



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

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. 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 the offering plate.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

HOLY COMMUNION *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY**

We are called to bring a new understanding of God:
that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God:
that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow
the commandments and the law.

**The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.**

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,
the light of the world.

**Come, let us love one another
with the love of God.**

Let us join together in our love of God
to worship and follow Jesus.

—Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of light and peace,

we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reunite us with one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior and Lord Jesus. Amen

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

ELW 404

***GREETING**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the One who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:21-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**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**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord God, you set before us commandments that affect our very lives. We can only obey you by loving you above all others. Give us the will and the skill to love you with all our hearts, minds and strength. Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

Holy Spirit, help us understand the hard teachings of Jesus about anger, name-calling, bearing false witness, fidelity and marriage. Even before we come to understand, give us the strength to obey. Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

We bring before you the needs of all countries and communities who seek to care for one another. Help us to not merely rely upon governments for justice, but to seek and do justice in our own daily lives. Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

We look forward to the coming of spring and the flowering of the earth from her winter's sleep. Renew us also, that we may bloom like flowers, ready to bring beauty to one another. Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

For those among us who need care, help us be the care-givers. When we name their names before you in prayer, help us also to be a real presence to those we know, especially... Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

Other prayers may be offered here in speech or silence.

Holy Spirit, comfort and sustain us until we gather with all the saints around the throne of God, remembering especially... Let us walk: **In the light of the Lord.**

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the One who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen

***PEACE**

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



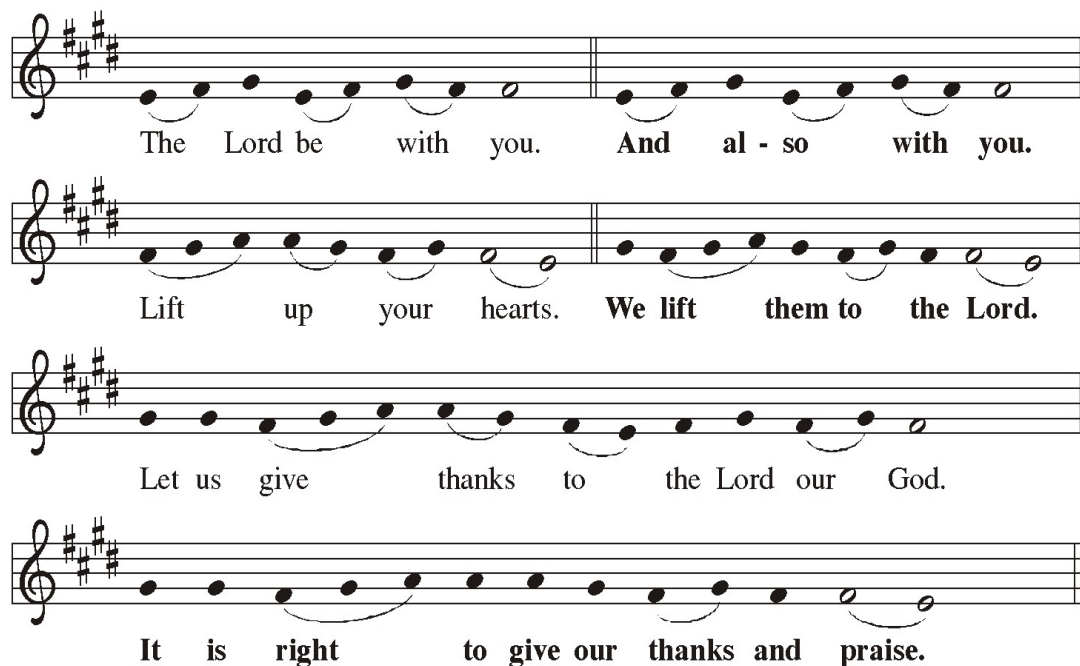
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

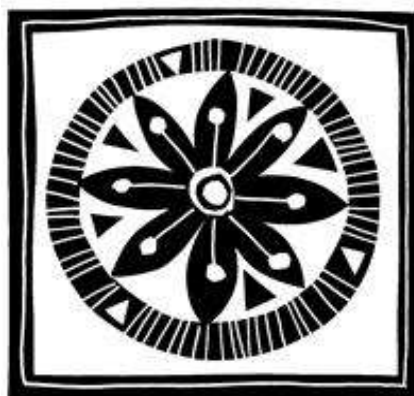
Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE

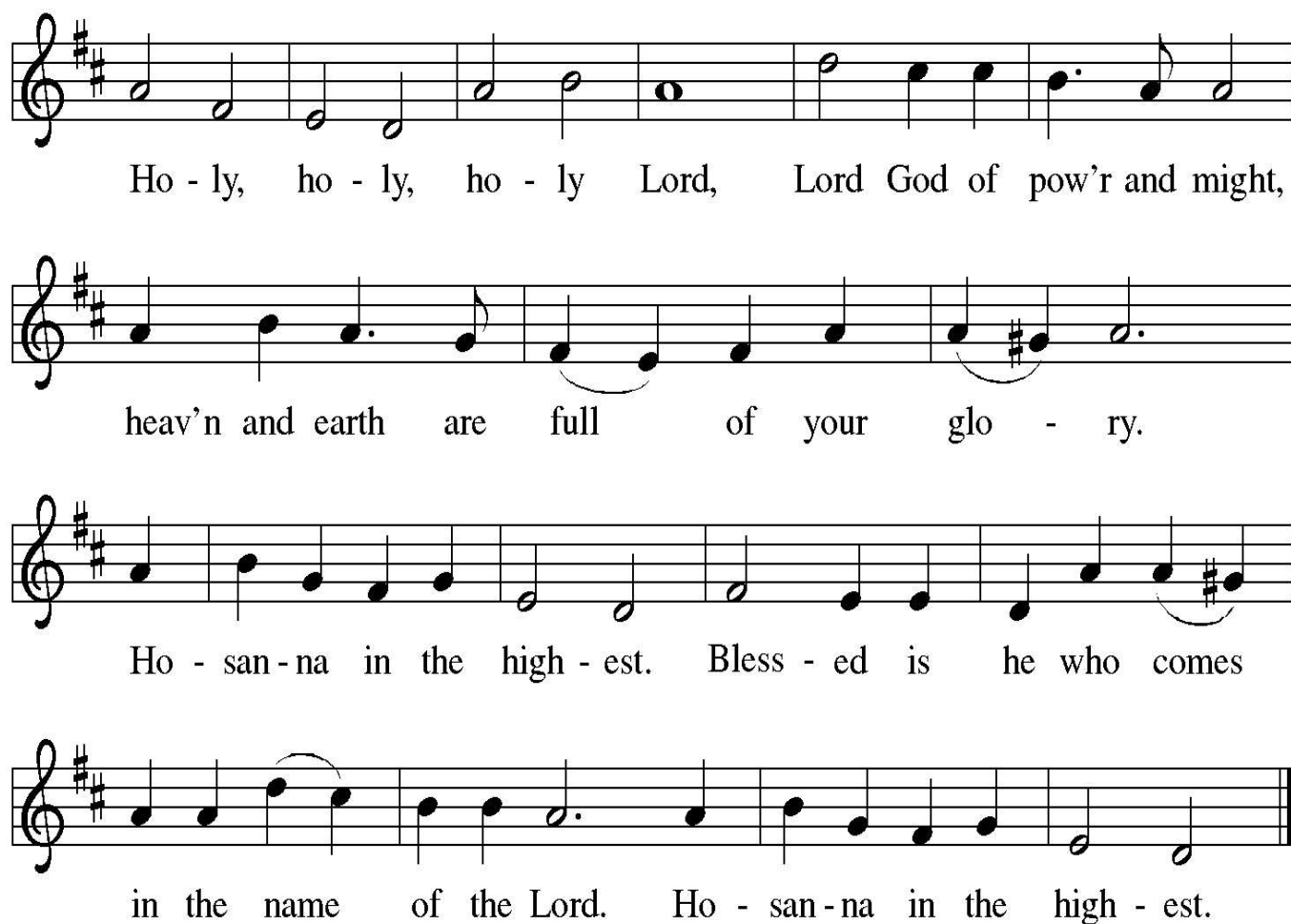


*PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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**

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

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. O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Brandon Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

John Broussard

GREETER

Ann Kmet

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Janice Hapgood

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, Beverly Podzamsky, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Ellen Bailey, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Julie Patron, Pat Pileggi, Alice Puglise, Gail Purcell, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Elaine Sorich, Peter Spilotro, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table are given in loving memory of **+Marie Elizabeth Lauritsen+** on the 101st anniversary of her birth today by her children and their families; and in memory of dear husband, father and grandfather **+Robert Skudrna+** on the anniversary of his birth on February 9th and on the second 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.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering February 5th, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd
Liturgy of Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes
at 7:15 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs
Tuesday, February 14th

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546
Saturday, February 18th

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

The Walter E. "Wally" Kessler Memorial Mardi Gras...



...on Saturday Evening, February 18th, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
book it in your calendars today!

*Food by Portillo's, compliments of the Kessler Memorial Fund,
entertainment, raffles, costume parade and more.*