Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Ave Verum" F. Haydn

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us now confess our sins, that we may be renewed in our covenant of Holy Baptism.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.

We have not been good stewards of your creation.

We have not shared the gifts you have given to us.

We have not treated strangers with kindness.

Forgive us our sins, so that we may live in the light of your grace. Amen.

Hear God's good news of peace and salvation.

Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world,

your sins are forgiven, and you have the promise of eternal life! Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King" [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

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, may we sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM GENESIS

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. (Genesis 45:3-11, 15)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 (Read responsively)

¹Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

²for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

³Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

⁴Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

⁶He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

⁷Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

⁸Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

⁹For the wicked shall be cut off,

but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;

though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

¹¹But the meek shall inherit the land,

and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

³⁹The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;

he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

⁴⁰The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

A READING FROM FIRST CORINTHIANS

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

(1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:17-26)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" [See back of bulletin]

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read in Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Guiding God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness even in the face of cruelty. May our actions reflect your boundless grace and be a testament of your love for the whole world. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are always changing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing offers the promise of another. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our leaders who work to end violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give them wisdom and discernment that they may do what is good and right for the sake of all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect those who live with violence outside the walls of their home or even under their very roof. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Comfort all who seek your love and care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless organizations and individuals who provide care and support to those who desperately need such things. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have lived and died in faith. May the memory of what they said and did encourage us to persevere until our Lord comes again in power. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

(*The Pastor concludes*): We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8 AM)

"Prayer"

T. Davis

ANTHEM (10:30 AM)

"Jesus, Come to Us"

D. Haas

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord"

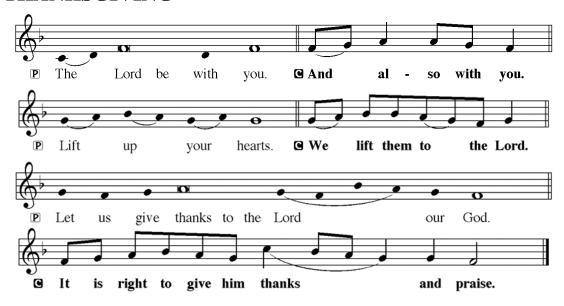


OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen.**

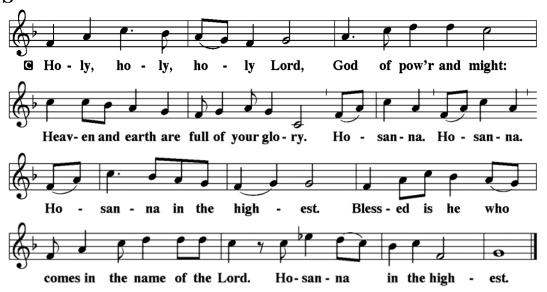
MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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 (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

Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, heavenly food has been set upon this table for us. Come, let us feast!

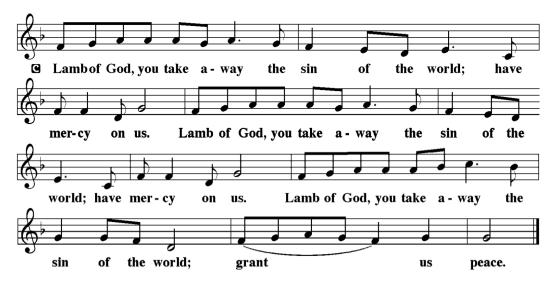
INSTRUCTIONS

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. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it.

If you (or your child) would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand. We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" [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

Holy God, through a simple shared meal you reveal your faithfulness to us and to all of humanity. Anoint us with your Spirit, and open our hearts and minds, that we may be signs of your grace and compassion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the light of Christ, revealed to us in Word and Sacrament, strengthen your faith, embolden your witness, and gladden your hearts. And may Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth" [See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Refreshed in faith and renewed in spirit, go now in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Grand Processional"

C. Sergisson

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Introduction to the Day: Joseph embodies it in Egypt, Jesus teaches it in the gospel, and for believers the Spirit leads us to live mercifully, always be willing to forgive. This way of life is a baptismal blessing. It reflects God's love and glory revealed in Christ, the Son of God.

Altar flowers are presented in memory of my dear brother, Joseph Goetz, by sister Pat and brother-in-law Evan.

Bulletins are presented in honor of Jackson Ritschel's 10th birthday by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel.

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of Stu Richards, by wife Danielle, on his 76th birthday.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
Sunday, February 23	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesday, February 26 12 Noon		Crafters' Guild
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 1	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, March 2	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Ash Wednesday service is set for Wednesday, March 5 at 7: 00 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion will be offered at this service. Let us faithfully gather to worship together on Ash Wednesday as we begin the season of Lent.

WEATHER CHECK: STAY SAFE!

If you're unsure if worship is still on due to bad weather, just give us a call at (570) 366-2316 and listen to the outgoing message. You can also check our Facebook page for any updates. Stay safe — check before you head out!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (2/23/25)

8:00 AM

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Wayne Lutsey; USHER: Gloria Dierwechter; LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey

COMMUNION ASST.: Kristin Durkee

ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/2/25)

8:00 AM

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

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Karen Shoener; LECTOR: Chris Long

COMMUNION ASST.: Deb Bolinsky

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

"SECOND SUNDAY" SUNDAY SCHOOL

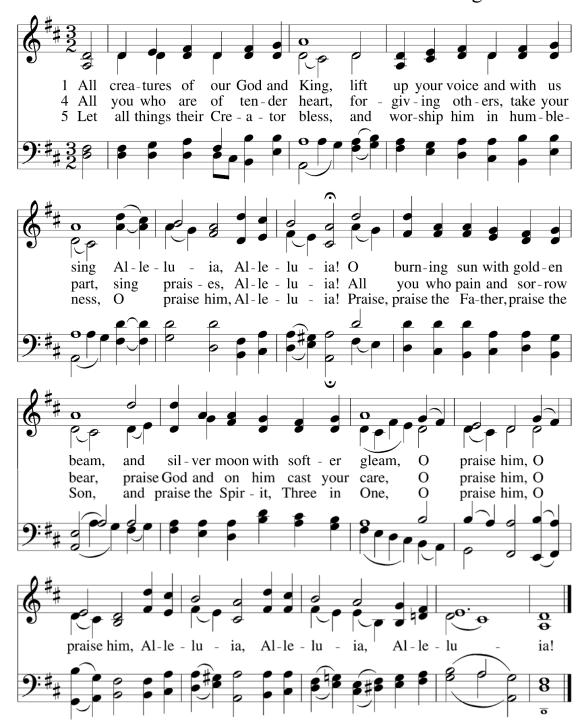
Our next Second Sunday School class will take place on Sunday, March 9! Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to brighten the day of those who can't join us for worship. To keep our list current, we regularly need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home.

If you have new information or address changes, please contact any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

GATHERING HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King"



LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD MEAL

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a simple meal of soup, bread, and butter together with fellowship and words of faith. Our Lenten Soup and Bread Meals begin on March 12 at 5 p.m. Bring soup or bread to share or just bring your appetite. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome! For more information call our Church Office: 570-366-2316.

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"



PTO SHOE DRIVE

Blue Mountain Elementary East PTO is organizing a "Shoe Drive" to raise funds and support families in developing countries. Justin Durkee, a member of our congregation, is collecting and delivering donated shoes. Please bring new or gently worn shoes (any type) when you come to worship. A donation box is in the narthex. The deadline is Sunday, March 1. Thank you for your support.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God!

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support. Every donation, big or small, helps us gather new members, follow Christ's teachings, and serve our community. Your contributions keep our church running, aid those in need, and offer a welcoming space for all. Please consider increasing your giving to the church!

COMMUNION HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



"For the Beauty of the Earth" SENDING HYMN of the For the beau - ty earth, for the beau - ty of the skies, For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night, eye, For the joy of ear and for the heart and mind's de - light, For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child, For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n; love which from our birth for the o - ver and a - round lies: hill vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars light: and har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight: for the mys - tic friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild: thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n: Refrain Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

OUR PASTOR & STAFF

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. to 12 NOON