



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](http://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 the offering plate.*

---

---

---

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

---

**HOLY COMMUNION**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209***

**GATHERING**

---

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND \*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

**Faithful God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen**

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God. **Amen**

\*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\*LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of power and glory; you promised to make your mighty presence known among the nations, and to strengthen your people to the end, when Christ will come in clouds to gather his people. As we light this candle, open our eyes to see the sin that separates us from you and from one another, and restore us again, that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stir up your might and come save us.

**Reveal your face to us, and give us life. Amen**

\*KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Jesus Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## WORD

---

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

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

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

### PSALM (*Prayed responsively by the leader and congregation.*)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,

shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;**

**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;**

**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;**

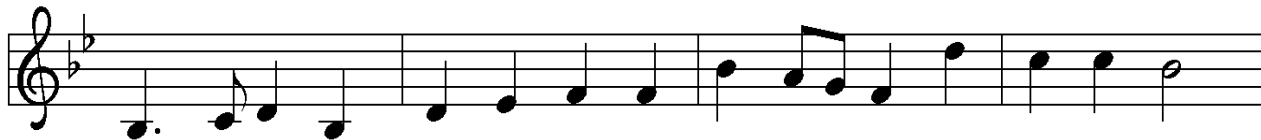
**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

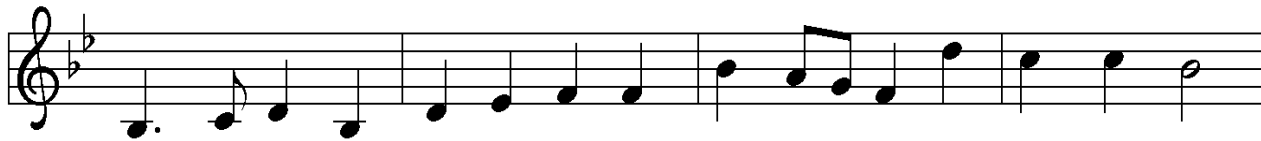
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 205



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## \*GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

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

Righteous God, you fulfill your promises with the coming of the Righteous Branch, Jesus Christ. As we follow his teachings, help us accept new ways of being just and righteous. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Remember us, Lord God, not by our transgressions, but according to your steadfast love. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy Spirit, strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may joyfully look forward to the coming of Jesus with all his saints. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Lord Jesus, when all around us is disaster and gloom, you tell us to look up, for then we shall see you coming in power and great glory. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy Spirit, as we contemplate the ending of the world, prepare us to be alert, that we may be able to stand before the Son of Man, rejoicing in his love, strength and glory. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Disease and death, remind us, Lord God, that we still have very real physical needs. Hear our prayers for those who need your healing, especially... Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

*Other prayers may be added here in speech and silence.*

You have clothed the saints in the light of Christ. Teach us to live in his ways until the great day when he comes to make all things new. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

\*PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Advent Glory and Joy*

MEAL

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and 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 our thanks and praise.**

\*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, 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**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Now share in the feast of salvation.

**\*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. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**SENDING**

---

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

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*Soon and Very Soon*

ELW 439

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Overture*

Händel

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

---

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tom Myers

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

LECTOR

J. T. Tarbox

GREETERS

Edward and Joanne Sefara

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

## IN THE PRAYERS

**Members of the Congregation:** Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Anita Horak, Marge Lemere, Luddy Kovalsky, Charles Matthies, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Betty Bartel, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Mary Kmet, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Mary Frances Mason, Michele Mason, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Pat Pileggi, Gail Purcell, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Gertrude Tarbox and Janie Tarbox.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather **+Larry Bakalich+** on the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on December 7<sup>th</sup> by remembering wife Ruth and family.

**ATTENTION:** If anyone has any vases from the altar flower orders, please leave these in the kitchen. Our florist's supply is running low. Thank you!

The Missions and Outreach Committee is hosting a **food drive to benefit the Riverside Food Pantry** which serves the communities of North Riverside, Brookfield, Lyons and Riverside. Grocery bags are available on the tables at the east end of the lower hallway and are to be **returned today**. Monetary donations would also be greatly appreciated.

**If you would like to order a poinsettia** to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17. The deadline for payment and sign-up is Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Offering envelopes for 2024** are available for **pick up today** in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so. Financial donations made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement.

On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., the congregation will host a **concert by the Baroque String Ensemble** from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. The hour long performance includes music by Vivaldi, Bach, Handel, Corelli and Telemann. This eighteen member ensemble features such period instruments as harpsichord, theorbo and violone. A free will offering will be welcomed and accepted.

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2022:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552*

*Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

*John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749*

*Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>*

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

*Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342*

*Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>*

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

*Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397*

*Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>*

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.



One Oakbrook Terrace, #501  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
708-771-7180 | LCFS.org

October 24, 2023

Rev. Dennis Lauritsen  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Rd  
Riverside, IL 60546-1900

providing hope, love and faith



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm reaching out to you - our cherished church partners - with an opportunity to change lives. For 150 years, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois has been a place of hope for children and families in crisis, thanks to your support.

You can change lives this Christmas by supporting the LCFS Family Support/Emergency Fund. It's a lifeline for those we serve when they need it most.

One child served by that fund who comes to mind is little Mia\*. Mia came to us scared, tired and hungry after she was removed from her home due to neglect. Mia's foster parents really wanted to help make her transition into their family easier and less traumatic.

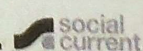
Thanks to contributions to the LCFS Family Support/Emergency Fund - from faithful supporters like you - we were able to provide Mia's foster parents with resources so they could get some furnishings for her room and specially decorate it in a princess theme after learning that's what she loved. That princess room helped make their home really feel like her home, too. Today Mia is thriving with her foster family!

I invite you to join other supporters in demonstrating God's love by making an end-of-year gift towards this special fund today! Your contribution will impact lives like Mia's - providing safety, comfort and hope.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season filled with peace and joy!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mike Bertrand  
President & CEO



LUX CANTORUM

Chicago's premier sacred choral ensemble  
Lux Cantorum Chicago presents:

# Manifest Love

*A testament to the power of spiritual love.  
Bringing solace, hope, and warmth to the season.*

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**4:00pm**

**Saints Peter & Paul Lutheran Church**

**250 Woodside Dr. Riverside IL**



This program is  
partially supported by  
a grant from the  
Illinois Arts Council



A reception in the dining hall will follow the performance today. For more information and ticket purchases, please visit [luxcantorum.org](http://luxcantorum.org). Another performance will be held this Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation sing with *Lux Cantorum*.

