



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 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 EASTER

April 21st, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4, PAGES 147-155

*GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to God,
**who rescues us from the power of darkness;
who redeems us, and sets us free!**

Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,
**through whom all things were made,
in heaven and on the earth.**

Praise be to the Spirit of God,
**whose presence sustains us,
and whose breath renews all creation.**

Behold! I am making all things new!
**Come, O God, and make your home among us.
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

—*from New Heaven, New Earth,
an Easter and Earth Day worship resource (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)*

*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, 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

Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

God Our Shepherd, Hear Our Footsteps

J. S. Bach

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

ELW 364

(Verse 1)

*GOSPEL READING

John 10:11-18

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

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

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

MISSION PRESENTATION

Susan Greeley

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

*HYMN OF THE DAY

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW 778

*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

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need, especially... Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you, especially the evangelist Mark, and others... Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

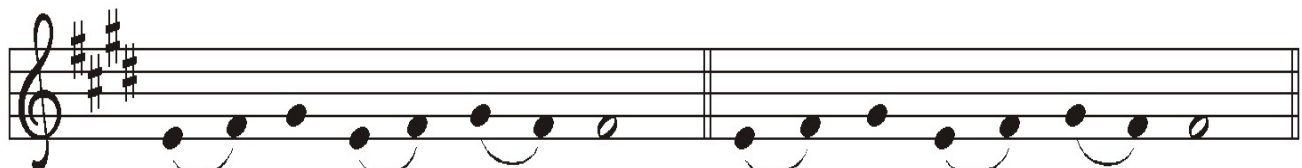
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.


*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

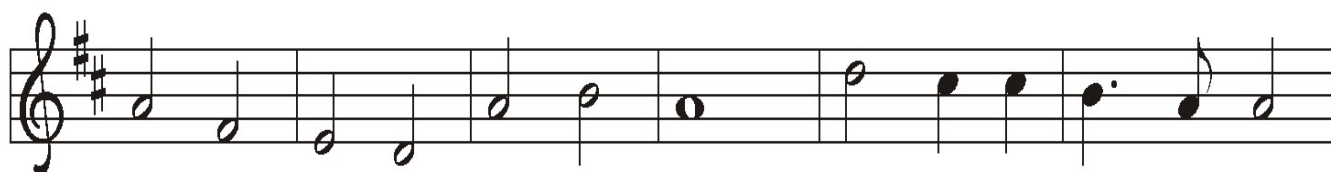


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

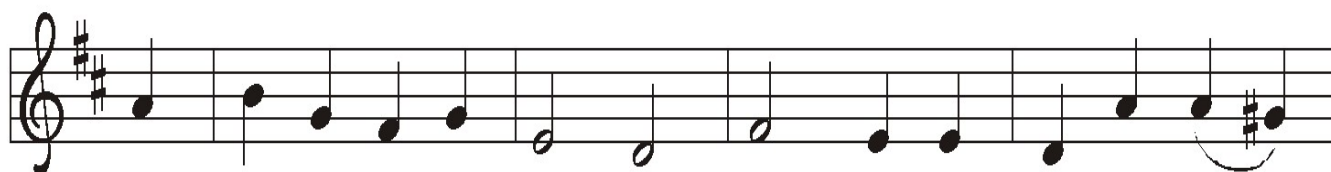
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



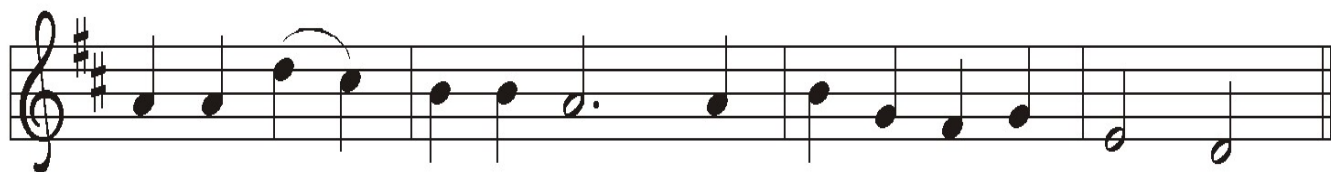
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
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

***EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

DISTRIBUTION

Shepherd Me

Haugen

***BLESSING**

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

***SOLEMN BLESSINGS OF EASTER**

Almighty God bless you on this solemn feast of Easter, and may he protect you against all sin. **Amen**

Through the resurrection of his Son, God granted us healing. May he fulfill his promises, and bless you with eternal life. **Amen**

You have mourned for Christ's sufferings; now you celebrate the joy of his resurrection. May you come with joy to the feast which lasts forever. **Amen**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

Day of Delight

ACS 933

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

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

Philip Painter

LECTOR

Kristine Boike

GREETER

Ann Kmet

LIVE STREAM

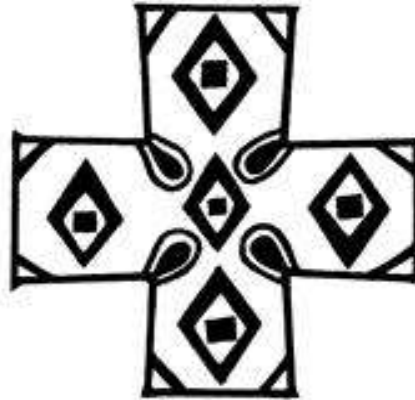
Fred Kuzel

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Edward and Joanne Sefara



IN THE PRAYERS

Members of the Congregation: Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, George Pagurko and Mary Sasuta.

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, 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, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox and the Ullrich Family.



The Ramona A. Suffern

ANNUAL MISSION DINNER

Sunday, April 21

12 Noon

Ticket Prices

Adults: \$10

Children (6-14): \$5

Children (ages 5 and under): Free

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250 Woodside Road, Riverside

For advance ticket purchases

Call: (708) 442 -5250

Email: pastor@stspeterandpaulriverside.org



Lutheran
Social Services
of Illinois



Lux Cantorum Chicago
Spring Concert

“SACRED CLASSICS”

These extraordinary compositions,
crafted by the greatest masters of the genre,
have stood the test of time as they transport
listeners to a realm where the sacred and the sublime converge.



In concert here on Sunday afternoon, May 5th, 4 p.m.

*Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our congregation sing with
Lux Cantorum Chicago.*

*Ticket information will appear in the May newsletter,
Seedlings E-news, and at the LCC website at
luxcantorum.org .*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

Sunday, April 21st

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC)

Monday, April 22nd

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960

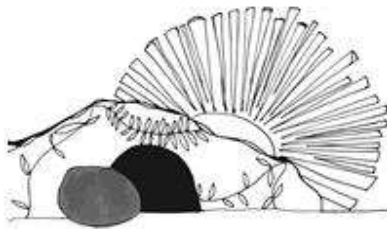
Tuesday, April 23rd

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist

Thursday, April 25th

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.



**“We are always on our way
from darkness into light...”**

Some years ago in a homily at an Easter Dawn Mass in the ruins of the abbey at Cormomroe, County Clare, the late John O’Donohue said:

“We are always on our way from darkness into light.

Every morning, we come out of the dark territories of dreaming
into waking awareness of the day.

Every night, no matter how long, breaks again and the light of dawn comes.

At birth each of us made a journey from darkness into light,
from the warm secure darkness of the womb into the light of the world.
So we are no strangers to darkness and we are special friends of the light...

“One of the beauties of Easter morning is that the light
that comes with Christ is a gentle but penetrating light.

There is no hurt anywhere within us no matter in what crevices
it might be buried, but that the light of Easter can reach it and heal it...

“So on this Easter morning, let us look again at the lives
we have been so generously given
and let us let fall away the useless baggage we carry—
old pains, old habits, old ways of seeing and feeling—
and let us have the courage to begin again.”

*From Walking on the Pastures of Wonder, John Quinn, Estate of John O’Donohue,
Veritas, 2015, p. 107- 109.*

