



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 Woodside Road

Riverside, Illinois 60546

Telephone: (708) 442-5250

Parsonage: (708) 442-0238

Fax: (708) 442-5264

Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

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 IN LENT
April 6th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

setting Howarth

***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**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

***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. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126

Prayed responsively by leader and congregation.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,

"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING

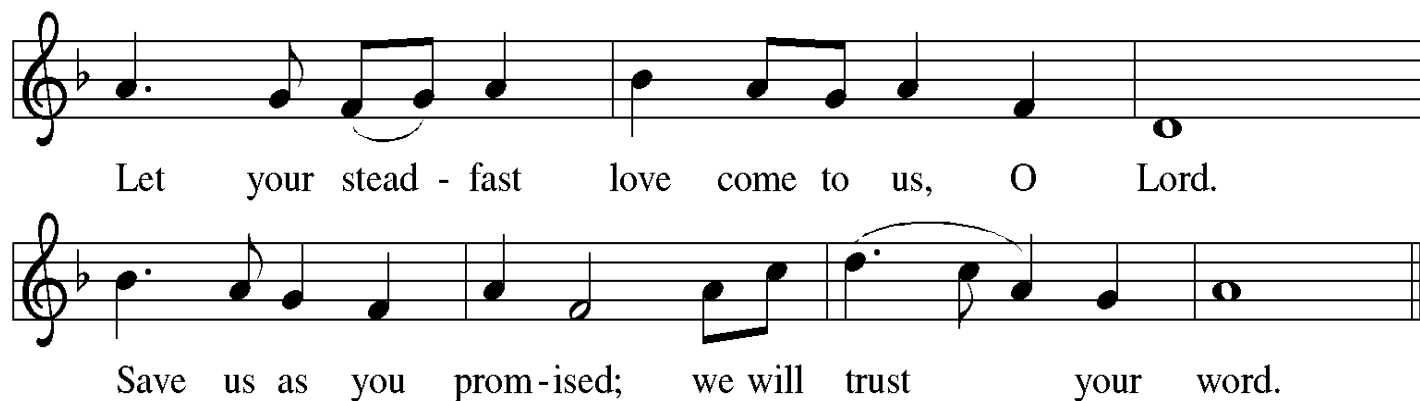
Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation



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

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

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

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004

*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

Almighty God, as you delivered your people from Egypt and Babylon, so lead us out of the wilderness of our confusion and doubt. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, hear our songs of praise and shouts of joy when we see our sufferings coming to an end and our losses restored, both in this world and the next. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, as the pains of the past diminish in our memory, we pray that you give us courage to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Lord Jesus Christ, as you accept our gifts of love, no matter how simple or costly they are, defend us from those who would criticize our faithful generosity. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

As Martha and Mary served you at dinner and anointed your feet, so fill us with hospitality, that we may know the joy of being with you at table. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

The ill among us are named in love, Lord Jesus, so that you might comfort and heal according to your most holy will, praying especially for... . In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Additional prayers may be added here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for all who lived and died in your costly grace, especially... Guide us on our Lenten journey, until we reach the resurrection feast. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

From every wilderness day, Good Lord deliver us. **Amen**

***PEACE**

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



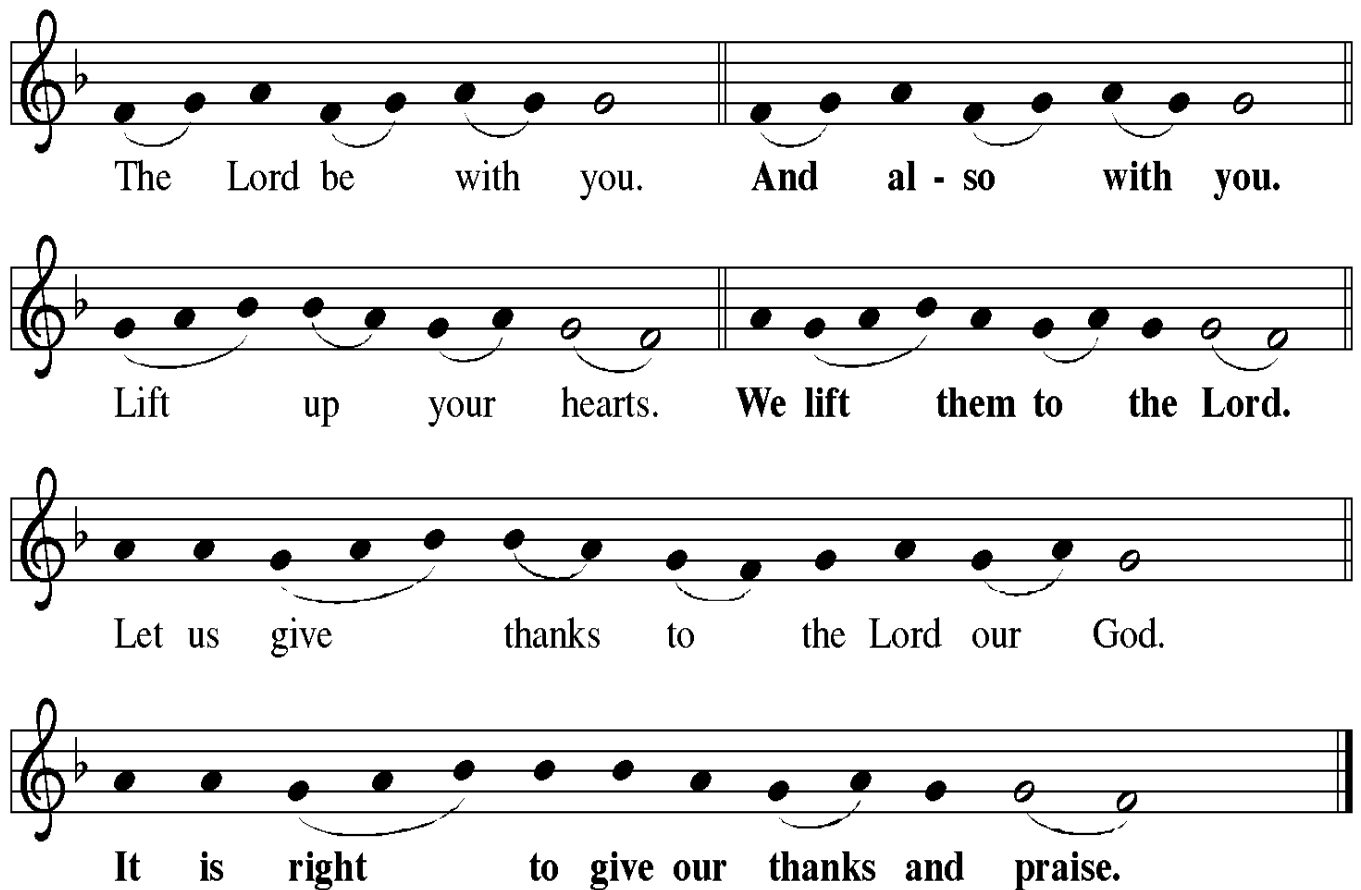
MEAL

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.



*PREFACE FOR LENT

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff ends with a repeat sign. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

*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.

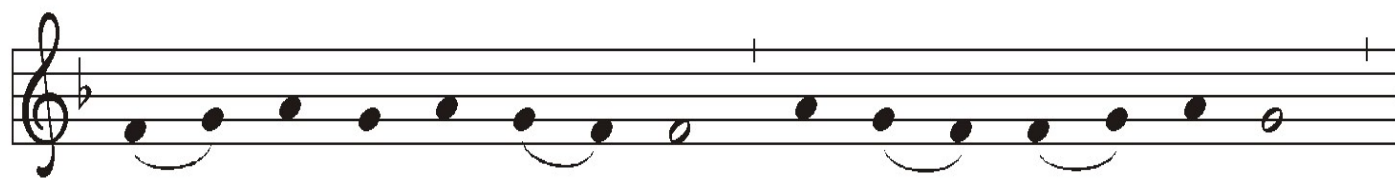
Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

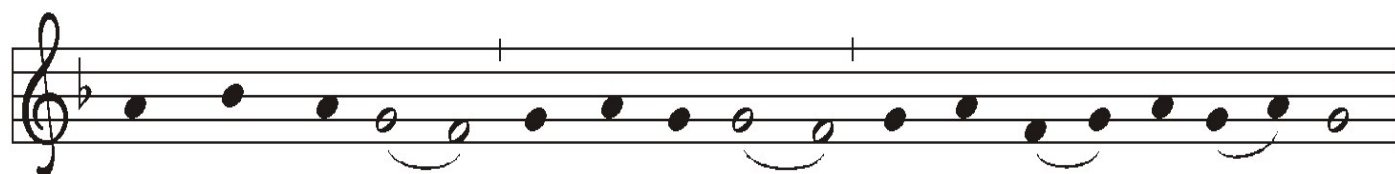
Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**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**

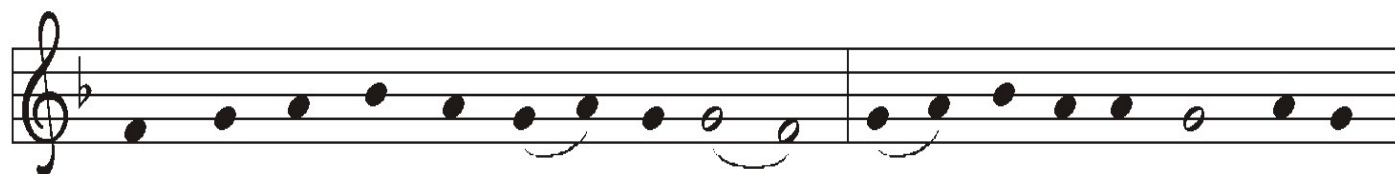
*LORD'S PRAYER



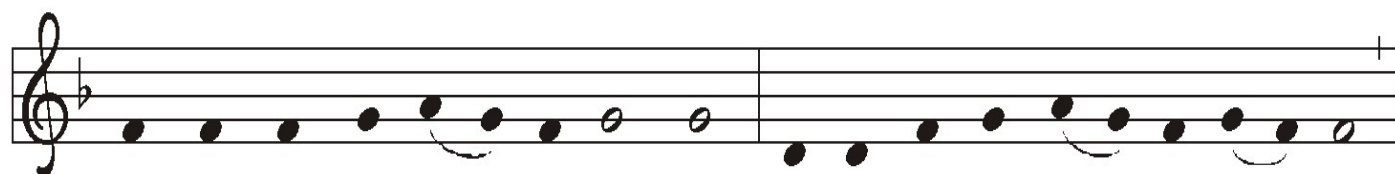
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



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-against 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

Chorale Prelude

Streicher

*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

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

ELW 833

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Joanne Sefara

GREETER

Carole Pollitz

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

USHER

Janet Broussard

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Edward and Joanne Sefara



IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Heather Greer, Ann Head, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara and Gregg Valek.

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Betty Bartel, Betty Cillo Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Becky Dice, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Jeff Kubik, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Artem Molokivna, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson and Tom Zajac.

Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting

is sung every Wednesday evening at

7:15 p.m. through April 9th,

preceded by a supper of soup and bread beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 per plant for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or use the sign-up sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). **The final day to order is this Thursday, April 10th.** You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the sanctuary.

Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional **Palm Sunday Coffee Hour** on April 13th. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of the congregation.

Holy Week 2025
April 13th—April 20th

Palm Sunday, April 13th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Festive Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 18th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 20th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Handbells, Choirs and Trumpet

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

Sunday, April 6th

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Wednesday, April 9th

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Thursday, April 10th

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering March 30th, 2025

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$1,962.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$2,180.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ 218.00

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

FACING DEATH

Mary of Bethany recognizes Jesus' mission: he has come to die. Perceiving the new thing God is doing, she embraces his death and pours out her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant act. The prophet beseeches the Israelites to forget the old pattern of salvation—the dry way through the Red Sea. Now God will make a new way, a wet way, in a dry, barren, and death-filled place.

On this Sunday in Lent, salvation lies not behind us but before us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary's action in the face of death is bold. She anoints a corpse, and in so doing honors Jesus' vulnerability and his life. She models love for the other disciples and for us.

By honestly facing the reality of death, we are more fully able to live honoring our own vulnerability and the humanity of others. We live with gratitude. We are more able to love one another and God extravagantly. However, in our culture, mortality is often avoided. The stench of death is removed through chemicals, and deceased bodies are cosmetically enhanced to appear as life-like as possible.

Each day, we the baptized boldly face death, trusting that God has made a new way, a wet way, to travel from death to life. God in Christ has honored human vulnerability by becoming flesh and by laying down his own life. He is the new way through a dry, barren, and death-filled place. Because Christ Jesus has made them his own, the baptized walk wet through the desert places of this life, pouring out the whole of their lives, down to the very last hair, in extravagant love for God and for the people God has formed.

