering room or talk to Sarah Eger at (570) 394-3522 (cell) or swoodring86@hotmail.com.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES


Our midweek Lenten series, “Symbols of Lent,” concludes this Wednesday at 7 p.m. The topic is “Fish.” Please come to our final midweek Lenten service and ask a friend or neighbor to join you!

COMMUNION HYMN “Bread of Life from Heaven”

Refrain



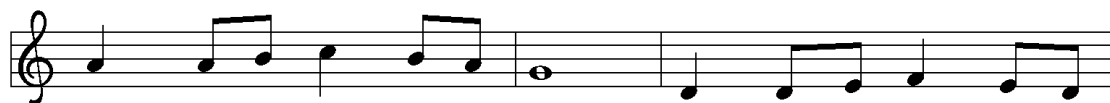
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|----------|------------------|--|------------|
| 1 | Break | now | the | bread | of | Christ's | sac - ri - fice; | | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek | not | the | food | that | will | pass a - way; | | set your |
| 3 | Love | as | the | one | who, | in | love for you, | | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell | in | the | one | who | now | dwells in you; | | make your |
| 5 | Drink | of | this | cup | and | de - | clare his death; | | eat this |



thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures.	Come, learn the true and the	
self for the life of the world.	Come to the one who is	
home in the life - giv - ing Word.	Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly	
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn;	trust his re - turn and, with	



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

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 change.

SENDING HYMN

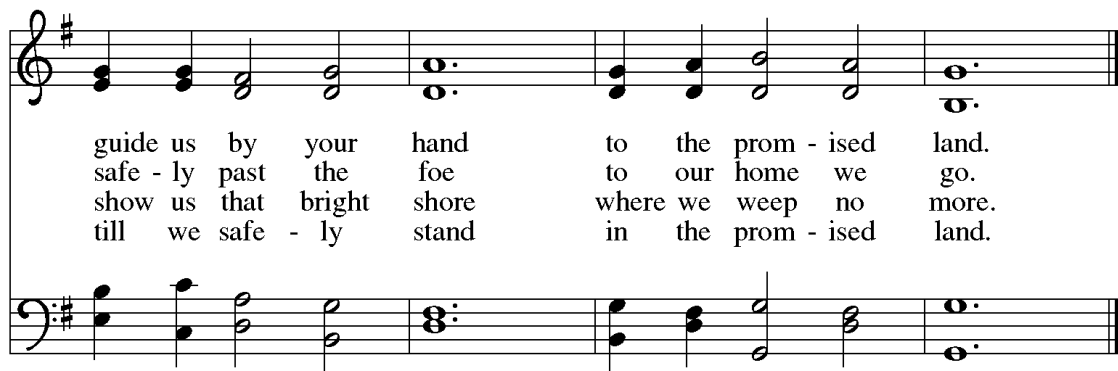
“Jesus, Still Lead On”



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

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