St. Mark's Lutheran Church The Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452) Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Holy Communion (A Setting for Lent) 8 am and 10:30 am

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book *Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

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!

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ⊕, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection. Kneel/Stand.

Compassionate One,

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.

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.

Amen.

*HYMN Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters WOV, "Blue," 697

*THE 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



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 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.

3 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.

- 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- 5 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.
- 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- 7 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.

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

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eager- | ly 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.

- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place, that I might behold your power | and your glory.
- 3 For your steadfast love 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.
- 5 My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods, and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
- 6 when I remember you up- | on my bed, and meditate on you in | the night watches.
- 7 For you have | been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
- 8 My whole being | clings to you; your right hand | holds me fast.

THE SECOND READING...... 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1 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, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 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." 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 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. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord your God, for he his gracious and merciful.

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*THE GOSPEL.....Luke 13:1-9

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 At 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?3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 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? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN Jesus, Still Lead on LBW, "Green," 341

*THE NICENE CREED

6

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith: 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.

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 will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

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

*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: After each petition, "Lord, in your mercy/Receive our prayer".

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

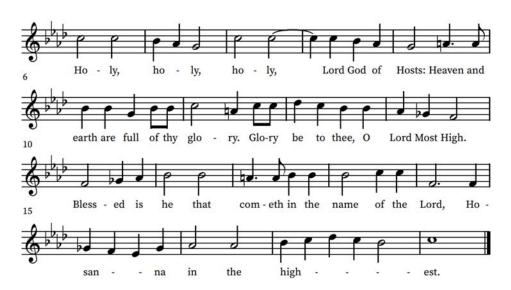
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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 or Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal with faith and life, and bring us to the fulness 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:



Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted for forty days and nights to prepare for his ministry.
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, as your people prepare for the holy feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to affirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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.

In remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

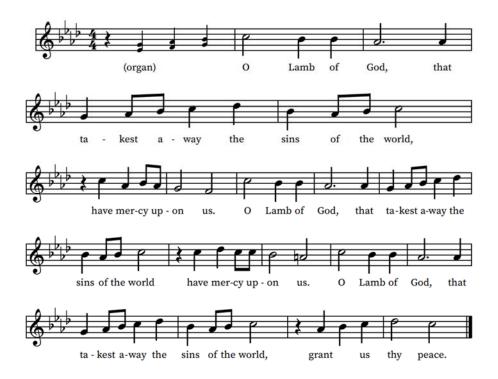
*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who are 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,

*LAMB OF GOD

forever and ever. Amen.



*INVITATION

All who are hungry come! The feast of grace is spread!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way and kneel (stand) at the rail. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

*AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The blessing of God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer LBW, "Green," 343

*DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh, Connie Shaible, Helen Schramm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for March 16, 2025

Regular Offering	\$2,647.00
Plate Offerings	15.00
Lent	40.00
Miscellaneous	8.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	72.00
Global Mission	50.00
Parish Life	76.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
Easter Flowers	193.00
Grand Total	\$3,221.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and

In loving memory of our loved ones by Gary and Donna Clark; and

In loving memory of our parents, Dick and Marty Pryor and Shuman and Lori Miller by Tom and Becky Miller Pryor.

WORSHIP LEADERS		March 23, 2025
Lector	8 am 10:30 am	Nikki Jackson Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8 am 10:30 am	Becky Pryor Lou Ann & Ralph Zeigler
Ushers	8 am 10:30 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller Carl Albright, Brenda, Ed and Levi Gair
Organist		Sam Robinson

Bev Heiber & Audrey Albright

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sara Larson 3/25

Altar Guild (MARCH)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:				
Sunday, March 23	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am			
Monday, March 24	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Little Lambs Liaison, 12:15 pm			
Tuesday, March 25	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm			
Wednesday, March 26	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm Mid-week Bible Study, "Atonement Theories", 12:10 pm			
Thursday, March 27	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm			
Friday, March 28	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm			
Saturday, March 29	Church Office Closed			
Sunday, March 30	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am			
BIRTHDAYS				
Gary Weber	3/24	Jonathan Bower	3/27	
Leah Haussmann	3/25	Sandra Edler	3/28	

David Walz

3/28

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion". Thank You!

BIBLE STUDY

A study of the Book of Revelation during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.



Lenten Bible study continues on Wednesdays at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our study this year is discovering what the Bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.



New Covenant UCC, in conjunction with the Office of Community Service at Lycoming College, will host an Easter Egg Hunt at Lycoming's intramural sports field on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm. To support this child-focused activity, the Evangelism and

Fellowship Committee is asking for donations of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candy, fruit snack and snack crackers. Donations are due by March 30 and may be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

LWR is in desperate need of items for North Carolina and Lutheran California to respond to the natural disasters in those areas. If you would like to contribute items for personal care kits, please place them in the bin in the Narthex. The kits include cotton towels (20" x 40" up to 27" x 52"), bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. Kits will be assembled beginning in April. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.

Ongoing Community Needs

Help **United Churches Food Pantry:** Most needed are cans of SPAM, 64 oz. bottles of non-refrigerated Juice (any flavor but grape,) Pancake Syrup, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Boxed Potatoes (any kind but mashed) and Chunky Style Soups.

Shepherd of the Streets: Most needed are Deodorant, Tampons, Laundry Pods, Kid's toothbrushes and paste and Paper Towels.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Most needed are Dixie-type Soup Bowls (9 oz.,) Boxes of Tissues and Bottles of Ketchup (16-20 oz. size) for their dining tables. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated by these ministries. Thank you.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee wish to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the congregation for their generous support of Code Blue at First Church, Redeemer's community dinner and Sojourner Truth Ministry. We were able to deliver more than 600 individually packaged snacks and \$100 in Wegman's gift cards to John and Sue Best, coordinators at Code Blue. We were also able to deliver 120 servings (20 boxes) of TastyKakes to Redeemer Lutheran. Additional boxes of TastyKakes were shared with Code Blue and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. Sojourner Truth Ministry received lunch bags, sugar, condiments, coffee and even frozen turkey breasts! These items were gratefully received by Chef Dave and the staff at STM.



Please consider donating to our shoebox collections this month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them.

In March, we will be collecting:

Combs/Brushes/Hair Accessories **Toothbrushes Toothbrush Holder** Mini Flashlights

The age ranges for both boy and girl boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!



Lenten Season

We encourage you to please find several devotional booklets in the Narthex that may aid you in your daily study throughout this Lenten season. We pray these seasonal meditations will help prepare your

heart and mind as we move through this season of Lent heading toward our celebration of Easter.

Lenten Collection

This Lenten season we are collecting items to create Birthday Bags for the United Churches Food Pantry. (We did this last year as well so it may seem somewhat familiar.) The Food Pantry has been serving an increasing number of neighbors each month, and Birthday Bags are a nice way to help celebrate these special family occasions. We have a great start on filling our bags thanks to your support during the Advent season – thank you! The most helpful items for our bags during the Lenten season are: **cake pans with lids, gift bags, and candles.** Examples of the cake pans and gift bags (for sizing purposes) are in the Narthex, and all of these items can be found at the Dollar Tree. We look forward to working on this project together, sharing Christ's love with those in need.



A Time to Celebrate

Leah Haussmann is celebrating her 80th birthday on March 25th! Leah very much misses spending time with her church family so we are asking you to please join us in remembering her special

day with a card or note for her birthday celebration. Thank you for joining us in "showering" Leah with cards. Your thoughts are very much appreciated!

Leah Haussmann, 4 Century Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837



Summer Camp brochures are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.

COMMEMORATIONS

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980



Monday, March 24, 2025

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord

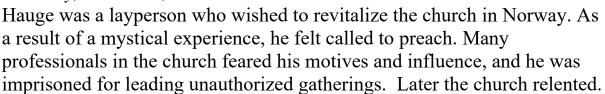
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Nine months before Christmas Day we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of

the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Saturday, March 29, 2025



Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, 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!

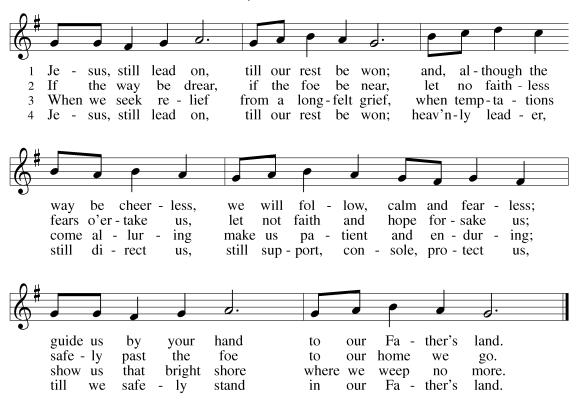
Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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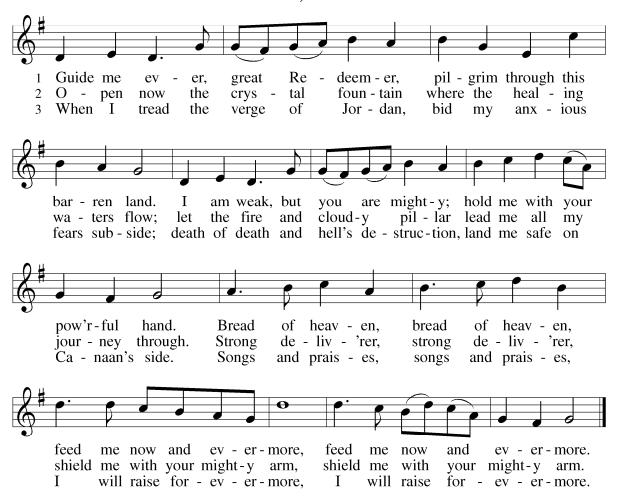
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Jesus, Still Lead On



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

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



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



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

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ack of the card)
by March 26, 2025 following the late Easter Service.
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