

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

- Welcome to worship! Welcome to all those joining us via our Live Stream, welcome to those joining us through our Listen to Church service.
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this morning.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*Our Father, We Have Wandered* (606)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Our Father, we have wandered<br>and hidden from your face;<br>in foolishness have squandered | your legacy of grace.<br>But now, in exile dwelling,<br>we rise with fear and shame, |
|---|--|--|

as, distant but compelling,  
we hear you call our name.

- 2 And now at length discerning  
the evil that we do,  
behold us, Lord, returning  
with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us  
and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us

with calf and robe and ring.

- 3 O Lord of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving,  
and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006

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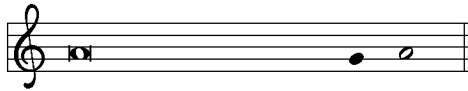
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## **GREETING**

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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



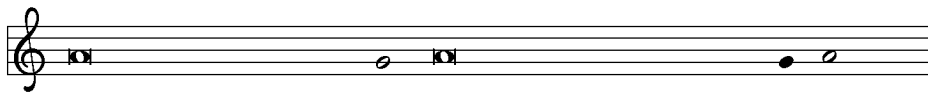
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 unity 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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray,

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

**Joshua 5:9-12**

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal. A reading from Joshua.*

<sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**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.

### GOSPEL

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided

his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Grace Along the Way**

**Pastor Keith Ruehlow**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Day by Day* (790)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,<br/>bringing comfort to my anxious soul.<br/>Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me<br/>draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.<br/>Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,<br/>brings to naught the burdens of my quest;<br/>Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,<br/>where at last I'll find eternal rest.</p> | <p>I will seek your loving will to guide me<br/>o'er the paths I struggle day by day.<br/>I will fear no evil of the morrow,<br/>I will trust in your enduring grace.<br/>Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow<br/>till in glory I behold your face.</p>            |
| <p>2 Day by day, I know you will provide me<br/>strength to serve and wisdom to obey;</p>   | <p>3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me<br/>when my burdens grow too great to bear;<br/>oh, what joy to know that you will hear me<br/>when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.<br/>Day by day, no matter what betide me,<br/>you will hold me ever in your hand.</p> |

Savior, with your presence here to guide  
me,

I will reach at last the promised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005  
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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion *especially Mary Olson, Toots Marohn, Ted Watland, Jan Krueger, Carol Evans, Jo Johnson, Johnny Foster, Char Oven, Rich Ebbinga, and Erica Peterson*. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, you call us to welcome all people in the name of Jesus. Pour out your blessings upon the new members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Together may we work as faithful partners in the ministry to which you call us. Inspire us to ever widen our circle of welcome that all people may find a spiritual home here in this place, we pray especially for our LGBTQIA siblings, for those who are differently abled and for those who are neurodivergent.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

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.

**Amen.**

### **NEW MEMBER WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

This morning we welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ into our mission and ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

*To new members:*

You stand before us today to declare your belief in the God we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to declare your desire to be partners with us in the ministry of Jesus Christ. So, I ask, are you willing to commit yourself, with the gifts that God has given you, to the ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church? If so please respond "Yes, with the help of God."

**New Members: Yes, with the help of God.**

*To the congregation*

L: I ask you, will you welcome and befriend these people as new partners in our ministry? Will you welcome them with your friendship, pray for them, support and encourage them in our shared mission?

**C: Yes, with the help of God.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*We join together in our profession of faith:*

*Please stand:*

People of God:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response: I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response: I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?

*Response: I renounce them.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**Who was conceived by 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Let us pray, God of new beginnings, thank you for welcoming us into your family through baptism and calling us into the mission of Christ for all the world. Bless those we welcome as now new members—and bless us all, together, in our shared mission. Equip us to live out our faith every day, as you send us into the world to minister in Jesus' name, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **WELCOME**

**Council Representative: On behalf of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, it is my honor to welcome you. We rejoice in receiving you into our community of faith, and into the fellowship in the gospel we share with all believers. Welcome in the name of Christ!**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a greeting of peace with one another.*

### **MINISTRY MATTERS MOMENT**

**Lintel Project Fundraising – Mark Kalscheur**

### **BRIEFING THE MINISTERS**

### **MEAL**

**OFFERING**

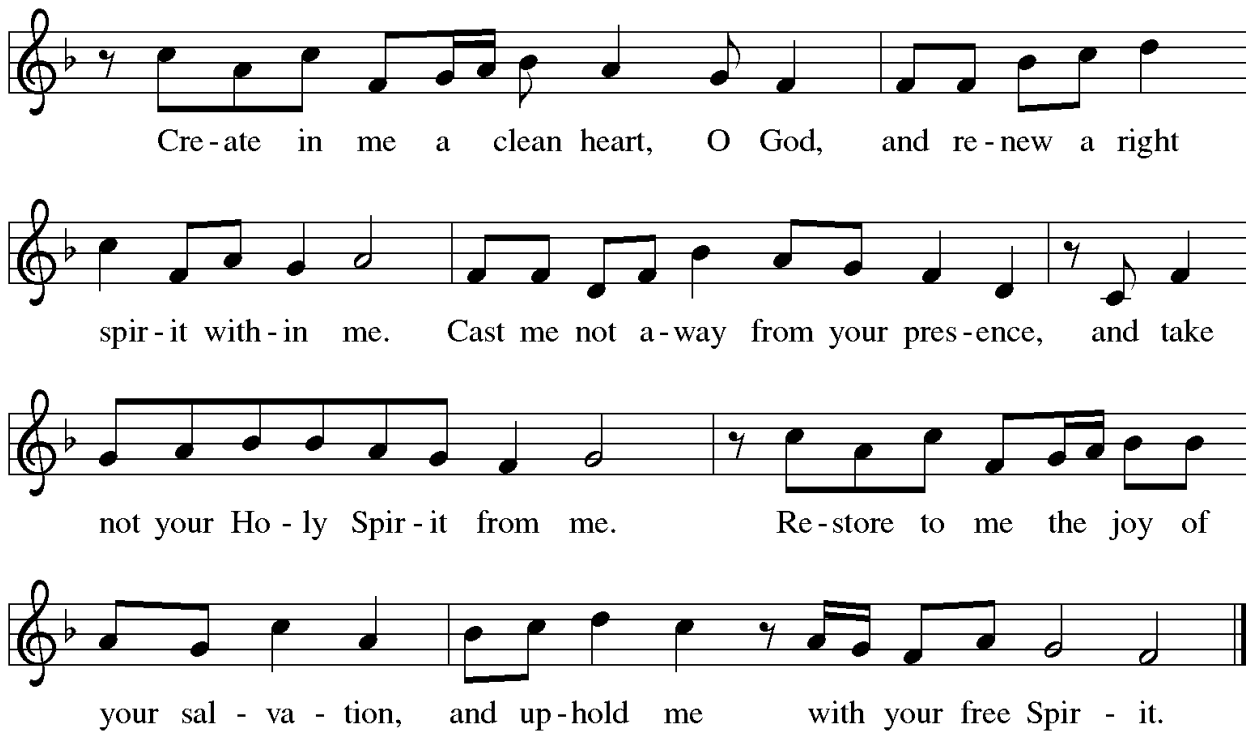
*Softly and Tenderly*

**OSL Choir**

**OFFERTORY**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart* (186)





Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

**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. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## THANKSGIVING 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.*

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Lamb of God*



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 world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (779)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Amazing grace! how sweet the sound<br>that saved a wretch like me!<br>I once was lost, but now am found;<br>was blind, but now I see.         | and grace will lead me home.   |
| 2 | 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,<br>and grace my fears relieved;<br>how precious did that grace appear<br>the hour I first believed! | 4 The Lord has promised good to me;<br>his word my hope secures;<br>he will my shield and portion be<br>as long as life endures.                       |
| 3 | Through many dangers, toils, and snares<br>I have already come;<br>'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,                                   | 5 When we've been there ten thousand<br>years,<br>bright shining as the sun,<br>we've no less days to sing God's praise<br>than when we'd first begun. |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** (807)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,<br/>tune my heart to sing thy grace;<br/>streams of mercy, never ceasing,<br/>call for songs of loudest praise.<br/>While the hope of endless glory<br/>fills my heart with joy and love,<br/>teach me ever to adore thee;<br/>may I still thy goodness prove.</p> <p>2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:<br/>"Hither by thy help I've come";<br/>and I hope, by thy good pleasure,<br/>safely to arrive at home.</p> | <p>Jesus sought me when a stranger,<br/>wand'ring from the fold of God;<br/>he, to rescue me from danger,<br/>interposed his precious blood.</p> <p>3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor<br/>daily I'm constrained to be;<br/>let that grace now like a fetter<br/>bind my wand'ring heart to thee.<br/>Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;<br/>prone to leave the God I love.<br/>Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;<br/>seal it for thy courts above.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

**POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

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

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. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

***My Life Flows On in Endless Song*** (763:1-3)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 My life flows on in endless song;<br/>above earth's lamentation,<br/>I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn<br/>that hails a new creation.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i><br/>No storm can shake my inmost calm<br/>while to that Rock I'm clinging.</p> | <p>Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,<br/>how can I keep from singing?</p> <p>2 Through all the tumult and the strife,<br/>I hear that music ringing.<br/>It finds an echo in my soul.<br/>How can I keep from singing? <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

3 What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

<b>PRAYER CONCERNS</b>
Mary Olson; Toots Marohn (Pr. Sarah's aunt); Ted Watland (Glen Miller's brother-in-law); Jan Krueger (Dan Krueger's mother); Carol Evans (Jean Conklin's sister-in-law); Jo Johnson (Kim Fruit's sister); Johnny Foster (Brittany Cisneros's brother); Char Ovren; Rich Ebbinga; Erica Peterson (Cheryl Merrill's granddaughter)
<b>IN SUPPORT</b>
Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, missionaries in Japan
Kasungu Central, Our Malawi Sister Parish

***Welcoming our New Members***

This morning in worship we formally welcome our newest members to the congregation! Join us for a reception following worship to greet our new members.

<b>THIS WEEK AT OSL</b>	
Sunday, Mar. 30	Worship, 9am Coffee Fellowship w/New Member Reception, 10:15am Sunday School, 10:15am New Member Class, 10:15am Bible Study, 10:15am
Monday, Mar. 31	Quilters/Crafters, 9am
Wed., April 2	Lenten supper, 5:15pm Lenten Service, 6:30pm Choir rehearsal, 7pm Confirmation, 7pm
Thurs., April 3	Amers' Bible Study, 9am Pack 23 meeting, 6:30pm

**Midweek Lenten schedule at OSL**  
Lenten Supper: 5:15-6pm  
Worship 6:30pm  
with Holden Evening Prayer

***Can You Help Prepare Meals?***

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare meals on Thursday, April 3rd for the ADRC dementia meal project. Cooking begins at 10am and goes through the day. Sign up on the bulletin board under the skylight and indicate when you plan to come. Contact Denise with any questions.

***Little Free Pantry***  
Throughout the season of Lent, are collecting donations in our Little Church, as well as, needed items for our Little Free Pantry. Items can be dropped off in the Friendship Room.

**Lenten Bible Study**  
We will gather after worship today (approximately 10:15) in the conference room to continue our conversation about the questions from our Lenten Bible Study. Grab your water or coffee and join us!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



# Easter Flowers

2025

We will once again be adorning our sanctuary for Easter with tulips and lilies. You are invited to purchase a plant in memory of, or honor of a loved one.

The cost of each plant is \$15.00. Include payment with order form. Orders must be received by: April 13, 2025.

The proceeds will go to Stepping Stones.

Plants will be available for pickup on a first come, first served basis the week following Easter, during office hours, Mon, Tue, & Thurs, 8am-3pm; Wed 1-5pm.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_

Plant given in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Plant given in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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