

Spring Plant Order Form

This year you have the opportunity to order an Easter Lily and/or a Spring Plant. The cost is \$13.00 for a Lily; \$8.00 for a Spring Plant.

These plants will adorn the Altar on Easter morning and will be available for you to take home if you wish following worship.

The deadline to order is March 30.

Please fill out this order form, choose what plant you would like to order and place in an envelope along with the appropriate amount and turn it in to the church office. You may also put it in the offering plate.

Easter Lily _____
Tulip _____
Daffodil _____
Hyacinth _____



Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

"I am
casting out demons
and
performing cures
today and tomorrow,



and on the third day
I finish my work."

LUKE 13:32, NRSV

**Sunday, March 16, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Children's Offering

The March Children's Offering we will be supporting the harvest of food for those in need through the Buddy Bag Program, a free meal program that provides food to school kids on the weekends, when school lunch is not available. The need is great, on average they pack 130 lunches each week. The cost of each bag is \$3.46. The Tri-Church Youth help to pack these several times during the school year.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Second Sunday in Lent



Prelude

"Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)"

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Scott Cash

Welcome/Announcements

GATHER

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW #597



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

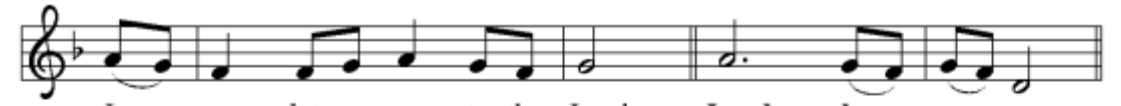
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Greeting

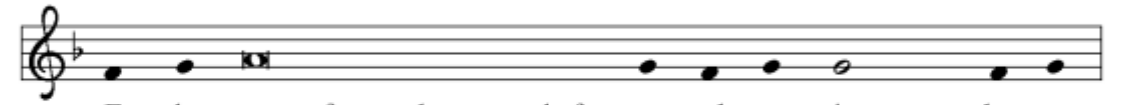
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

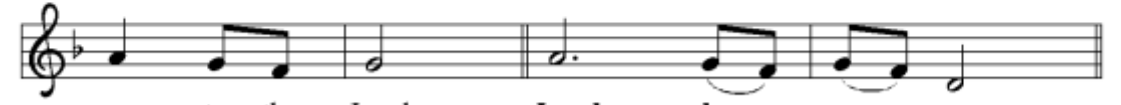
Kyrie



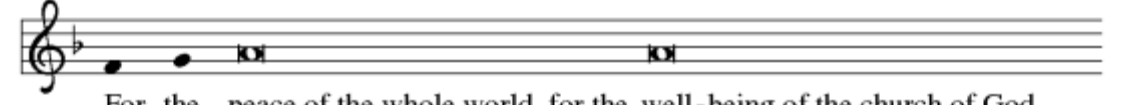
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



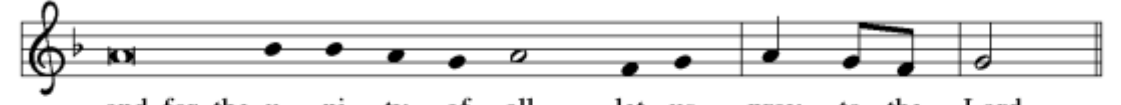
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



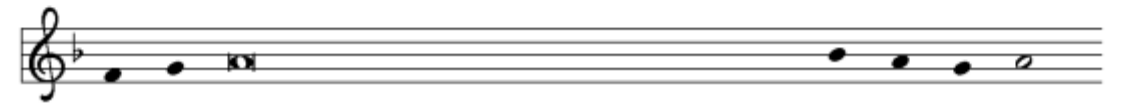
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



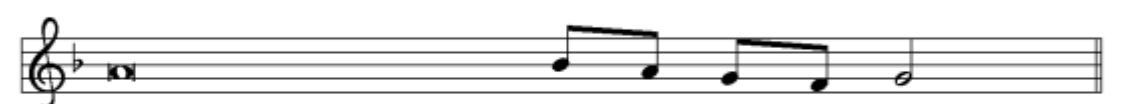
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 27 (read responsively)

R: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

All: When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

R: Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

All: One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

R: For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

All: Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

R: Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

All: My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

R: Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

All: Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

R: Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

All: Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

R: This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

All: Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!

New Testament Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Message

Sermon

“Stereotypes, Lost Love, and the Love of a Mother”

Hymn of the Day

“*Thy Holy Wings*”

ELW #613

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.
and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small.
and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

Apostles Creed

P: Trusting in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

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

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Go, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

P: Let us share a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

MEAL

Offering

"Better Is One Day in Your Courts (Than Thousands Elsewhere)"

Matt Redman arr. Bill Wolaver

Offering Prayer

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en 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 -



The Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

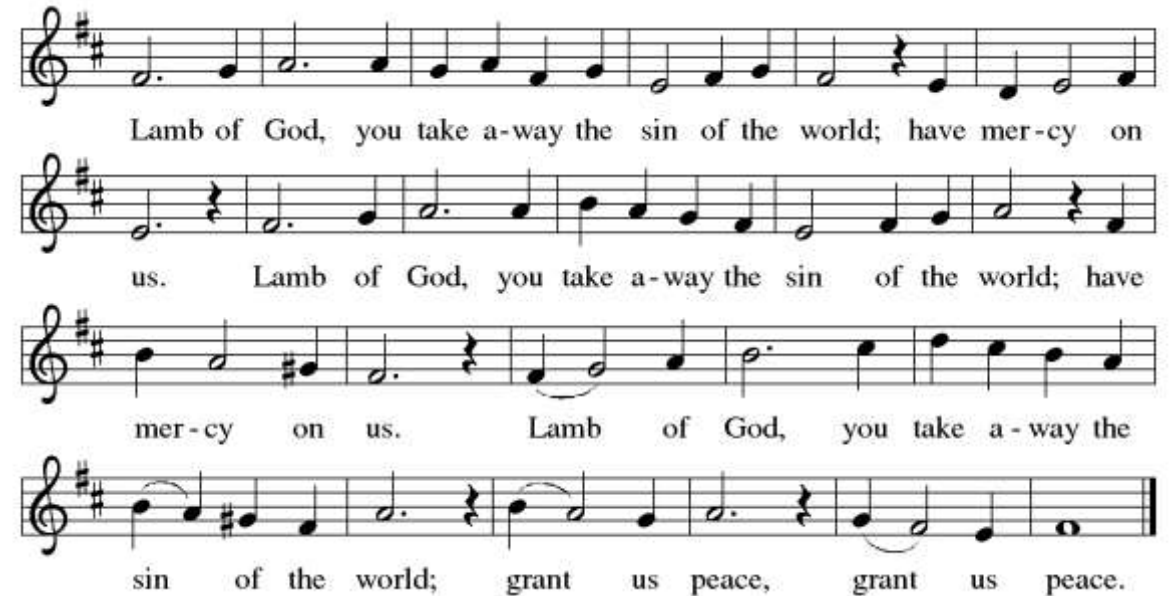
Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Communion

Communion Music

"Lamb of God"



"What Wondrous Love Is This"

stg. David Lasky

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Blessing

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Song

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW #768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922–1995
Music: Doris Akers
Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. UniChappell Music, Inc.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Step By Step”

David Beaker Strasser

We Remember in Prayer; those hospitalized this week: Dianne Miller, those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, and Lila Edeus.

Coffee Fellowship will be served following worship this morning in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by Audrey & Cathy Cox. All are welcome!

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Dan Dir, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Greg Zeigler, Ron Ukena

Reader – Stacey Avelar

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Musicians:

Julie Woessner

Dawn Zeigler

Next week – March 23

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – David Carrillo

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Nancy Beck, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Sound – Brady Arians

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer needed*

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