**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham** P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500 <u>durhamlutheran.org</u>

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



# March 23, 2025 Third Sunday in Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The 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 forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

You can find the live stream at the following location:

#### www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Please take this time to silently reflect on the journey of Lent, praying for God to make our hearts clean.

#### GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

#### **CONFESSION ANDS FORGIVENESS**

#### (Stand if you are able)

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

- C: 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,

C: 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.

#### C: Amen



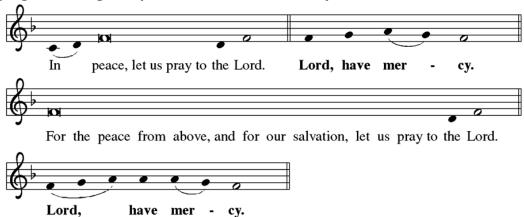
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



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- P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you

#### Kyrie- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."





# **Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

#### C: And also with you.

Eternal God, 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, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

#### First Reading-Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

L: A reading from the fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Ho, 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. <sup>2</sup> Why 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.

<sup>3</sup> Incline 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. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> See, 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.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let 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. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

# Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

- L: <sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- C: <sup>2</sup> Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- L: <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- C: <sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- L: <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- C: <sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- L: <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- C: <sup>8</sup> My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

# Second Reading -1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

L: A reading from the tenth chapter of 1 Corinthians.

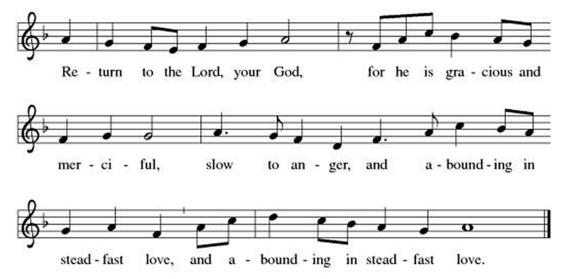
<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same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

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do 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." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ

to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These 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. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No 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.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation:**



#### The Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

- P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.
- P: <sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or 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? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then 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. <sup>7</sup> So 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?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

#### Hymn of the Day: ELW 618

# Jesus, Still Lead On



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

#### **Apostle's Creed**

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

- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

# The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

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

#### A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

#### C: Receive our prayer.

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

#### C: Amen.

#### OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake" – Arr. K. Lee Scott

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**



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# **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.
- C: Amen.

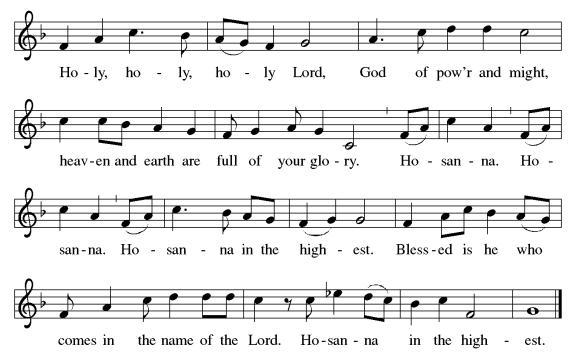
# THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### The Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

# C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your

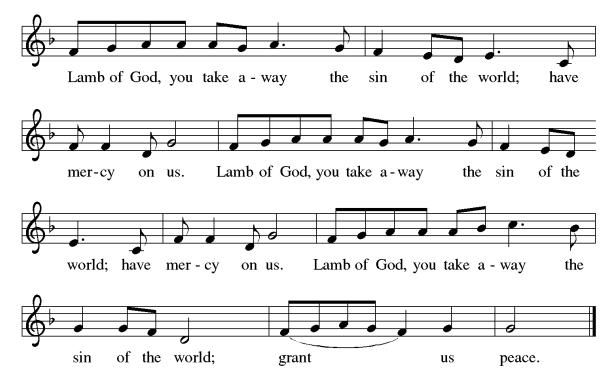
servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

- C: Amen.
- P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- C: 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.

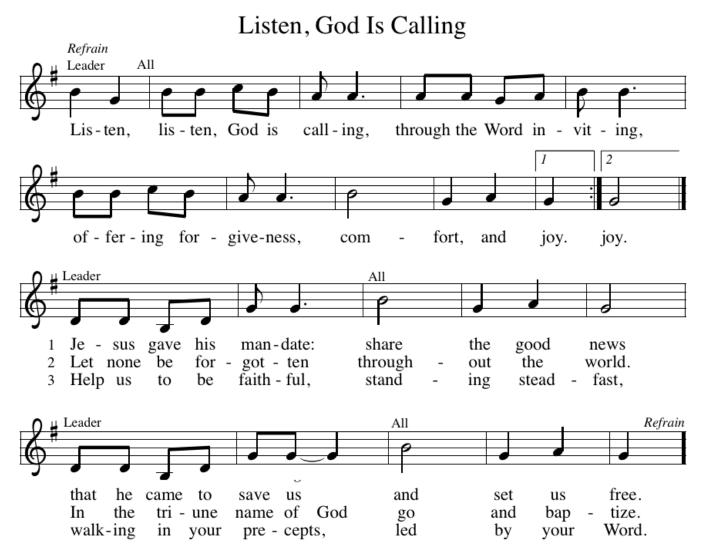
# INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)





Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

Text © 1968 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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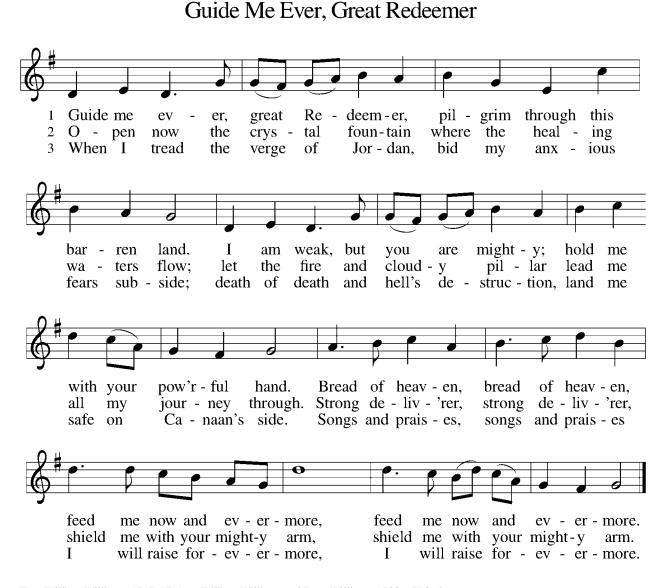
#### **Prayer after Communion**

- P: 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.
- C: Amen.

#### Announcements

#### BLESSING

#### C: Amen



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

#### DISMISSAL

- P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- C: Thanks be to God.

#### Postlude:

Our Outreach envelopes for March will be given to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

		ANI	NOUNC	EMENTS		
MARCH	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS	
23					Rachael Roney	
25	Oluchi Ngoka				Althea Crouse	
28					Clayton Leichliter	
29					Steven Streletz	
			VFFK'S	ACTIVITIES		
Sunday, March 23		9:15 AM		Adult Sunday school in the library		
Third Sunday in Lent		10:00 AM		Communion Worship		
		After worship		Youth Choir Practice		
Manday March 24		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM				
	Monday, March 24 Wednesday, March 26		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM		Admin Office Hours	
weunesuay			UPIVI	Office Hours		
		10:00 AM 6:00-7:30PM		Mid-week Choir Rehearsal		
Thursday				Lenten Soup Supper at Upper Tinicum		
Thursday, March 27		10:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim		
		12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM				
				Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's ACTIVITIES		
Sunday Ma	web 20		1			
Sunday, Ma			9:15 AM		Adult Sunday school in the library	
Fourth Sund	Fourth Sunday in Lent		10:00 AM		Communion Worship Info Session and Youth Choir practice	
		After Worship 5:00- 7:00 PM		Confirmation Class @ Trinity Pleasant Valley		
Namelau Namela 21				· · ·		
Monday, March 31		1:00 -3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours		
Wednesday, April 2		10:00 AM - 2.0	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM		Office Hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, April 3		6:00-7:30PM		Lenten Soup Supper St. Luke Ferndale Office Hours		
		10:00 AM - 1:00 PM		Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim		
		12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM		Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's		
Sunday, April 6		9:15 AM		Adult Sunday school in the library.		
Fifth Sunday in Lent		10:00 AM		Communion Worship		
		After Worship		Youth Choir Practice		
Monday, April 7		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours		
		7:00 PM		Council Meeting		
Wednesday		10:00 AM - 2:00 PM		Office Hours		
		10:00 AM			Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal	
		6:00-7:30PM		Lenten Soup Supper Trinity Pleasant Valley		
Thursday, A	pril 10	10:00 AM - 1:0	0 PM	Office Hours		
		12:00 PM		Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim		
		1:00 - 3:00 PM		Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's		
Friday, April	11	10:00 AM		WELCA Meeting		
. , ,			G PALM	SUNDAY APRIL 13 <sup>th</sup>	After Worship	
		SUNDA	SUNDAY			
		APRIL 20 <sup>th</sup>		Sunrise Service @Sky Island Upper Tinicum		
		6:30 AM				
F	ASTER					
		10:00		Communion Worship @Durham		



PLEASE SIGN UP! Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:35PM Tickets are \$30 each. Non-refundable.



#### For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Joanne Ziegenfuss

#### For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Doris Calverley; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Davis; Nancy Edelen; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella

Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Jason Gourley; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Mary Lily; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mechum; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

#### For those who are Homebound:

James Altemose; Cleo Eck; Jayne Miller.

#### For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ;Kenneth Hager; Frank Mammana; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: <a href="mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com">joanmammana@icloud.com</a>

Worship Assistants					
Preacher	Rev. James Heckman				
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams				
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Nancy Moskella				
Greeter(s)	O'Brien Family				
Acolyte	Leo G				
Lector	Bea vonWatzdorf				
Head / Communion Usher					
Council Communion	Dealers' choice				
Counting Team	Becky Praster, Cathy Mueller and Dave Sauter				
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson				
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner				
Custodian	Dianna Streletz				

#### **Worship Assistants**



# Easter Flowers Order Form

The 2024 prices of Easter flowers are as follows:

Mums – random colors	\$8
Tulips – random colors	\$6
Lilies – white	\$8
Daffodils	\$8



ame and Phone Nun	nber:	
# of Mums	X \$8	Total \$ for Mums
# of Tulips	X \$6	Total \$ for Tulips
# of Lilies	X \$8	Total \$ for Lilies
# of Daffodils	X \$8	Total \$ for Daffodils
Total # of Plants		Total \$ for Order
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Place your check and order form in the offering plate, or mail to Victoria Phillipps (100 Meadows Lane, Riegelsville 18077). The deadline to order flower is *Sunday*, *April 13<sup>th</sup>* (*Palm Sunday*). Any questions, contact Victoria.

