



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Road  
Riverside, Illinois 60546  
Telephone: (708) 442-5250  
Parsonage: (708) 442-0238  
Fax: (708) 442-5264

Web page: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
Email address: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service](mailto:www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service)

**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in an offering plate.*

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**  
*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

**GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**PRELUDE**

**\*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live.

*A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Holy God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN      *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*  
(Sung by leader.)

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

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

\*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



The Holy Gospel according to St. John... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence is observed.*

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought, especially Lutheran World Relief. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered in silence or spoken softly.*

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises, remembering especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



**MEAL**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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 him 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel,

the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land,

the words of the prophets;

and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,

who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever. **Amen.**



**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

*Spoken softly by the congregation.*

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

**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**

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**\*BLESSING**

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

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you + peace. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  
(Sung by leader.)

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

\*DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Duet*

Delibes



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Carrie Watkiss

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Ruth Bakalich

## PRAYER LIST

### *Members of the Congregation:*

Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Ann Head, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Dot Myers, George Pagurko, Steve Podzamsky, Mary Sasuta, Bob Skudrna and Olga Zavodny

### *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*

Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daus, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, Marjorie Hudnall, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Daryle Lauritsen, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Celia Martinez, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Dr. Craig Reckard, Dale Renville, Sandy Rossella, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Ralph Thompson, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Taz Zajac

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461*

*Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>*

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

*Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*

*Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>*

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

<b>Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering</b> <b>March 7<sup>th</sup> , 2021</b>	
<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2020:</i>	\$2,597.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00