

The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250
"Faith Active in Love"
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 44

April 2022

Issue 4

We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and Sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Holy Week 2022 April 10th—April 17th

Palm Sunday, April 10th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms,
Passion Narrative according to St. Luke

Maundy Thursday, April 14th

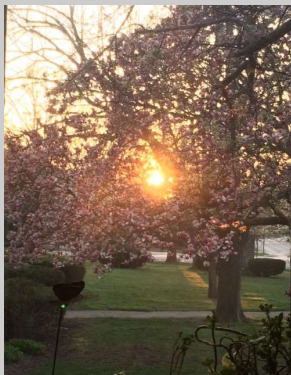
7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 15th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 17th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion



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The Three Days

We use the term three-in-one to describe the Holy Trinity, but it is also an apt way to speak of the triduum, or the Three Days. At the center of the church year is our annual celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. One way of observing Holy Week is to walk with Jesus through the last days of his earthly life and to emotionally relive the darkness of Good Friday and the surprising resurrection of Easter Sunday. Yet the triduum is closer to the Gospel of John's interpretation, in which Jesus' death is seen as his glorification and cannot be separated from his resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit.

Which days are included in the paschal triduum? With a recent understanding of Holy Week, many would name Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, with Easter Sunday identified as a separate observance. However, a more ancient counting would include Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. A Jewish understanding of time begins the day at sundown. Hence, the triduum begins at sundown on Maundy Thursday as we enter the Three Days.

As many congregations are recovering the ancient observance of the Three Days, the designation of Holy Week with its tendency to historicize "events" in Jesus' last week of earthly life may need to be reconsidered. The concept of Holy Week often led to Easter Sunday as the climax, but to observe the Three Days is to find the heart of the church year in the celebration of the triduum itself.

The Three Days is our Christian Passover. We are not trying to recreate first-century Jerusalem; rather, we are participating in the mysteries at the core of our faith. Distinctions between past, present, and future disappear. Like Jews who observe the Passover in light of their current context, we mark the Three Days not as a way to go back in time but to let the spiritual power of death and resurrection be unleashed for us today. With Christ we "pass over" from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

With the preparations of Lent behind us, we enter the Three Days with great joy and anticipation. A traditional entrance antiphon for Maundy Thursday invites us to glory in the cross which is our life, salvation, and resurrection. Because death and resurrection are intertwined, the Maundy Thursday liturgy begins with a note of triumph. This moment is our Easter Passover. The cross is our resurrection. Death is the gate to new life. Surrender is the path to victory. On Good Friday the cross is acclaimed as the tree of life that brings healing and salvation to the world. We do not wait until Easter morning to proclaim the vindication of this apparent defeat, but we lift high the cross as the very sign that we find life in the midst of death.

For these three days we put everything else aside so that we may attend to the awesome mystery that defines our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! In a sense time stops and we enter eternity. We have waited a year to celebrate these powerful liturgies, and we savor every moment. We are not merely commemorating events from the past; we are participating in the very mystery at the center of our lives. Baptismal dying and rising with Christ is not only our baptismal vocation, it is our sure and certain hope.

The words of these days are the scriptures, hymns, and rites that mark our Christian identity. Yet the images of the liturgies may speak even more powerfully to our souls and bodies. A basin of water and the washing of feet are a sign of Jesus' self-offering and his ultimate sacrifice on the cross, even as the new commandment calls us to empty ourselves for the sake of others. A wooden cross carried among the assembly and honored with adoration is our wordless response to the great mystery before us. The blazing new fire on an early spring evening stirs in us yet another invitation to new beginnings. The paschal candle carried into a dark worship space starkly contrasts darkness with the radiant light of Christ's resurrection. New Christians bathed in water and anointed with oil are signs of the body of Christ taking on flesh and blood in our midst. The first Eucharist of Easter is none other than our eating and drinking the rich abundance of the promised land.

When the Three Days is observed with careful planning, joyful intentionality, and reverent celebration, it becomes the heartbeat of a parish's life together. The triduum is the center of the year; Lent flows to it and Easter flows from it. In these holy days we find both our identity and our mission—remembered in the past, made present through word and sacrament, and propelling us with invincible hope into the future.

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The Place Where We Are Right

by Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai

From the place where we are right
Flowers will never grow
In the spring.

The place where we are right
Is hard and trampled
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves
Dig up the world
Like a mole, a plow.
And a whisper will be heard in the place
Where the ruined
House once stood.

God of infinite mercy and goodness, with grateful hearts we pray to you today for peace. You offer us your peace continually, and you constantly remind us that peacemakers are blessed "for they shall be called children of God." May your voice resound in the hearts of all as you call us to follow the path of reconciliation and peace, and to be merciful as you are merciful. We pray to you for the people of the Ukraine, Russia, and all in that region of the world who are experiencing conflict, violence, injury, grief, displacement and death. Bless the leaders with wisdom, vision and perseverance needed to build together a world of justice and solidarity, and to break down walls of hostility and division. Let us walk: in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Holy Week Homecoming

An open letter to the Congregation Council...

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Congregation Council,

As we begin with new council membership, I want to welcome and thank each of you for your willingness to serve for the sake of our Lord Jesus and his body the church in its expression at Sts. Peter and Paul. I am deeply grateful for the gifts you are willing to share in this particular ministry which can sometimes require personal sacrifice, candid and respectful debate, as well as the difficult challenges of making Spirit-filled decisions for the common good and the well-being of the whole—beyond our individual preferences or opinions—as has been especially true since the outset of the pandemic.

During these days of Lent—now after almost three seasons—I am very much looking forward to a full Holy Week and Easter. With hope-filled prayers, may we yearn for a "family reunion" of the congregation, the stirring of the Holy Spirit among us in revival, and the powerful expression of our Lord's living, loving presence in the glory of his cross and resurrection.

As we move toward these most holy days of the church year, I ask you to consider how this reunion, revival and resurrected life might be envisioned, planned and experienced by the congregation and especially by those households among us who have been absent throughout the years (!) of pandemic. I encourage you to begin reaching out with a personal invitation for others to be present and together with us in our times of worship, witness and fellowship in this season beginning Palm Sunday through Easter Day as we rejoice in God's power to raise life from death.

With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

Rest and renewal to each of you during these days of Lent. I am

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Dennis



Memorial Flowers

March 6th: In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his birth on March 6th and in memory of parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

March 13th: In loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +Robert Skudrna+ on the 1st anniversary of his passing on March 15th by remembering wife Sue and children Kristi Skudrna and Jason Skudrna and his family Brooke, Lyla, and granddaughter Skylar.

March 20th: In loving memory of +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the 79th anniversary of their wedding on March 20th by remembering son Charles.

March 27th: In loving memory of dear mother and grandmother +Betty Kany+ on the second anniversary of her passing on March 8th by remembering children Dr. Robert Kany and Liz Rouck, son-in-law Mark, and grandchildren Dr. John and Lauren.

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or, if attending in-person worship, sign-up on the sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall. *The final day for ordering is Thursday, April 7th.* You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.



The Unison Benediction (A Scottish Blessing)

May the blessing of light be on you—light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that the stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines
and sometimes a star.
And may the blessing of the earth be on you,
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of the day.
And may it rest easy over you when, at last you lie under it.
May it rest so lightly over you
that your soul may be out from under it quickly,
up and on its way to God.
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen



Birthdays

Apr. 1: Betty Mocek	Apr. 15: Susan Jones
Apr. 3: Betty Licko-Keel	Apr. 19: Dorothy Myers
Michelle Ruska	Apr. 20: Anna Bulir
Rafael Martinez	Apr. 21: Gregg Valek
Apr. 4: Anne Marie D'Alexander	Apr. 22: Hannah Boike
John McShane	Apr. 24: Paul Watkiss
Apr. 6: Krystina Gomez	Apr. 26: Susan Gillund
Kathi Zinsser	Carol Triska
Apr. 7: Benjamin Myers	Apr. 27: John Hassel
Apr. 11: Arnost Bulir	Apr. 29: Arden Kurhayeze
Joshua Czerak	Courtney Kurhayeze
Diane Ritacco	Laura Teter
Apr. 13: Robert Kavicky	

Anniversaries

April 9, 1982: Joseph and Carol Ruiz
April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones

News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Dear Friends,
Happy Easter! We will be “springing” into April with crafts, songs and activities about Easter, spring, and weather.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

Memorials and Honorariums

✧ For the Church ✧

Martin and Ann Pennino, in memory of dear sister +Donna Tuider+.
Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Donna Tuider+.
Sue Renville, in memory of husband +Dale+, and father +Steve Podzamsky+.
Esther Meksto, in memory of husband +Edward Meksto+ on the anniversary of his passing on March 20th.
Terry Sullivan (*facility usage for jazz concert*).
Edward and Joyce Svancara (*for newsletter publication and mailing*).

How Worship Practices Form Us for Ministry in Daily Life!

A Life of Faith Initiative Resource
by Craig L. Nesson of Wartburg Theological Seminary

Great Thanksgiving and Communion: “The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.” In the Great Thanksgiving we recall the gift of Christ’s death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead and all the benefits we receive from our God as a result of Christ’s generosity. “It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...” Throughout the Eucharistic Prayer we rehearse God’s saving deeds done on behalf of God’s people and we follow Jesus’ own command to eat the bread and drink the cup, in which sacrament of eating and drinking Jesus himself promises us his real presence. In the Holy Communion, which designates not only the sharing of the meal but the entire worship service, Jesus Christ is really present to present us his gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Here is a meal, we claim, where all people are welcome. Here is a meal, we trust, where there is enough for all. At our celebration of the Lord’s Supper we receive a foretaste of the eternal feast to come in God’s kingdom. The life practices embedded in the Holy Communion are too many to name. At the very least here we learn to be a people of radical hospitality, welcoming all people as our neighbors, as Jesus Christ has welcomed us. At the very least here we learn to be a people of radical generosity, sharing with our neighbors the love of the One who first loved us. By our participation in the Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion, we are formed to be a people whose entire lives are lived in communion with others and with God’s creation as a Great Thanksgiving: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1).

February 2022

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$2,500.00

Date	Offering
2/6	\$2,211.00
2/13	\$1,412.00
2/20	\$1,242.00
2/27	\$3,562.00

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DATED MATERIAL

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

April 3rd:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Palm Sunday, April 10th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Maundy Thursday, April 15th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

Good Friday, April 15th:

Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: John Broussard, Jane Lauritsen, J. T. and Beverly Tarbox, Carrie Watkiss, Tom Myers, Brandon Michaels, and Joanne Sefara.
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

Easter Sunday, April 17th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: John Broussard
Ushers: Fred Kuzel and John Kostelny

April 24th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 1st:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

May 8th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

May 15th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Fred Kuzel

May 22nd:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

May 29th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Carole Pollitz and Kristine Boike

Worship Servers Please Note...
...that if you are unable to keep your scheduled date, please arrange for a replacement and call the church office with the change. Thank you.