Second Sunday of Easter Sunday, Apríl 7, 2024

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Fantasia for Easter" A. Whitworth

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Drawn by our joy in the Risen Lord, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As St. Paul writes: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

(Romans 6:3-5)

Let us confess our sins.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Almighty God,

we cannot free ourselves from our desire to sin and we cannot keep sin out of every part of our lives.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Cleanse us from our sins. Give us new hearts and minds.

And raise us to new and abundant life. Amen.

Know that your sins are forgiven and that you have the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" [See back of bulletin]

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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 ACTS

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 4:32-35)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133 (Read responsively)

¹Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!

²It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,

³upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

⁴It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.

⁵For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: life forevermore.

A READING FROM FIRST JOHN

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

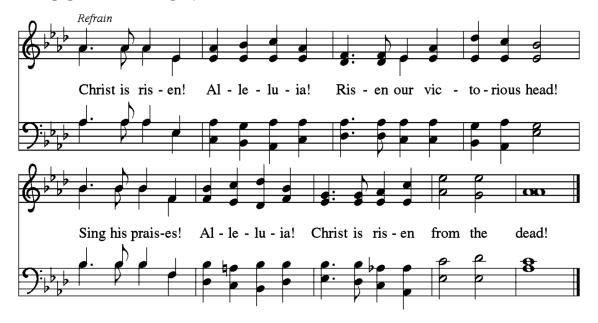
¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 1:1-2:2)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands.

Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:19-30)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" [See back of bulletin]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen, and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed, and we witness to your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, so that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Create a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who live amid war and violence. We also pray for everyone on our prayer list and for all who keep their suffering hidden from the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, and volunteers who participated in our Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for the lives of faithful men and women who now rest from their toil. Dispel our fears and grant us your peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(*The Pastor concludes*): Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM)

"Easter Hymn"

C. Berry

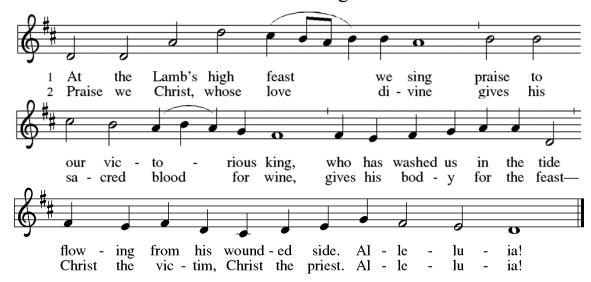
ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

*"The Power of the Cross"

M. Hayes

OFFERTORY HYMN

"At the Lamb's High Feast"



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, our gifts seem so small for such a great celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our little lives. Feed us again at this table that we might go forth to serve in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

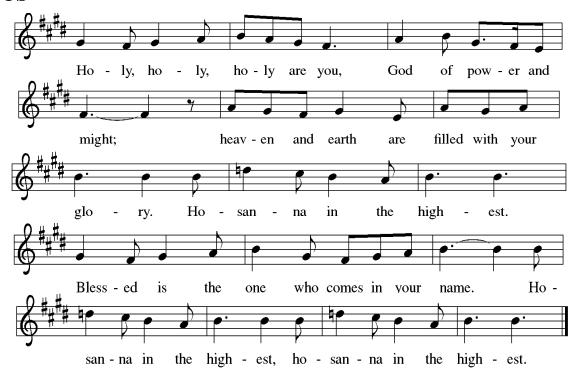
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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 in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But, chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

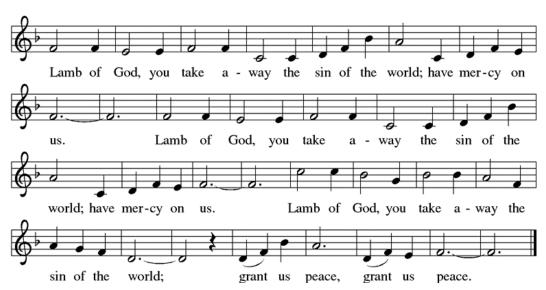
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI



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 seated on the lectern side.

COMMUNION HYMN

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

[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

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God the Father who raised Christ from the dead, open to you the gate of everlasting life. May God the Son who burst forth from the grave, give you joy as you celebrate his resurrection. May God the Holy Spirit who brought to you new life in baptism, build up your faith and grant you peace. And may our Triune God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"The Strife Is O'er"

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go now in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Lindsay's, Jayda's, and Lily's birthdays by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel.

Chancel flowers are presented in honor of Julia Kunkel on her birthday (April 5th) by Joanne and Jim Emerich.

Anthem *"The Power of the Cross" was given in memory of my husband, Gary, and in honor of our family by Gloria Dierwechter (2018).

Introduction to the day: The Easter season is seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded flesh in the form of broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

LET'S KEEP IT UP!

Please sign cards for members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., those who have long-term health problems, military personnel, and college students far from home.) These cards are in the back of our sanctuary on the small table with our prayer list. They are signs of our continued encouragement and support.

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Second Sunday School class will take place next Sunday, April 14. 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.

WELCA NEWS

St. Paul's women will 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 in Hegins, PA. Details are available on the WELCA bulletin board. Amy Lafko will share highlights of her recent visit to Egypt and Jordan at our WELCA meeting on April 9, at 1 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S			
Sunday, April 7	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum Worship with Holy Communion	
Wednesday, April 10	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Bell Choir Chancel Choir	
Friday, April 12	7:00 PM	Earth Day/Bird Day Video	
Saturday, April 13 7 AM	1 – 12 NOON 5:30 PM	Earth Day/Bird Day Activities WELCA Cluster Meeting in Hegins, PA Worship with Holy Communion	
Sunday, April 14	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Adult Forum & Teen Class Worship with Holy Communion Youth Class	

SERVING TODAY (4/7/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Diane Brobst

LECTOR: Jim Emerich; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Mike Lado

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Becky Smoot

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/14/24)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Tina Butler; USHER: Bill Smoot; LECTOR: Deb O'Connor

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Elinda Lado

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Becky Smoot

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

STIC NEWS

On Friday April 12 at 2 p.m., STiC will be setting up for Earth Day, as well as getting volunteers who signed up the information they need, and their shirts, of course! Come when you can, leave when you must, and remember there is a great film at 7:00 p.m.

We need a volunteer who could make and donate "Cups of Dirt" (with gummy worms, too!) for our snack offerings on Saturday, April 13. Please see Sue Reier OR sign up on the volunteer clipboard in the gathering room.

If you have realistic bird figurines which you would like to display, please have them to church by Saturday, April 13. Some of the activities and displays of birds will be available on Sunday for our Sunday schoolers to see....and anyone else, too!

Please take the Earth Day flyer from your newsletter and post it the community or share it with family and friends. (It's already at the PO, Boyer's, and DeMaio's). More flyers are also available in the narthex.

TEXT MESSAGE SCAM ALERT

Recently our pastor received a text message scam from 347-904-7173 sent from someone claiming to be "Reverend Michael Petresky." This scammer likely wants money, gift cards, or something of value which can be cashed in without leaving a trace. Please do not respond to this text message or click on any links. **It is a SCAM.** Clicking on links can expose you to harmful viruses or malware.

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Dire	ector 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 Mana	ger 936-648-6809 jessic	a@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"



PLEASE RECYCLE!

As we approach Earth Day 2024, we remind everyone to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" for a healthier planet.

HYMN OF THE DAY "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"



PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD

All members who receive the Sacrament today are encouraged to fill out a communion card and drop it in the offering plate. Members should confirm that they have received the Sacrament at least once during each calendar year.

PRE-ORDER SAUSAGE SANDWICHES

On Saturday, April 27, the Men of St. Paul's will hold a "Sausage Sandwiches on the Square" beginning at 11 a.m. Tasty sausage sandwiches will be priced at \$7 each (or three for \$20). They come with or without sauce and "the works."

Pre-sale orders will be accepted beginning TODAY, Sunday, April 7. Please see Doug Travor or any of the Men of St. Paul's for details.

COMMUNION HYMN "O Savior, Precious Savior"





LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

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

We are a Lutheran congregation with a rich tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship and work together here -- to the glory of God!