



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 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 the offering plate.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

HOLY COMMUNION

WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

***GATHERING**

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

PRELUDE

***WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

Rejoice then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***GATHERING HYMN**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385

***GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

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

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

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

ELW, pages 227-231

PRESENTATION AND *PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

*CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

BAPTISM

*WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need... Gracious God: Your voice sings in the church. Bless our worship, that sharing bread in Communion, we also share abundantly with people in every place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sings in creation. Preserve pastures and city parks, oceans and local water sources, so that nature is a source of life and protection for all creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sings among the nations. Curb the desire for revenge; turn us from dishonest speech and deceitful living; lead us in your truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sings among those in need: the poor, the homeless, the suffering, the afflicted, the ill and hospitalized, especially... We pray for those who will die this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sings in our homes. Open the hearts of those who provide care, that Christ's love would be revealed in the generosity shown to all your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints, especially... who, having followed your voice in this life, now dwell with you forever, joining their voices in endless praise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

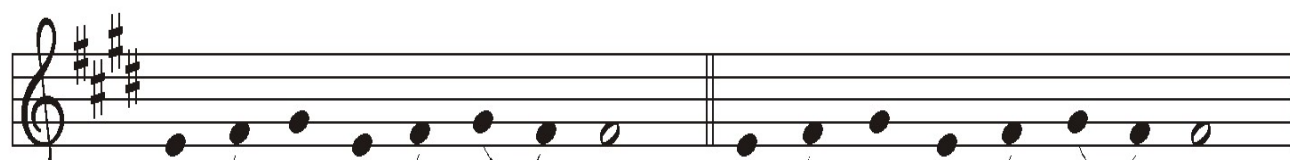
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.


*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**


*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

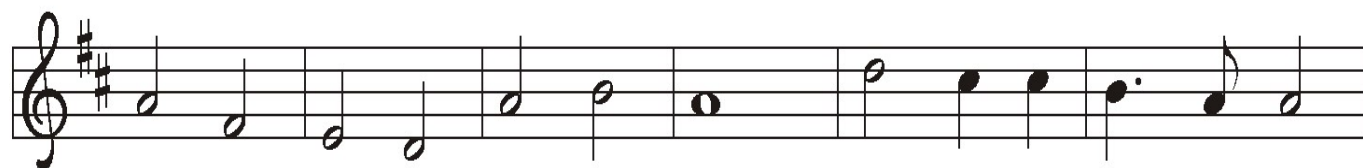


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

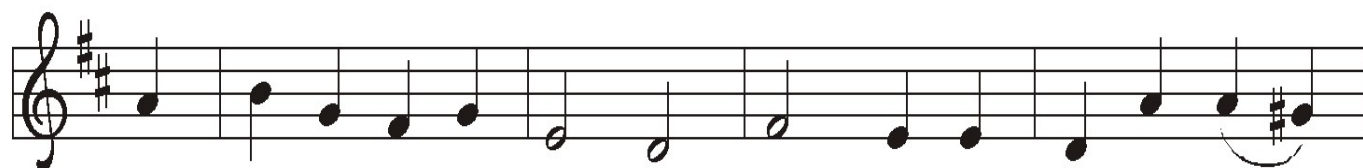
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



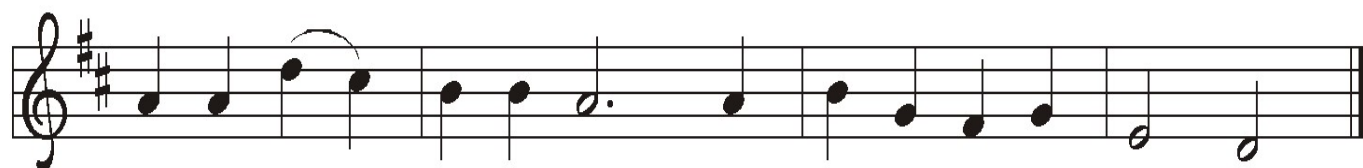
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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**

*EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

DISTRIBUTION

*BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen

*SENDING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

ELW 361

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

George Valek

GREETER

Sandy Garvey

LIVE STREAM

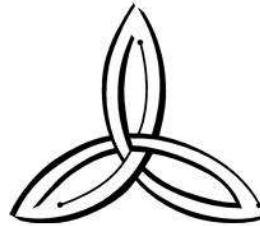
Paul Watkiss

USHER

George Valek

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Edward and Joanne Sefara



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, James Broussard, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Gene Head, 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, Kathy Stenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Jerry Ullrich, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated today for **Lyla Antinette Yamamoto**, daughter of Benjamin Yamamoto and Shawna Brooke Bocek, and **Skylar Anne Skudrna**, daughter of Jason Skudrna and Shawna Brooke Bocek. As members of the body of Christ, we promise with their parents and Godparents to nurture the growth of Lyla and Skylar in the covenants of their baptism. We welcome these children into the Lord's family and receive them as members with us of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the dominion of God. Lyla's sponsors are Joseph Struck and Laura Bocek. Skylar's sponsors are Joseph Smutny and Kristi Skudrna.



Lux Cantorum Presents

Celestial Theater



May 5, 7:30pm

Resurrection Lutheran Church
3309 Seminary Avenue, Chicago, IL

May 7, 4:00pm

Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, IL

May 13, 7:30pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church
460 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL

Tickets: \$25



75TH

ANNIVERSARY
SEASON



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY

A reception celebrating the 75th Anniversary of LCC will be held following the concert on Sunday, May 7th, at St. Peter and Paul with the recognition of the 15th anniversaries of Artistic Director Wilbert O. Watkins and Accompanist Joan Hutchinson.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Philip and James, Apostles

Monday, May 1st

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Tuesday, May 2nd

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Thursday, May 4th

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

April 23rd, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ 972.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,555.00

Thank you again to everyone who contributed in any way toward making the **Spring Rummage and Bake Sale** a wonderful community outreach and fellowship event as well as another successful fund-raising effort. Thanks especially to event coordinator Vera Borysek for her months of preparation and hard work!

THE TRUE SHEPHERD'S POWER

Two students on a college campus were talking about farming; the young man from a rural area knew something about it and the young city-bred woman did not. She asked him how high a fence you need to keep cows in. "It depends on the farmer," he replied. On the farmer? "Yup," he said. "There are some ranchers who round their cattle up with helicopters. They need solid wood fences that are, like, six feet high. And then there are some farmers who go out into the pasture and call their cows by name. They need some sticks and a piece of string." In other words, such a farmer's cattle wouldn't want to get away; for them a fence is just a reminder of where they belong, where they know they want to be.

Using a little cowboy-style exaggeration, this young man was speaking a deep truth: the power that really matters here is the power of relationship. This is the deep truth behind Jesus' words today about shepherding. The true shepherd knows his own sheep and calls them all by name; they follow him because they know his voice and they know what that voice promises them. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says again and again that the saving power of God he brings is not "power over," not power of a master over servants or a lord over subjects. "I do not call you servants . . . but I have called you friends," Jesus says (John 15:15). The saving power of God is "power between," the power a voice has to draw us when it calls us by name and when we hear the love in it.

Today that voice calls us home to be fed and out from the sheepfold into the world. We follow because we can hear the shepherd knows us, and because we can hear that he is counting not on our compliance but only on our trust.

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by Julien Dupre, 1851-1910