



**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.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 18th, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Sarabanda

Corelli

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Holy, gracious and merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, 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

Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

Prayed in unison by the congregation.

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

**Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.**

**Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

**Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!**

**Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

**He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.**

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
 Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
 Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15

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

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

The gospel of our 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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence is observed.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and educators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness, especially... Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

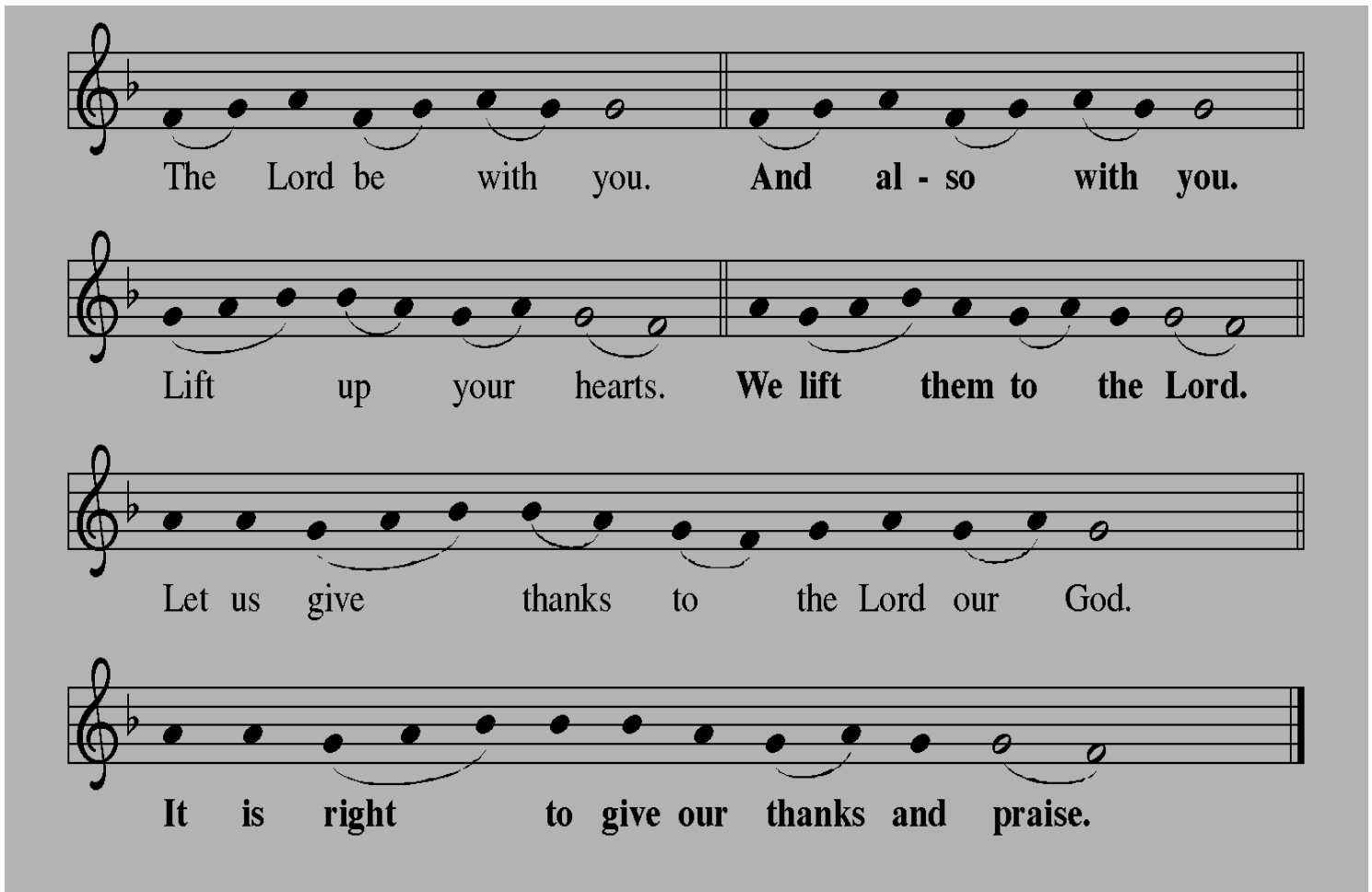
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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.

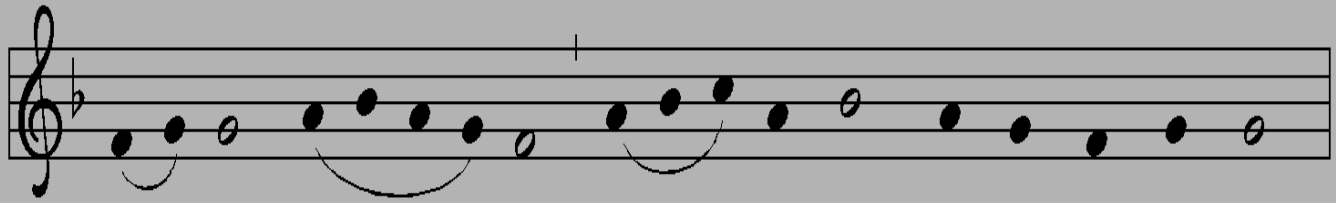
The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

*PREFACE

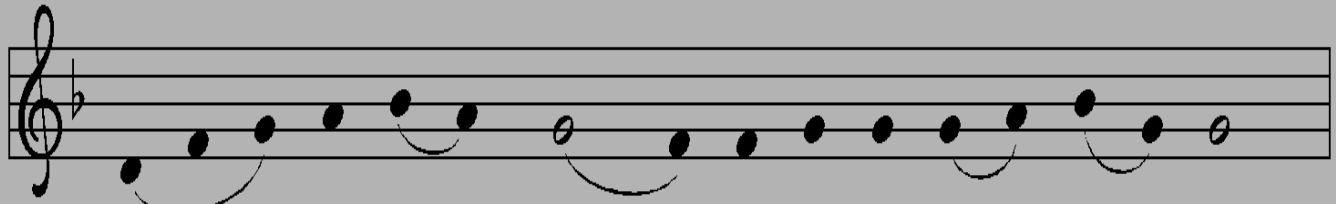
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



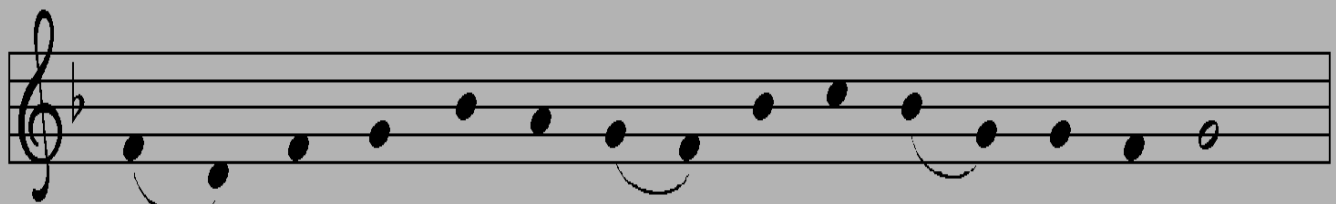
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



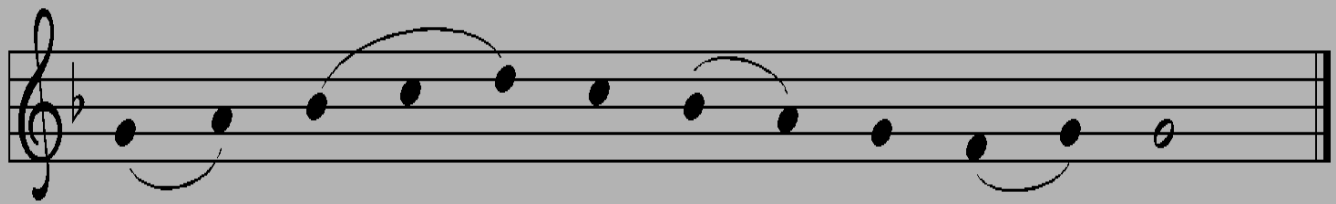
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

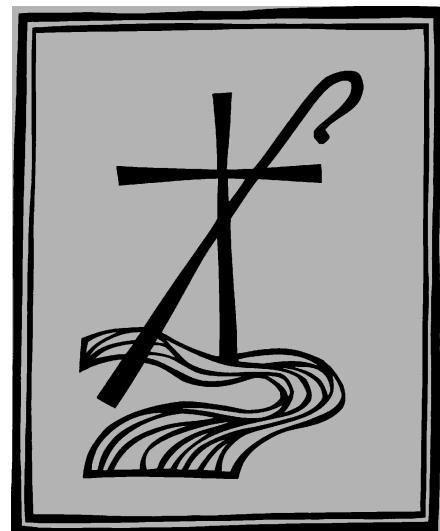
Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

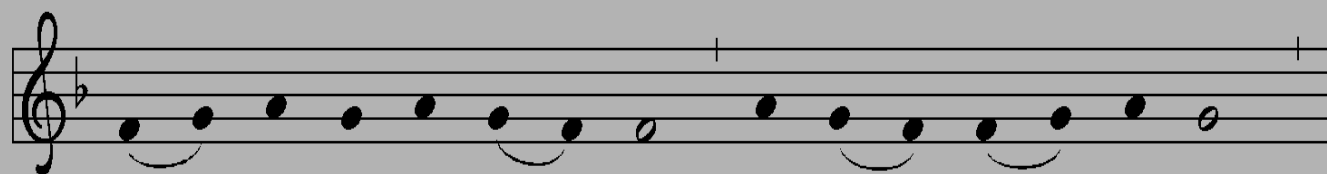
Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.**

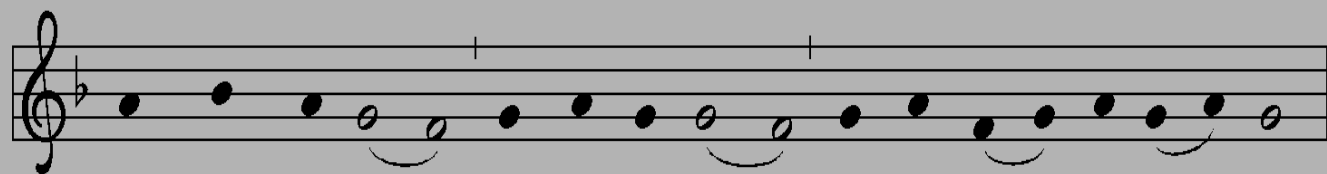
Amen



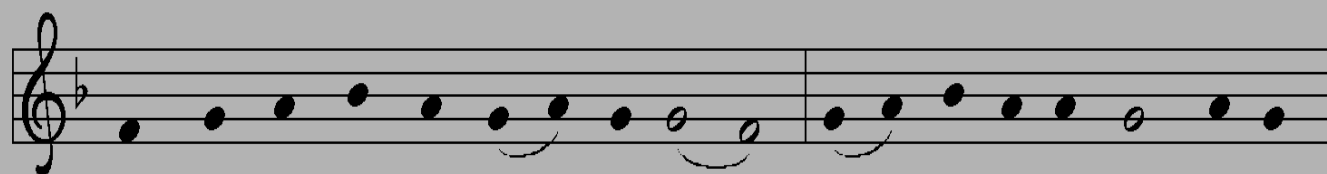
*LORD'S PRAYER



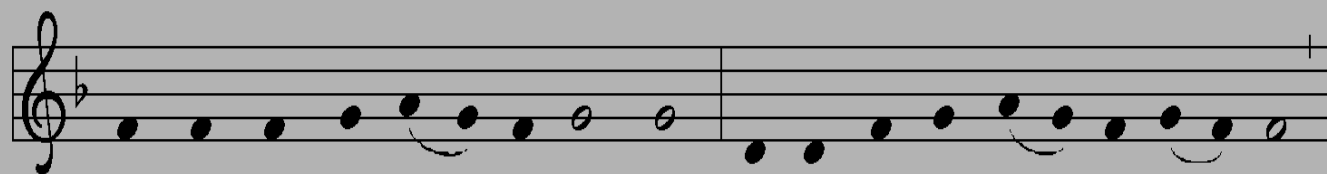
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



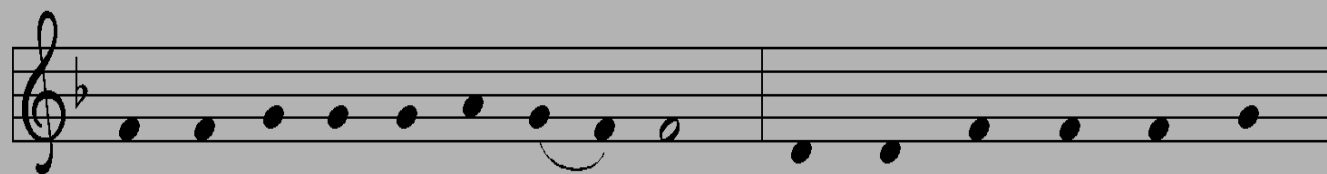
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



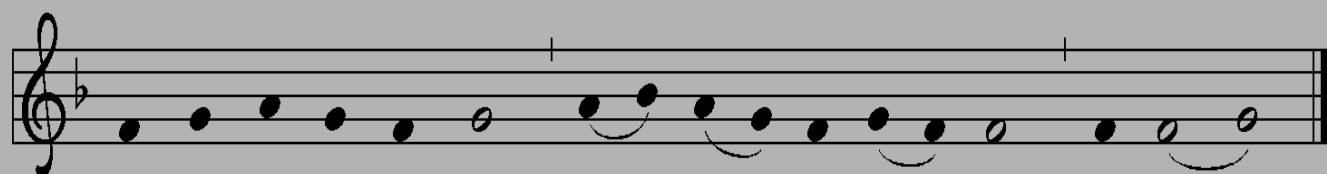
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

***BENEDICTION**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace. Amen

***SENDING HYMN**

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Minuet

Boccherini

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Carrie Watkiss

GREETERS

Philip and Linda Painter

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

USHER

Janet Broussard

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Janice Hapgood

IN THE PRAYERS

Members of the Congregation: Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, 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, 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.

Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting

will be sung every Thursday evening at 7:15 p.m.
during the weeks of Lent
preceded by a supper of soup and bread
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

*Supper hosts may sign up on the list
posted at the lower west entrance to the dining hall
or please leave a voice mail message
in the church office box at 708-442-5250
or send an email message to office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org .*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Sunday, February 18th

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Friday, February 23rd

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering February 11th, 2024	
<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,524.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NERVE, SKILL, AND TRUST

It's tempting to write off Jesus' victory over temptation as admirable but distant from our own experience. Usually nothing as obvious as a devil appears in order to engage us in repartee, let alone quote scripture. Right and wrong are seldom so clear. The stuff that actually tempts us on a daily basis stands out by how dull it is in comparison to today's gospel; when in recent memory have any of us been offered world domination? Then there are those elegantly-crafted responses Jesus pulls from thin air without missing a beat. When ambushed, how often can we think on our feet and argue effectively? We may be in awe of Jesus; can we identify with him?

The temptations of Jesus follow his baptism. He has been called Beloved by God. What will he make of that? Will he manipulate the environment purely for himself, pretend to be helpless by taking risks, or try to take over? Fall off the temple, or fall down before Satan? The religious and political tests foreshadow the accusations in his final trials: that he threatens the temple and Caesar. Our own temptations may not be imperial or divine, but they are specific to our relationships and callings. We who share baptism in Christ must also discern on a daily basis what to do with the gifts and power we have.

Much Christian devotion has encouraged letting go of power; but too often goodness and passivity have been equated, with terrible consequences. Today's gospel encourages developing our ability to struggle and to defend ourselves, not least against the accusing voices within our own heads. We sing, "lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal word" ("O Lord, throughout these forty days," ELW 319). We may be surprised at the angels that join us for our song.

