



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

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David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

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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.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 6th, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

***WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

based upon Psalm 8 and Genesis 1

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to praise you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to celebrate you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

And God saw that it was good...”

We gather to celebrate our God.

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to worship you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

And God saw that it was very good..."
We gather to worship our God!
**All praise, honor, majesty and power
belongs to our Creating God! Amen**

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*GATHERING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

Refrain

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

- 2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain***

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain***

- 4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain***

- 5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain***

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

***GREETING**

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. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other “one flesh.” The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

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

PSALM

Psalm 8

Prayed in unison by the congregation.

O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

*GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

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

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

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

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless these pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures. **Amen**

All who have brought pets may come forward for a prayer of blessing.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of [*pet's name*]. Through this animal you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on this pet. For the companionship of our pets and other animals we say thanks. Bless this animal's life in our care; may it know love through all its days. **Amen**

When all have returned to their places, the followed blessing may be offered.

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

Almighty and everlasting God, set your church as a sentinel to watch for your coming into the world. Urge us to announce to others your gracious presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your creation where it has been shaken by disaster. Encourage people who rebuild; bring plants again to blossom. Restore calm in the midst of chaos. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Support the work of people who find paths of diplomacy and peace among the nations. Strengthen them in weariness, that they may fulfill the calling you have given them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Create opportunities for healing conversation and comforting hospitality in nursing care facilities, hospitals, and homes. Bring joy to those burdened by illness, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers may be added here in speech and in silence.

Remembering the saints, especially Francis and others whom we name... who stood steadfast in the faith through many trials. Guide us to put our trust in you until we receive the fulfillment of your promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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 ANTHEM

Immortal, Invisible

***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 musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp, F#). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

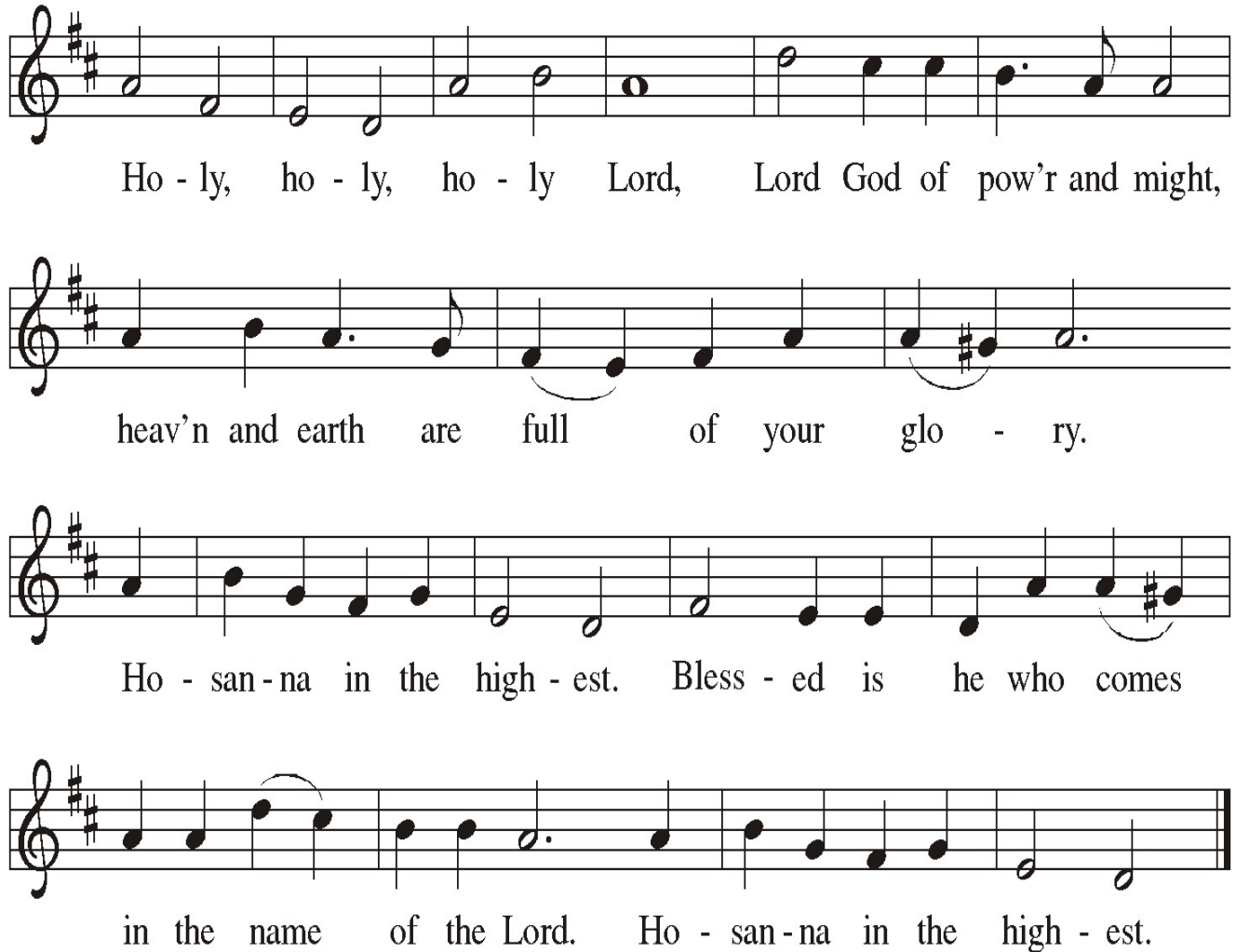
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

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, 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 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**

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**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together.

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. Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

***BENEDICTION**

The blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom

ACS 1064

- 1 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly-poly
to the treetop-tall giraffe.
All creation sings in wonder;
even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus:
echoes of our Maker's voice.**
- 2 Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
woven into harmony.
Ev'ry creature has a purpose,
ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.
Spider, human, redwood, gecko,
monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake
live within a single fabric:
cloth that only God could make.**

**3 Earth is full of wit and wisdom:
penguin, platypus, and snail,
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,
from the microbe to the whale.
In this great and strange creation,
with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards,
called to love and serve the earth.**

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Brandon Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

Beverly Tarbox

USHER

Rafael Martinez

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Fred Kuzel and Jane Lauritsen

IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel 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, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, and Deborah and Jerry Ullrich.



Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering September 29th, 2024

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org .

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Friday, October 4th

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Friday, October 4th

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Sunday, October 6th

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Monday, October 7th

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996 (TFF)

Thursday, October 10th

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

WHO WOULD JESUS BLESS TODAY?

Many Bibles include a heading before the latter part of today's gospel reading (Mark 10:13-16) that says something like "Blessing the Children" or "Jesus Welcomes the Children." In reading such a heading, we might begin to imagine a sentimental scene in which Jesus is surrounded by cute, adorable children. When we think about children being blessed in our churches today, we might imagine children gathering around the altar or at the front of the worship space for a children's time, in which the pastor or worship leader would say a prayer with them and give them a blessing. The parents and others may also be gathered just behind the children, smiling in adoration of these young ones.

However, we cannot view the scene from Mark's gospel with only our modern understanding of the role and place of children in society. The life of many children in North America is one of relative privilege, with carefree days in which they often experience the care and love of grown-ups. Jesus, by bringing the children to him, identifies himself with those who were among the most vulnerable and helpless in society. In ancient times, children often were treated like property. They had few protections from those who would treat them badly. But Jesus came into the world for ones such as these children. Who, in our communities, is in the place of the children of ancient times? As Christ's church, do we provide a place of welcome and care for the most vulnerable and weak in our society?

