



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

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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.

Images of the Season for Easter

What image comes to mind when you think of Easter—Jesus getting up and walking out of the tomb? Actually, none of the resurrection stories gives a detailed description of what happened in the tomb, other than to say that the Crucified One was raised. We are not told that the hand of God reached into the tomb to jostle Jesus from his death sleep, or that the Holy Spirit came into the tomb to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. Whatever happened in that tomb was something beyond human understanding. So the primary image for Easter is a profound absence: just the empty tomb itself.

Matthew gives additional details about the entombment of Jesus that enhance our understanding of the resurrection. He relates how the Jewish religious authorities requested that the tomb be sealed and that guards be posted, so that the body could not be stolen and the claim made that Jesus had been raised. Jesus became a prisoner of the tomb. But it is death itself, not the guards, who is the jailer. Fittingly, in the Easter hymn "Come, you faithful, raise the strain" (LBW 132) we sing that "Christ has burst his prison" (st. 2).

Of course the rolling away of the stone did not release Jesus from the tomb, for he had already been raised and gone ahead of the disciples to Galilee. In the resurrection Jesus transcended time, space, and death—those things that limit human existence. So the stone was not rolled away for Jesus, but for the disciples and for us. We need to see the evidence that the "right hand of the Lord has triumphed" (Psalm 118:16) in raising Jesus so that we might believe, and through believing "have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Jesus' victory over death is but a foretaste of God's final victory over death in the age to come. Isaiah anticipates God's ultimate defeat of death (25:7) when he speaks of God destroying "the shroud that is cast over all peoples" and swallowing up death forever. Death having been defeated, the only thing left for God's people to do is to throw a big celebration, replete with the best food and wine. Each repetition of the Lord's Supper anticipates the new life of the end-time, and the risen Lord comes again to share with us the gifts of eternal life in the bread and wine, which are his own body and blood.

Other images for the Easter season remind us that Jesus' victory over death was not for his sake alone—a divine tour de force—but was for us and for our salvation. Jesus' resurrection is the precondition for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is also the precondition for our new birth as God's sons and daughters destined to receive a permanent inheritance (1 Peter 1:4), and for our being ransomed from the ways of sin and death with Christ's own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The good shepherd image of John 10 is also one that we associate with Easter, specifically, the fourth Sunday of Easter. Why Easter? The

reason is that Jesus can only be our good shepherd insofar as he himself has conquered death. He lays down his life (that is, sacrifices himself) for his sheep, but he takes it up again, and he can share the power of eternal life with the sheep who hear his voice (10:10, 28). Only the one who has conquered death can be the guardian of God's sheep.

Jesus' victory over the grave is completed in the Ascension and at the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus ascends not just to another place, but to another age, the future reign of God where sin and death have no power. As the one who conquered death, Jesus ascends to take his rightful place in the dominion where the power of eternal life has full sway. Jesus takes his place in the future reign of God for us. He pours out his Spirit on the church to empower it for mission in the world (Acts 1:8), and through the sacramental means of grace—proclamation of the word, the meal of thanksgiving, and the cleansing and renewing bath—Jesus comes in the power of the Holy Spirit to incorporate us into the reign of God. The risen Lord, death's conqueror, gives us a share in what will be our future glory with him.

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following persons who donated Easter lilies for the chancel and Lord's Table.

Ruth Bakalich
Fred Kuzel
Esther Meksto
Martin and Ann Pennino
John and Shirley Kostelny



From the Worship and Music Committee

The members of the committee would like to thank everyone who participated in and/or was a part of making our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful this year. Special thanks to the following:

- Carrie Watkiss for coordinating the Passion Reading offered for the Palm Sunday service.
- Rhonda and Delilah Washington for catering our Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch.
- Linda Painter for organizing the bell choir anthem offered on Easter Sunday.
- Parish Musician David Richards for coordinating the special musicians and leading our adult choir.
- Office Administrator Karen Rouleau for creating and sending bulletins and worship readings so individuals could prepare.
- Pastors Philip Lund, Ken Johnson, and Marnie Rourke for their openness to work with us in leading the services.

—Charles Matthies, *Worship and Music Chair*

Side Note: Thank you to Chuck Matthies for scheduling pulpit supply each week and especially during this past Holy Week and Easter season, We appreciate your determination and dedication!

—Karen Rouleau, *Administrative Assistant*

Passages

Burials:

Gerald Alan “J.T.” Tarbox, 74 year old husband of Beverly, father to Nico, and brother-in-law of David Richards, passed from this life on April 10th. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held on April 17th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Inurnment was private at Mt. Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst.

Mary Louise Sasuta, 94 years old, wife of the late Nicholas, mother of Susan Robb, Nancy Brown, James Sasuta, and Janet Broussard, passed from this life on March 27th and was buried from the church on April 1st. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.



Birthdays

May 5: Skylar Skudrna	May 18: Brian Bucz
May 6: Jonathan Drahos	Colin Sender
May 7: Charlene Patula	May 19: Sean Jones
May 11: Jake Collins	May 27: Kristina Patel
Karole Gaydusek	May 28: Timothy Sender
May 12: Caitlin McShane	May 29: Thomas Myers
May 13: Joseph Hassel	May 30: Ella Rose Miller
Kenneth Hurbanis	May 31: Thomas Murray

Anniversaries

May 8, 1971: Walter and Judith Cudecki
May 15, 2010: George and Catherine Pagurko
May 16, 2009: Jeffrey and Lisa Triska
May 20, 2006: Paul and Jessica Drahos
May 23, 1993: Earl, Jr. and Rita Mika
May 25, 1968: John and Shirley Kostelny
May 28, 2017: John and Valerie Borysek
May 28, 2021: Ekatarina and Nick Riha
May 28, 1995: Jennifer and Benjamin Smith
May 29, 1994: Jillian and James Collins



*Today where sun rises on hills of fresh sorrow
tomorrow where stars set upon fields of old pain
we will do the day's work to bring comfort and healing
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where souls suffer, despairing and fearful
tomorrow where whole lives are crushed under strain
we will do the day's work to bring peace, to bring courage
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the parched and scarred earth yields no bounty
tomorrow where war-weary ground gives no grain
we will do the day's work to bring hope to the hungry
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the foxes of evil still threaten
tomorrow where tenderness so often is maimed
we will do the day's work to bring love and compassion
for this is Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

*Today where the forces of greed rule the kingdoms
tomorrow where powers of death hold their sway
we will do the day's work to bring justice and caring
for we are Christ's labour, fulfilled the third day*

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 3rd:

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

May 10th:

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

May 17th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny

May 24th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

May 31st:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel



For more information, news,
photos, worship videos and
sermons, visit us on the web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

Memorial Flowers

March 22nd: In loving memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather +Karl Kostelny+ on the 31st anniversary of his passing today by remembering son John and his family.

April 26th: In loving memory of +Anna Bzduch+ on the 100th anniversary of her birth on April 24th by remembering daughter and son-in-law Ann and Martin Pennino.

Please Note: The cost of altar flowers beginning April 1st has increased to \$25.00 per vase.

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

June 7th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

June 14th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

June 21st:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Walter Cudecki

June 28th:

Greeters: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Kristine Boike

Memorials and Honorariums

✠ For the Church ✠

Esther Meksto, in memory of husband +Edward Meksto+ on the 8th anniversary of his passing.
Brian Bucz, in memory of father +John Bucz+.
In loving memory of beloved husband +John Bucz+ on the anniversary of his death, by loving wife Audrey, son Brian, and dearest niece Adrienne Gana.
Jan Small, in memory of mother +Suzanne Janovic Bartizal+ and grandmother +Zuzanna Janovic Pribula.
Saturday Morning Big Book Study
Soda sales
Cornerstone Montessori School
In memory of dear mother +Irene Boor+ on the 10th anniversary of her passing, by remembering sons William R. and Richard T., daughter-in-law Debbie and their family.

✠ In memory of Mary Sasuta ✠

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of mother and mother-in-law James Sasuta, in memory of mother

Ann Vana	Michael and Judith Petrie
Lois Michaels	James and Kathleen Miller
Charles Matthies	Ann Kmet
Edward and Joanne Sefara	Martin and Ann Pennino
Fred Kuzel	Thomas and Vicki Michaels
John and Shirley Kostelny	Anonymous
William Boor	Joseph and Jacqueline Adamski
Judy Balogh	John and Gail Poremba
Mary Ellen Dvorak	Maggie Opal
Sue Zielinski	

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DATED MATERIAL

Mother’s Day

While the Mother’s Day that we celebrate on the second Sunday in May is a fairly recent development, the basic idea goes back to ancient mythology—to the long ago civilizations of the Greeks and Romans.

The Greeks paid annual homage to Cybele, the mother figure of their god, and the Romans dedicated an annual spring festival to the mother of their gods.

Mothering Sunday

In 16th-century England, a celebration called “Mothering Sunday” was inaugurated— Sunday set aside for visiting one’s mother. The eldest son or daughter would bring a “mothering cake,” which would be cut and shared by the entire family. Family reunions were the order of the day, with sons and daughters assuming all household duties and preparing a special dinner in honor of their mother. Sometimes during the day, the mother would attend special church services with her family.

Ann M. Jarvis

After her mother died in 1905, Miss Anna Jarvis wished to memorialize her life and started campaigning for a national day to honor all mothers.

Her mother, known as “Mother Jarvis,” was a young Appalachian homemaker and lifelong activist who had organized “Mother’s Day Work Clubs” to combat unsanitary living conditions. During the Civil War, Mother Jarvis had also organized women’s brigades, encouraging women to help without regard for which side their men had chosen. At the time, there were many special days for men, but none for women.

On May 10, 1908, a Mother’s Day service was held at a church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Ann’s mother had taught. Thus was born the idea that the second Sunday in May be set aside to honor all mothers, dead or alive.

Mother’s Day

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called “Mother’s Day”—dedicated “to the best mother in the world, your mother.”

For the first few years, the day was observed as a legal holiday, but in absolute simplicity and reverence—church services were held in honor of all mothers, living and dead.

Puzzle of the Month:

*What flowers can be found between the nose and chin?
Puzzle answer: Tulips (two lips)*

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A Mother’s Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, to you I pray...
On this day called, “Mother’s Day.”
Let all mother’s on earth give praise,
To you... for the children that you gave.

For you have blessed them from above,
with little souls to nourish and love.
Let them mold each one with care...
And teach them to be kind and share.

Forgiveness is the special key...
Start early on, to help them see.
Their fragile minds are easily impressed.
Please teach them ways, so they’ll be blessed.

Sow godly seeds into their minds.
With careful pruning, you will find...
Young adults with such strong roots,
all through life, will bear rich fruit.

And then have faith for God to show...
Them all the rest they have to know.
Remember they’re His children too.
For they were only lent to you.

—*author unknown*

