

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 23, 2025

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"The Shadow of the Cross"

L. Smith

EXHORTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love.

CONFESSION

Let us now make our confession:

(Silence for self-reflection)

Almighty God,

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

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

KYRIE

1. Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer. We
2. Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin. Pour
3. Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part. Re -

5
come to hear your li - ving word; it saves us from de - spair.
out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM ISAIAH

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:1-9)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8 (Read responsively)

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your lovingkindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸**My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

A READING FROM 1 CORINTHIANS

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

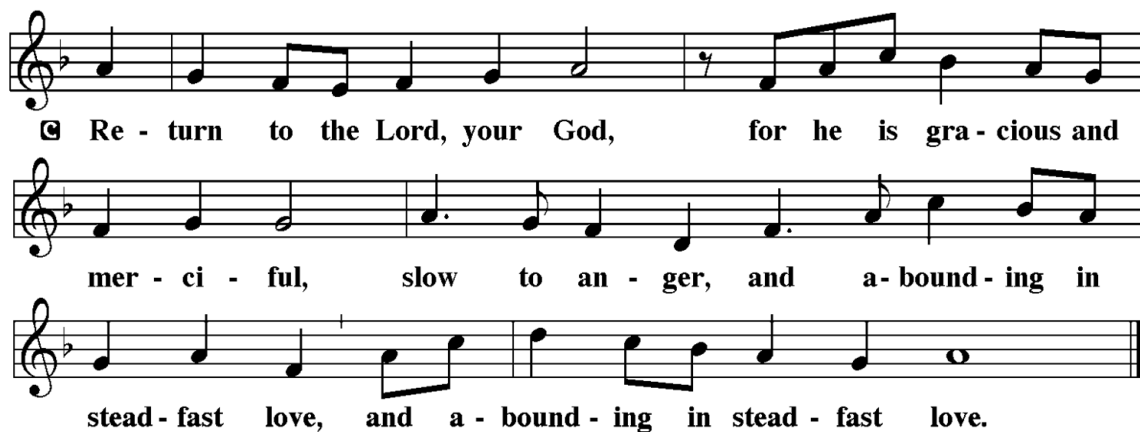
⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

(Luke 13:1-9)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rock of Ages”

[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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Through water and the Word, you bring your church to life. Strengthen your people in faith and empower us to serve through the Holy Spirit. God, in your mercy;
receive our prayer.

Through your wisdom and mercy, you created the heavens and the earth. Help us to share creation's gifts with all peoples justly and equitably. God, in your mercy;
receive our prayer.

Through the gifts of healing, you demonstrate your compassion. Bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. God, in your mercy; **receive our prayer.**

Through your Holy Word, you open our hearts and renew our minds. Help us to treasure your Word and share the joy of the gospel with our family, friends, and neighbors. God, in your mercy; **receive our prayer.**

Through every joy and sorrow, we are never alone, for you are always with us. Protect us from all evil and keep us safe, as you lead us to your everlasting kingdom. God in your mercy; **receive our prayer.**

(The pastor concludes): Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, through Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00) "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

R. Powell

ANTHEM (10:30)

*"As the Deer"

D. E. Wagner

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Come to the Table”

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in a 4-part setting. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. 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

O God our Redeemer, receive these gifts and the sacrifice of our lives. Refresh us with this food and drink and bring us newness of life for the sake of him who offered himself for us, 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

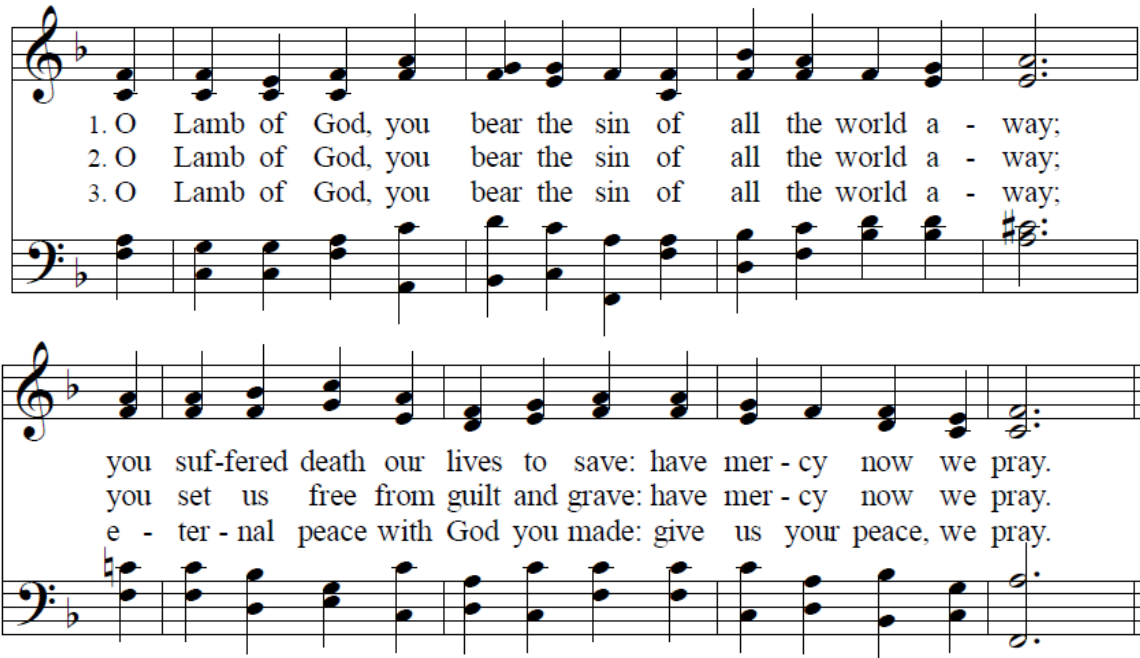
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it.

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



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and lovingkindness, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Remember that you were created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen to be holy and beloved, and freed to serve your neighbor. May God bless you that you may be a blessing to others, in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Christ the Life of All the Living “ [See back of bulletin]

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Postludium"

R. Moore

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Introduction to the Day: The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. But these warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is delayed by the gardener’s willingness to cultivate the soil for another year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/23/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Barb Sterner; LECTOR: Hope Clarke
COMMUNION ASST.: Pat Kunkle; ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/30/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Pastor Mike; LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Sarah Eger
COMMUNION ASST.: Tina Butler; ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Glenda Bright, and Barb Sterner

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Nancy Lado’s birthday by Michael and Elinda Lado.

Bulletins are presented in memory of Dolly and Keihner Mertz by Janet Mertz Young, Sandra Mertz, and Brian Sharrow.

***Anthem** "As the Deer" is presented in memory of my daughter, Michelle L. Kunkle, by Pat Kunkle (2025).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 23	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday, March 25	12 Noon	Crafters' Guild
Wednesday, March 26	5:00 PM	Lenten Soup & Bread Meal
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Saturday, March 29	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, March 30	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
		Deadline to order Easter Flowers

LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD MEAL

Join us on Wednesday evening at 5 p.m. for a simple meal of soup and bread, together with fellowship and words of faith. A sign-up sheet to share soup or bread is in the gathering room. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome! For more information call our Church Office: 570-366-2316.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, March 30, our congregation will celebrate Justin McClure's 10th Anniversary as our Organist and Music Director with a reception following the 10:30 service. A sign-up sheet for refreshments is in the Gathering Room. Please join us to celebrate this very special day!

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support. Every donation, big or small, helps us gather new members, spread Christ's teachings, and serve our community. Your contributions keep our church running to aid those in need, and safe and welcoming space. Please consider increasing your giving to St. Paul's ministry.



Also consider the benefits of giving through Secure Plus. →

GATHERING HYMN "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"



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

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

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

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to those who can't join us for worship. 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!

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rock of Ages”

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our fourth annual “Easter Egg-stravaganza” will be a little different this year. It will take place on **Sunday, April 13, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** following Sunday School. Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. Please join us in the church gathering room at any time during the event, to do crafts, play games, and enjoy snacks. This is a community event, so feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Sign-up sheets will be in the gathering room, closer to the date of the event.

STiC NEWS

Please see the Earth Day Event flyer for “Welcome to the Woods,” theme of The Guardianship of Trees on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. And, if you have a favorite haunt where you would be willing to post your copy, please do!

COMMUNION HYMN “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

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

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

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

OUR PASTOR & 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

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

SENDING HYMN

“Christ the Life of All the Living “

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will take place Sunday, April 13! 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.

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room or return it to church by US Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 30, 2025

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$11.00	H/M_____
Daffodils	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
Hydrangeas	_____ X	\$19.50	H/M_____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ _____ CASH CHECK # _____

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR FLOWERPOT COVERS!

Please check this box if you wish to donate the flowers to the church and not take them home.

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.