

# *Second Sunday in Lent*

## *Sunday, March 1, 2026*

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

[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

"The Old Rugged Cross"

T. Davis

#### EXHORTATION

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

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to stand against all that is evil and to resist whatever draws us away from the love of God and neighbor. The disciplines of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, generosity and works of love—strengthen us for this struggle.

#### 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.**

Merciful God, you do not desire the death of sinners but that we turn from our sin and live. In your compassion, grant us true and lasting repentance. Give us your Holy Spirit, that the work we do on this day may be pleasing in your sight, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may enter the eternal joy you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

(#324)

[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

Holy God, in the waters of baptism you give us new birth as your children. Strengthen our trust in your promises, so that by your Spirit we may share your life with all the world through 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 GENESIS

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

(Genesis 12:1-4a)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 121** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD himself watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

<sup>6</sup>**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

it is he who shall keep you safe.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**A READING FROM ROMANS**

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

<sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

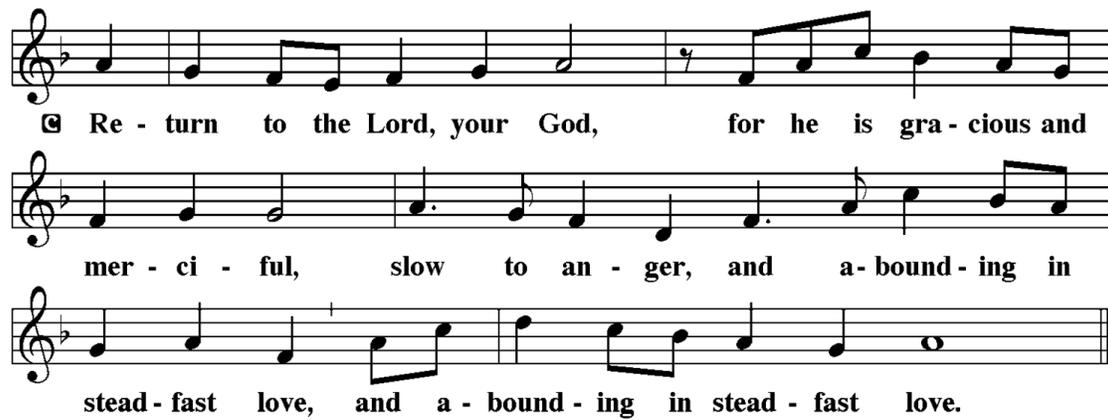
<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

(Romans 4:1-5, 13-17)

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. John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

(John 3:1-17)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”  
[See back of bulletin]

(#323)

### 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

With contrite hearts and confidence in God’s steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, as you have inspired faith through the work of artists, poets, and hymnwriters across the ages, give your church fresh ways to praise your mercy and proclaim your goodness today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you delight in the world you have made. The sun and moon, the wind and water all declare your goodness. Guard the earth and strengthen all who work to protect and restore creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of leaders throughout the world to seek the well-being of all their people. Give courage and help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of hope and welcome and lift up all who are weighed down. We pray for all who live amid violence and for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding God, you watch over our going out and our coming in. Bless newcomers to our community and this assembly and accompany those who have recently moved elsewhere or are traveling on this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you neither slumber nor sleep. Keep us safe in life and in death. We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith and for your promise to redeem our world through Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*(The pastor concludes):* Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

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

R. Powell

**ANTHEM (10:30)**

"Where He Leads Me"

J. Norris

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### “Come to the Table”

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). It consists of six systems, each with a treble and bass staff. 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 melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties.

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

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these simple gifts we bring, that all may taste your goodness. Satisfy us with this holy food and drink, and daily stir in us a deeper hunger for justice and peace. This we pray in your holy name. **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 at all times and in 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**

Come to God's table of mercy. **Let us draw near with a true heart.**

#### ***INSTRUCTIONS***

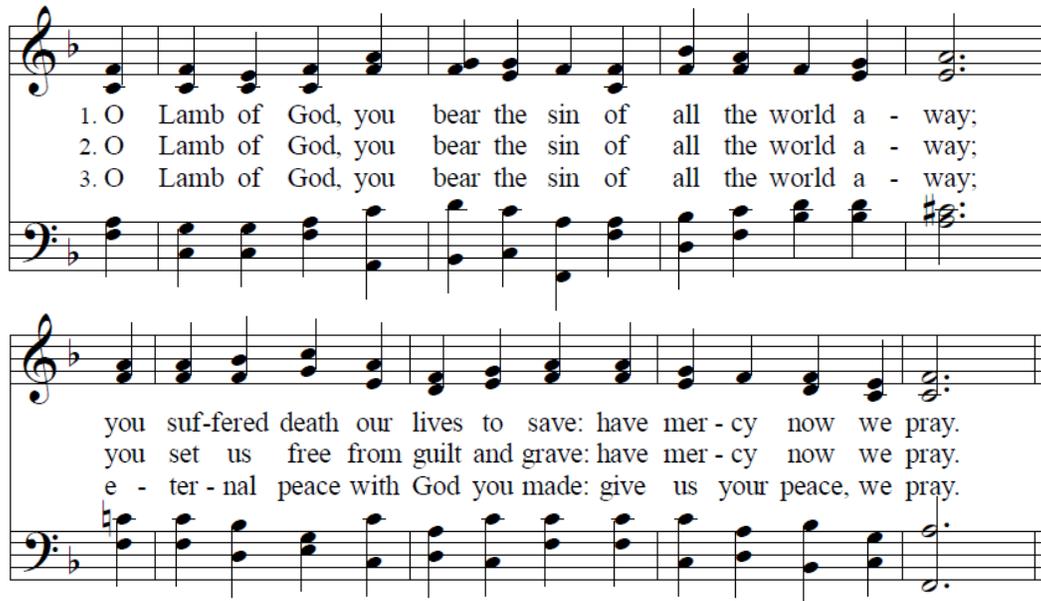
*All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. If you require a gluten free wafer, please request it from the pastor.*

*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 “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

(#445)

[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

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may give to those who are poor, pray for those in need, daily deny ourselves, and live humble and gracious lives through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

You were created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen to be holy and beloved, and freed to serve your neighbor with joy. May Almighty 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

“Blessed Assurance”

(#638)

[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:** In today's gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the baptismal font, we receive a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From our worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

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## **SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/01/26)**

### **8:00 AM**

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Connie Teter

### **10:30 AM**

GREETER: Jerry Goessel; USHER: Bill Smoot; LECTOR: Kristin Durkee

COMMUNION ASST.: Becky Smoot

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Becky Smoot

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

## **SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/08/26)**

### **8:00 AM**

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike

LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

### **10:30 AM**

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Glenda Bright; LECTOR: Doug Tavor

COMMUNION ASST.: Evan Davis

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle and Diane Brobst

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**Altar flowers** are presented in memory of Stu Richards by wife, Danielle, on his birthday.

**Bulletins** are presented in memory of Russell and Rachel Zehner by Lester and Constance Teter.



## 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.

### HEARTY “CANNED” MEALS FOOD DRIVE BEGINS

Our Food Pantry recently reported on Facebook that they need help to restock their supply of canned soups, canned pasta in sauce, and canned beef stews because their last distribution in February nearly emptied their shelves. So, let's help them out!

Please bring canned soups, canned pasta in sauce, and canned beef stews to church with you (or drop them off at the church Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon). A box will be placed in the narthex for your canned donations.

The food Pantry's next distribution is Saturday, March 28, so we need to deliver our donations to the Food Pantry by Tuesday, March 24. As always, thank you for your generosity!

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## “God Loved the World”



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

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

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

### 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!

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**We will not “pass the plate” during today’s worship service. Our offering plate in the back of the nave near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering, please do so before the service has begun or after our service is over. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.**

# COMMUNION HYMN “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

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## OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	<a href="mailto:pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	<a href="mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	<a href="mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	<a href="mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	<a href="mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com">cwlutsey@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	<a href="mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>

OUR CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON!

# SENDING HYMN

## “Blessed Assurance”

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our annual “Easter Egg-stravaganza” will take place on **Sunday, March 29, 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 Reidler Hall 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.

# 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 8, 2026**

Please "PRINT" all necessary information!

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.