



**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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m.- Noon

Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Email address: 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 10th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

"Comfort Ye My People" from *The Messiah*

Händel

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**

The Advent of Our God



- 1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
 3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
 him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
 nor let your faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
 and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
 let sin be put to flight;
 no longer let the law hold sway,
 but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
 who comes to set us free,
 with Father, Spirit, ever one
 through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
 Music: FRANCONIA, Johann B. König, 1691–1758, adapt.

*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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

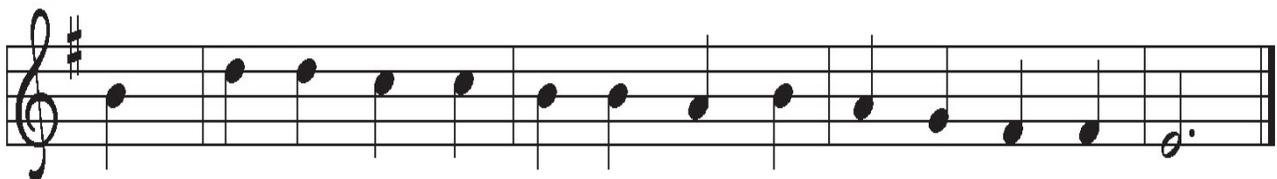
Holy are you, God of righteousness and peace; you promised to wait with patience for all to come to repentance, and to send your prophet to cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. As we light these candles, open our ears to hear you speak tenderly to your people; open our hearts to welcome you as a shepherd who gently leads the flock. Comfort us, O God, and forgive the sin of your people.

Reveal your glory to us, and speak to us your word of peace. 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

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

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

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



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 1:1-8

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

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

*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

Immanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

O God, our hope of unity, come to your church around the world. Purify your people and give to all the wisdom and courage to proclaim your word of forgiveness and renewal. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God our Savior, come to the earth that you made. Nurture the health of lands and seas. Give to plants and animals favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of peace, come to all the nations. Inspire heads of state and regional leaders with a passion for justice. Bring peace throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of love, come to everyone in need. Heal the sick. Answer the cries of those who are poor, those without housing, and those who have fled from violence or famine. We pray especially for... . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of compassion, come to our congregation and our community. This Advent, help us to prepare for your coming. Make us gifts to one another, that no one remains destitute or despairing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence

O Lord of hosts, we praise you for the lives of all the faithful, especially... Bring us with them to your feast of eternal compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

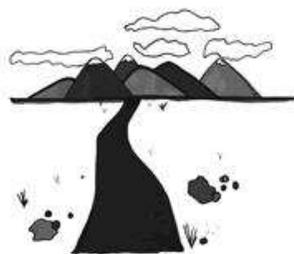
Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

ANTHEM

“Every Valley” from *The Messiah*



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.

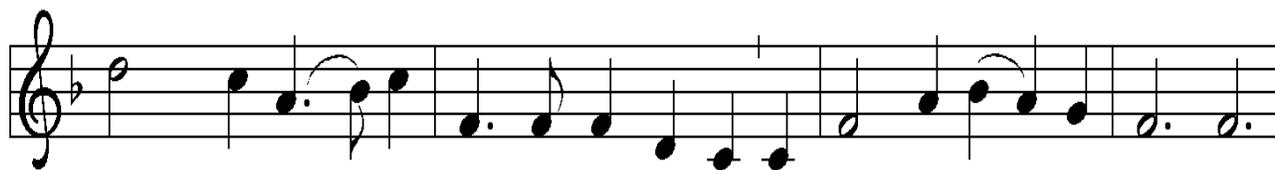
*PREFACE

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.

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. 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

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

SOLOIST

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Emily Bittner

GREETERS

Bettye Harden and Staci Harden

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

USHER

John Kostelny

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, 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 **+Anna Slahor+** on the anniversary of her birth and the 32nd anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Shirley Babyar.

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!

Our prayers and condolences are extended to the family and loved ones of **+Anita Louise Horak+** who passed from this life on Saturday, December 2nd. Visitation for Anita and her family is scheduled for this coming Friday, December 15th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hitzeman Funeral Home, 9445 West 31st Street in Brookfield with a morning visitation and liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving on Saturday, December 16th, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service at 10 a.m. also at Hitzeman's. We share the grief of Anita's loved ones but find solace and hope in the promise of the resurrection given to us through our baptism into Christ our Lord.

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 18th.

Oplatky, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available today and throughout the season of Advent. A donation of \$1.50 per package (½ dozen) is appreciated. The *oplatky* is available on a table near the kitchen serving window or through the church office during the week.

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 28th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement. **Calendars for the new year**, compliments of Hitzeman Funeral Home, are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and on tables in the dining hall. Please take copies for your household and for friends and neighbors.

Next Sunday, December 17th 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 is welcome.

Lord Jesus... send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and who seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" (Henri J. M. Nouwen).

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
December 3rd, 2023**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$3,416.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ 892.00

Advent and Christmas
at Sts. Peter and Paul



Fourth Sunday of Advent
and Christmas Eve

10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Children's Presentation

7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Candlelight

Christmas Day

at Ascension Lutheran Church
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside

10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

(No liturgy here on Christmas Day)

Save the Date
Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 12 noon



For more details, contact
Shirley Kostelny at 630-968-5204

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Wednesday, December 13th

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Thursday, December 14th

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Saturday, December 16th

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.