



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
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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.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's Table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

***GATHERING**

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

PRELUDE

La Bealltainn

Ailie Robertson

***WELCOME AND THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism... Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen

*GATHERING HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised

ELW 449

*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. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

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

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

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

*GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

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

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need... You abide with your church, O God. Empower us with your Spirit, so that your people speak and live the love revealed in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your creation, O God. Breathe on fields and forests, lakes and oceans, and all living things so that they thrive as you intend. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with the nations, O God. Reveal your truth, so that nations and peoples govern in peace and advocate for justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You abide with the needy, O God. Cheer the sorrowful, protect the orphan, support the grieving, and heal the sick, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other prayers may be offered in speech and silence.

You abide with the fearful, O God. Transform fear into freedom for the life Christ has promised. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember, O God, those who have died in the faith, especially... Assure us of your life-giving Spirit until that day when we will abide with you forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**



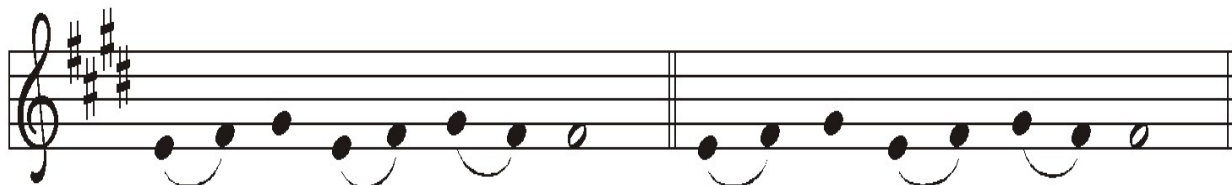
MEAL

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.

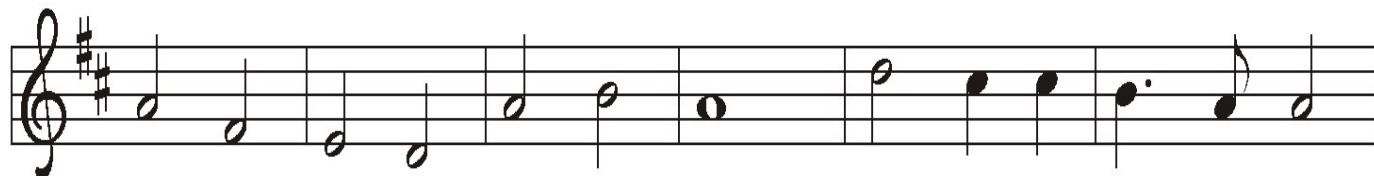


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR EASTER

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:

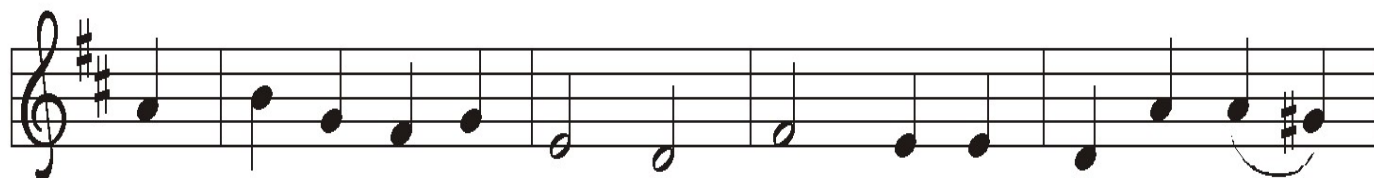
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



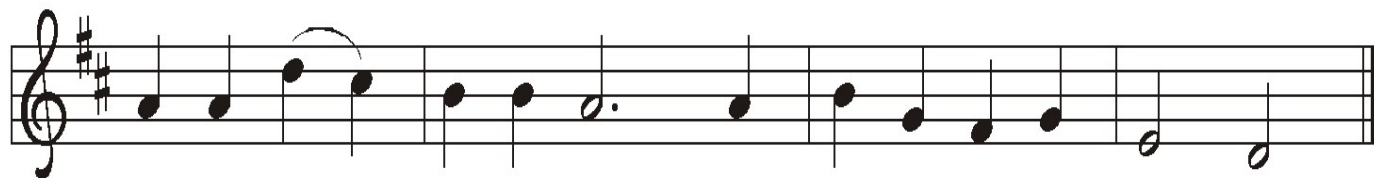
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

***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**

Our Father, by Whose Name

ELW 640

***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

The Lilac Flower

Sunita Stanislaw

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tom Myers

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Carrie Watkiss

GREETER

Karyn Bute

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Carole Pollitz and Jane Lauritsen

IN THE PRAYERS...

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 Bising, Ellen Bailey, James Broussard, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Gene Head, Bill Holmes, Rev. Cyril Hurnyak, 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, Mark Van Scharrel, Stevie Singer, Joan Watkiss and Mike Yavorski.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of dear mother +**Betty Zittman**+ on Mother's Day by remembering family, Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.



A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

God of all creation, pour out your blessing on all mothers and those who provide motherly care. You have made them in your image and given them children to love and care for in your name. Bless them with a heart like your heart: loving and kind, comforting and strong, nurturing and grace-filled. As they participate in your ongoing creativity, give them discernment to help their children discover their unique gifts. As they teach their children, grant them wisdom to know what is truly valuable. As they strive to share your unconditional love, give them long-suffering patience and a lively sense of humor. As they model your mercy, help them extend the forgiveness they themselves freely receive from you. In all circumstances fortify their faith, that they may love you above all. Amen

AROUND, IN, AND BESIDE

Both *The Lion King* and the Harry Potter series center on orphaned children. Teenaged Simba discovers that his murdered father "lives in you: in your reflection." The circle of Harry's beloved dead around him becomes a comforting, strengthening presence in his ordeals.

Like the love of other people who have first loved us, God is invisible but near. Today's readings understand our longings for both. In the gospel, "the world" neither sees nor knows the Spirit. Meanwhile Paul, in the marketplace of Athens, describes the entire human family searching for the God who is "not far from each one of us," in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28). What is unknown, Paul says, "I proclaim to you." Paul looks back, Jesus ahead. "I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus promises his wary friends; but "I am coming to you" in a new way. The Advocate (one called to a person's side) will be *beside* and *in* us—and we *in* God. Loneliness and fear are real, but will not be victorious. Grief and confusion will yield to insight.

During Easter the risen Christ appears, speaks as the good shepherd, and then prepares us for his ascent into heaven and the coming of the Spirit. This time of year, when shepherds herd their flocks to summer pastures, we move toward the green season. Culturally it is also a time of transitions, looking both back and ahead. On Memorial Day U.S. citizens remember those who have given their lives. We celebrate graduations, weddings, and promotions, but also anticipate the partings and changes they will bring.

We learn how God is beside, in, and around us by experiencing how absent family and friends remain in our memory and thoughts, and we in the fields of influence generated by their lives. We, God's offspring, look into baptismal waters and see our true and living reflection.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
May 7th, 2023	
<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00