



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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

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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 ADVENT
December 24th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

O Come Emmanuel

arr. Kevin Smuts and
Christy-Lyn Marail

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**

*GATHERING HYMN

Signs and Wonders

ELW 672

*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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of steadfast love and faithfulness; you promised to make a covenant with your chosen ones, to establish the throne of your servant David forever. As we light these candles, open our hearts to the mystery of the incarnation revealed to your servant Mary and plant your Word in us that it may grow and prosper. Show us your favor, O Rock of our salvation.
Reveal your love to us, and strength us for service in your name. 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 Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, 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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the Messiah, the Lord's anointed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46b-55

**“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

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

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

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

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

*with Lily Diette, Joseph Ruemmler and Nora Ruemmler
Emily Bittner, Beverly Tarbox and Jane Lauritsen*

*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

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Fill the church with your Spirit, that it may be a messenger of peace and goodwill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shelter all who are hungry and homeless, strengthen all who are perplexed or afraid, and comfort all who are grieving or ill, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to all in this assembly who will travel or welcome others this week, who are expecting a child, and who face the holidays with eagerness or anxiety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

With Mary we ponder the mystery of your grace, and give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our 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 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.

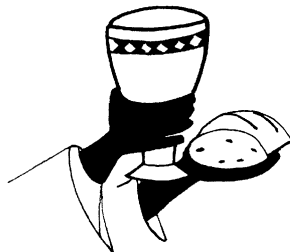
And also with you.

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

Still Still Still
Away in the Manger

arr. Anne Crosby-Gaudet

*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

Joy to the World

ELW 267

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Carrie Watkiss

Jane Lauritsen

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

George Valek

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

George Valek

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

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, 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.

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.

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 this 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.

Christmas
at Sts. Peter and Paul



Christmas Eve
7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Candlelight, String Ensemble
and Bell Choir

Christmas Day
at Ascension Lutheran Church
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
December 17th, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$ 2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$31,030.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$28,506.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
Tuesday, December 26th

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday, December 27th

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Thursday, December 28th

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.



