



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 5th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at Easter. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

***WELCOME AND 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**

*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.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

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

PSALM

Psalm 121

Prayed in unison by the congregation.

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.
The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the One who watches over you fall asleep.
Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;
the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

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

Lenten Acclamation



Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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*GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

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

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



*CREED

**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

Heavenly Father, as you sent Abraham and Sarah to a new place and a new land, so you invite us to anticipate worlds beyond our imaginations. As we journey in faith, bless us with your presence that our life in your new world may be as real as this day. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giver to the dead, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you call into existence things that do not exist, things too wonderful for us to even imagine. You justify the ungodly with your own righteousness, and by faith we receive your grace as a pure gift. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus, as you taught Nicodemus heavenly things, give us ears to hear your heavenly Word, and a heart to accept your grace of a new birth from above. As you were lifted up upon the cross for us, so lift our hearts in faith that we may have eternal life with you. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

We bring to mind those persons among us in need of healing. Hear our prayers offered in faith that you already know the names of all who seek your touch, especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for the faithful departed, especially... and for the example of faith by which they lived, that it sustain us until we all enter the reign of God in its fullness. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

***PEACE**

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

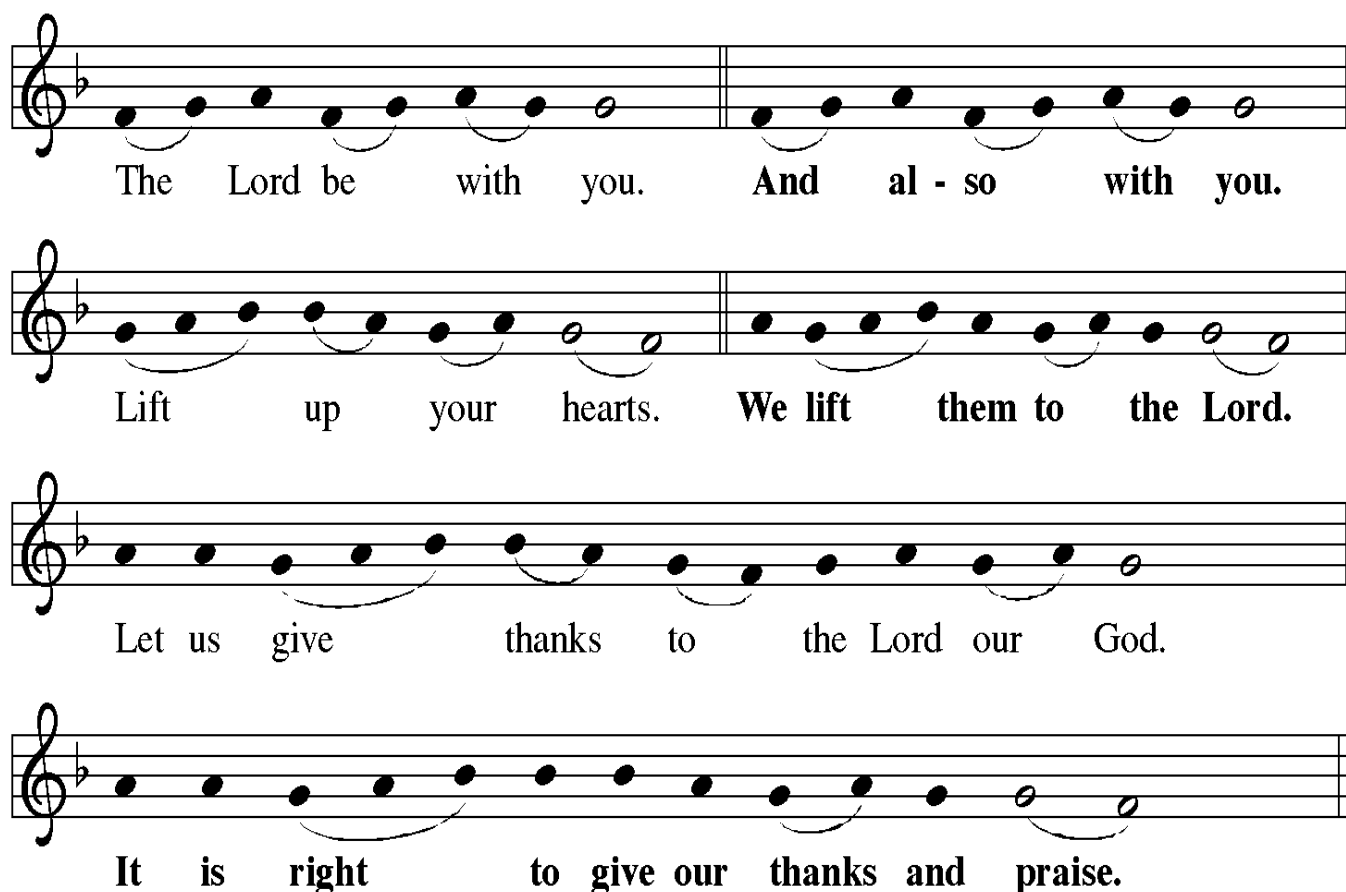
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. 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



*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:



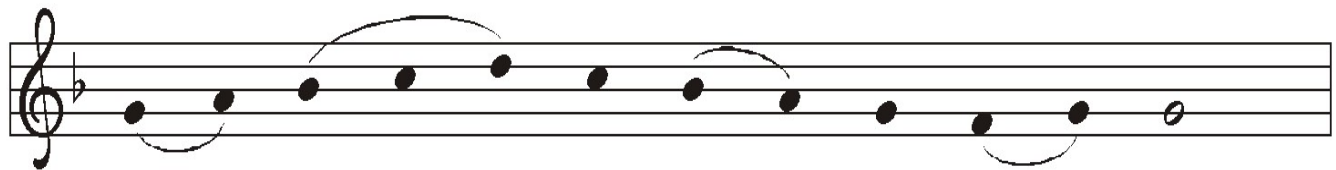
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en 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 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**

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***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**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

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

***BENEDICTION**

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**

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

ELW 442

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tom Myers

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

Emily Bittner

GREETER

Sandy Garvey

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

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 today are given in memory of **+Martin Selecky+** on the anniversary of his birth on March 6th, his parents **+Mary+** and **+Martin Selecky, Sr.+**, and sister **+Anna Dzurja+**.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering February 26th, 2023

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i> | \$2,527.00 |
| <i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i> | \$0.00 |
| <i>Shortage:</i> | \$0.00 |



Lenten Vespers and Supper

every Thursday in Lent, March 2nd thru March 30th.

Vespers (Evening Prayer) is sung at 7:00 p.m.,
preceded by Supper at 6:00.

*Sanctuary opens one half hour before Evening Prayer
for quiet meditation and personal prayer and reflection.*

You and your household, friends, groups or others are invited to **host a light soup supper** on a Thursday evening during Lent preceding Evening Prayer. A simple soup (from the store or made at home or in the church kitchen) with bread for 15-20 people would be much enjoyed and appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall at the usual place (lower west entrance). Thank you for considering this opportunity for Lenten prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread.



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead
on Saturday, March 11th. Daylight savings
time begins on Sunday, March 12th.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202
Tuesday, March 7th

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society
Friday, March 10th

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

St. Joseph Day Homemade Lasagna Luncheon

(even the noodles!)
including salad, desserts, beverages and coffee



Sunday, March 19th, 2023 at Noon
Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church

Proceeds of the luncheon will benefit the
Prokopchenko Family, our guests and neighbors from
Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine residing at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Hosted by Scott and Lenore Enloe
Willowbrook - Burr Ridge Kiwanis International
and the Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul.

*Please RSVP to one of these organizations
with your number of guests by Monday, March 13th.*

Donations payable to Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church (Memo:
Ukraine Benefit).

More information at www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
or by calling 1.708.442.5250

COMING INTO THE LIGHT

Today Abraham and Sarah follow God's call to go "to the land that I will show you," traveling into the unknown toward what they have never seen. In our gospel it is night when Nicodemus comes to Jesus and they talk of birth, water, the Spirit, and the cross. For months, a baby in the womb hears its family's voices but can't see them. Being born entails being pushed into baffling, blinding, unfamiliar light. Seeing is a process. So is knowing and being born again. In the gospel verses after today's reading Jesus offers a choice: doing evil and hiding, or doing the truth and coming into the light.

Nicodemus begins, "We know that you are a teacher." Jesus counters with riddles about the unknowable wind, leaving Nicodemus perplexed. Nicodemus's faith is sometimes described as imperfect; but neither do the friends of Jesus always comprehend in the moment.

The Last Supper will bring actual water and more talk of knowledge and love. Jesus, bending to wash Peter's feet, will promise, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand" (John 13:7). God sends Jesus not to condemn, but to save.

During the course of the Gospel Nicodemus will reappear to challenge his fellow Pharisees about their due process, and finally will help give the tormented body of Jesus a decent burial. Though today Nicodemus leaves the room scratching his head, something will germinate within where we can't see.

Lent means spring. This week, in the northern hemisphere, day will be longer than night. If only by a minute or two each day—a process gradual, subtle, but steady—we are all coming into the light. We travel toward Maundy Thursday's footwashing and Good Friday's cross—where we will see again how God loves the world, and Jesus loves his own to and beyond the end.

