

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 19, 2026

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"In the Garden"

R. Lau

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 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" (#385)
[See back of bulletin]

REETING

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

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son reveals himself to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may recognize him in his saving work and receive with joy the gifts he gives; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

A READING FROM ACTS

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],

³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. (Acts 2:14a, 36-41)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-3, 12-14, 16-19 (Read responsively)

¹I love the LORD,

because he has heard the voice of my supplication,

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

²**The cords of death entangled me;**

the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.

³Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

¹²**How shall I repay the LORD**

for all the good things he has done for me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁴**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD**

in the presence of all his people.

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving**

and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD’s house,**

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

A READING FROM FIRST PETER

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

(1 Peter 1:17-23).

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(Luke 24:13-35)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Day of Arising”
[See back of bulletin]

NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the healing and redemptive power of Christ's resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence...

Ever-present God, your Son is made known in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes to recognize him among us and strengthen us to bear witness to his saving love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

In the breaking of the bread, you provide for all creation. Bless fields and waters and guide us to care wisely for the world which you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You alone are worthy of all praise. Turn our hearts toward those in need, especially the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the oppressed, and move us to serve them in mercy and truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

O God of life, you bring healing to the sick and hope to the weary. Be near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer list, and grant them your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You know our hearts and hear our prayers. Forgive us when we fall into sin and lead us to trust in your mercy and the promise of eternal life through the risen Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks for all your saints who now rest in you. Keep us steadfast in faith and bring us at last to the hope and joy of the resurrection life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes) Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and rejoicing in the victory of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00 AM) "This Joyful Eastertide" C. Callahan

ANTHEM (10:30 AM) "We Have Seen the Risen Lord" S. Pethel

OFFERTORY HYMN "At the Lamb's High Feast"

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di-vine gives his

our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—

flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O Risen One, you have gathered us together around your table of grace along with the simple gifts we bring. Come among us and breathe life into us and this meal that we share, that we may be your risen body here in the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

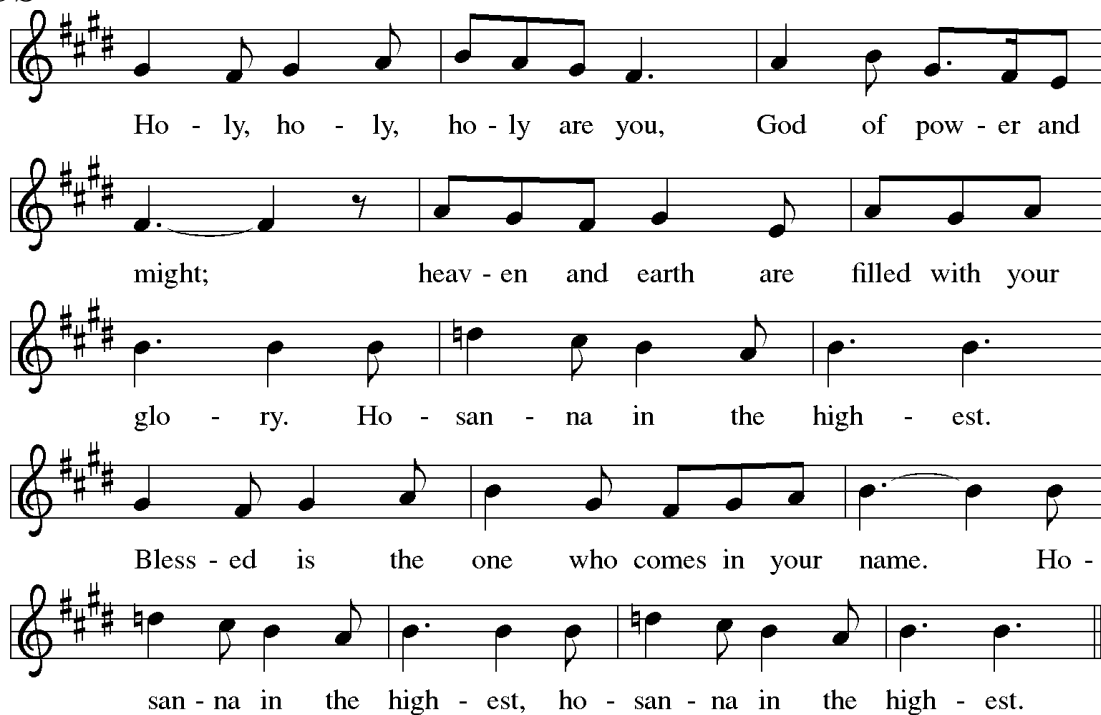
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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, 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

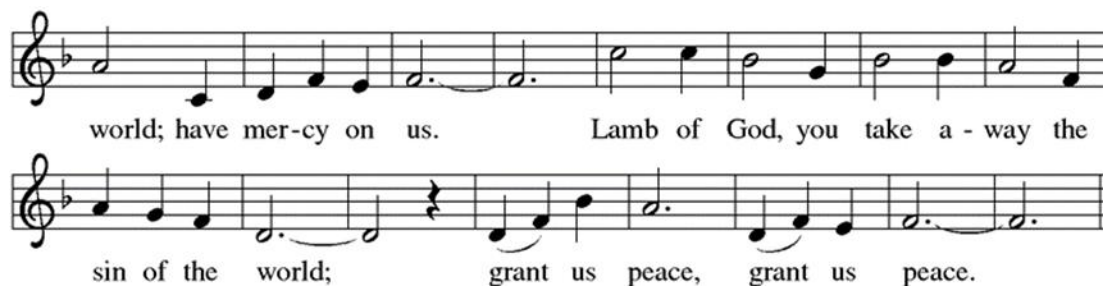
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

[Continues]



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.

COMMUNION HYMN "Bread of Life from Heaven" (#474)
[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 at your table 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 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (#619 vs. 1, 2, 7, 8)
[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!

POSTLUDE

"Christ the Lord Has Risen"

T. Birchwood

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

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Victoria Gallagher by Scott & Tina Butler.

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY: Today's Gospel tells of two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness and disappointment. They had hoped that Jesus, who was crucified, would redeem Israel. Yet the risen Christ comes alongside them, opens the Scriptures, and is made known to them in the breaking of the bread. So it is for us: each Sunday Christ comes among us as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. And throughout our lives he walks with us, opening our eyes and turning our hearts to him, that we may bear his life into the world.

RECYCLE YOUR EASTER FLOWER POT COVERS!

The Worship and Music Committee asks that anyone who still has an Easter flowerpot cover to kindly return it to the church. A collection box is in the narthex for your convenience. Returned covers will be reused, helping us save money and care for God's creation. Thank you for your support.

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. Guests may also choose to do so. Thank you!

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 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!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, April 19 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Adult Forum
 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, April 22 EARTH DAY
 1:00 PM Rainbow Friends
 6:00 PM Bell Choir
 7:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 23 6:30 PM BSF

Saturday, April 25 5:30 PM Worship

Sunday, April 26 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Adult Forum
 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (4/19/26)

8:00 AM

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

10:30 AM

GREETER: Bill Smoot; USHER: Joanne Emerich; LECTOR: Jim Emerich
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Pat Kunkle
ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke, Barb Sterner, and Becky Smoot
COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/26/26)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

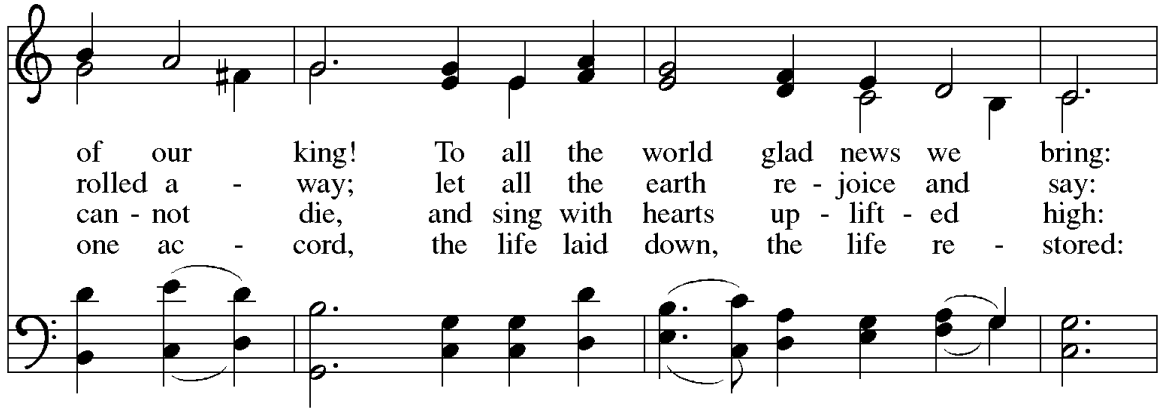
10:30 AM

GREETER: Jerry Goessel; USHER: Diane Brobst; LECTOR: Hope Clarke
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long
ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke, Barb Sterner, and Becky Smoot
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Joanne Emerich

GATHERING HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

WATER FOR A CAUSE

Would you like to do something to help our Orwigsburg firefighters of the Friendship Hose company? WELCA is sponsoring a monthlong collection of bottled water for our hometown heroes. Please join us as we collect any size or number of bottled water from May 1 through May 31. Our firefighters will appreciate the results! Whether fighting fires, acting on the scene of a motor vehicle accident, or in training, the water we collect will refresh and reinvigorate our Orwigsburg firefighters. Please place your water donation in the narthex beginning May 1. Thank you!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Day of Arising”



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

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. Guests may also choose to do so. Thank you!

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 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!

We will not “pass the plate” during today’s worship service. Our offering plate is 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 “Bread of Life from Heaven”

Refrain

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

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

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

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

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Orwigsburg Food Pantry would like to express thanks for the generous response to the request for canned soups, pastas, and stews. They are currently in need of peanut butter and cereal. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

SENDING HYMN

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

vs. 1, 2, 7, 8

1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,

once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

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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

OUR CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 9 A.M. to 12 NOON.