



**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. 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 4th, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, PAGES 147-155

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY

by David Inglis

God whispers to each of us: you are my beloved, created in love for love.

My spirit answers, Here I am, Lord. Speak to me anew.

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit, knitting many members into one body,
the body of Christ.

Together we answer, Here we are Lord. Come, Holy Spirit.

God has yet more vision for the people. Who will work for God
to extend God's kingdom into our hurting world?

Here we are Lord. Empower us for your work.

God calls the small, and helps them do great things.

God calls the weak, and reveals their hidden gifts.

God calls the rejected, and opens their eyes to their worth.

Here we are Lord, humble and waiting.

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great,
to dream God's dreams, receive God's power, and do God's deeds.

Here we are Lord. Shine the light of your love on us. Kindle your Spirit within us.

**Work your redeeming will in us, that all the world may be one
through the power of your love. Amen**

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of light and peace, we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reunite us with one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior and Lord Jesus. Amen

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

***GREETING**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the One who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

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

Prayed responsively by the leader and congregation.

Praise the Lord!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

**Great is our Lord and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**

He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

**He gives to the animals their food
and to the young ravens when they cry.**

His delight is not in the strength of the horse
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner,

**but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

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



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

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“The Fruit of Silence”
Annual Pastoral Letter to the Congregation

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

*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

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Jesus, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, especially..., let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation: for outreach and service ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech or silence.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, especially... that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the One who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

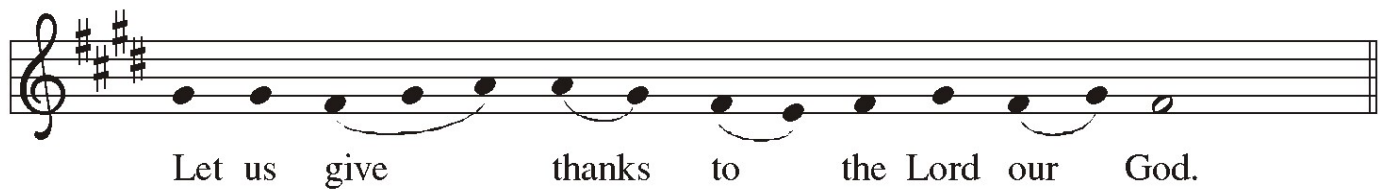
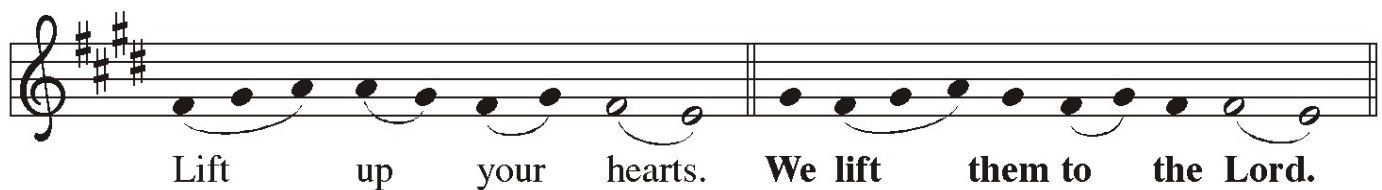
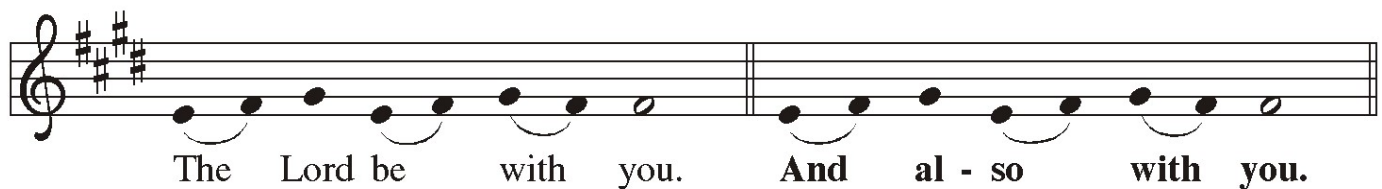
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

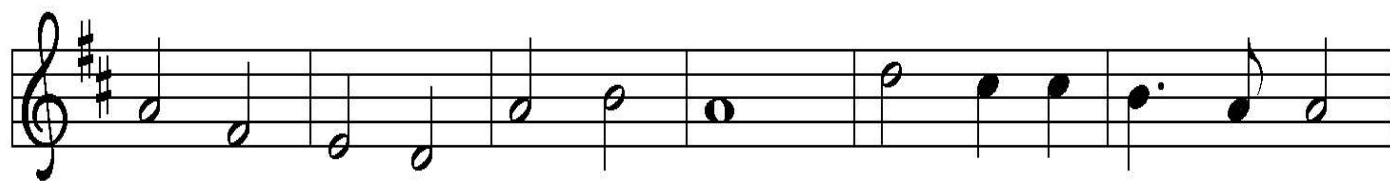
*DIALOGUE



*PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

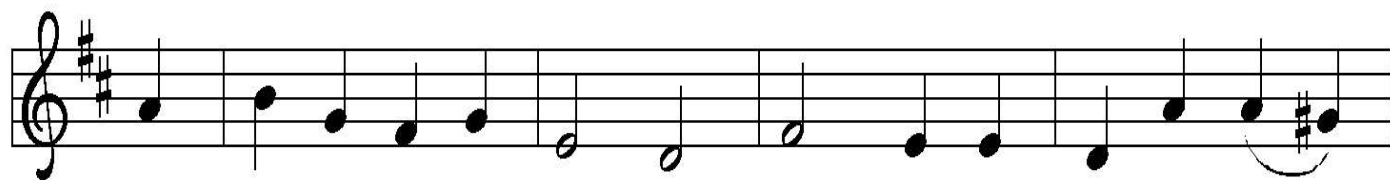
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



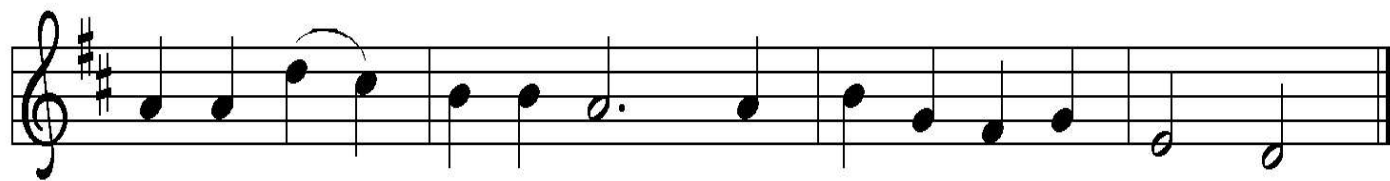
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

DISTRIBUTION

“Lift Thine Eyes” from *Elijah*

Mendelssohn

*BLESSING

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

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

When Memory Fades

ELW 792

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Finlandia

Sibelius

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTORS

Gary and Jocelyn Drahos

GREETER

Carole Pollitz

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Janice Hapgood

IN THE PRAYERS...

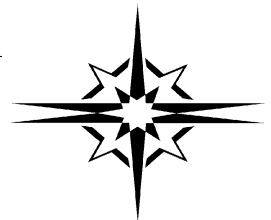
Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel. ***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Betty Bartel, Wally Bisping, Birch Burghardt, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, 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 **+Larry Bakalich+** on the fourth anniversary of his passing on February 8th, 2020 by remembering wife Ruth.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Today...

...beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the dining hall
following worship.

Pizza will be provided!



Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
January 28th, 2024

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,371.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,153.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Monday, February 5th

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.



Mardi Gras

Saturday, February 10th, 2024

6:00-9:30 p.m.

Donation: \$10.00

Includes a meal of Mostaccioli, Meatballs,
Salad, Dessert and Coffee.

D.J. - 50/50 Raffle - Prize for the Best Costume

Bring a dessert to share if you wish.

RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, February 8th.

Bring your friends!