



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
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Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in Holy Communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of Baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

***GATHERING**

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude

Streicher

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

*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. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**



WORD

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

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

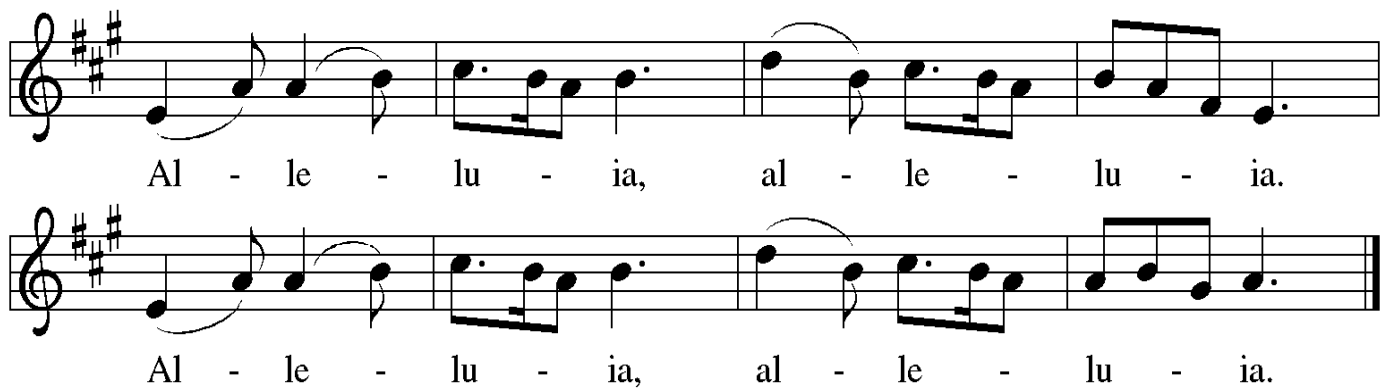
While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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*GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

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

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

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

SERMON

Rev. Paul Gebo

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

***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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely, especially... . May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints, especially... . Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
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.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, 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.

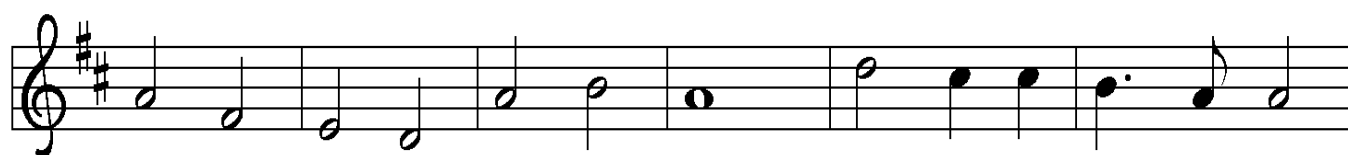
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

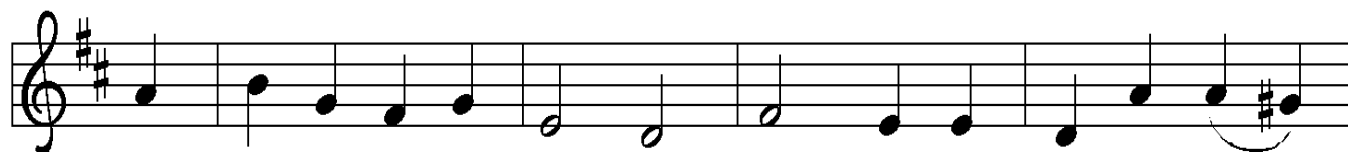
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



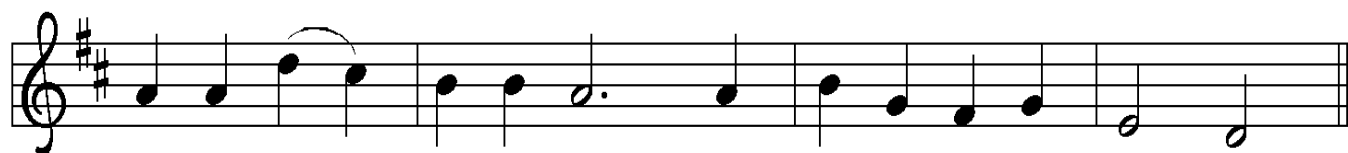
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

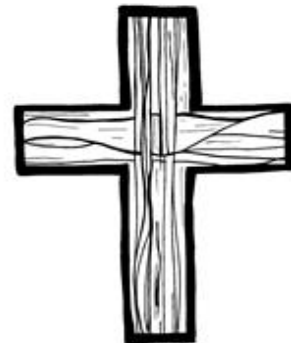
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

Ceská Suita

Dvorák

*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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
+ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* ELW 772

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Slovanský Tanec* Dvořák

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Paul Gebo
ASSISTING MINISTER	Vicki Michaels
MUSIC MINISTER	David Richards
SERVICE LEADER	Philip Painter
LECTOR	Philip Painter
GREETER	Staci Harden
LIVE STREAM	Charles Matthies
USHER	Rafael Martinez
ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS	Fred Kuzel

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Larry Crachy, Heather Greer, Staci Harden, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Linda Painter, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara and Gregg Valek. ***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Ann Boor, Rich Caliendo, Bill Costello, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Becky Dice, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Nicole Kisiel, Jeff Kubik, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Marcia Matthies, Artem Molovkina, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Sandy Rossella, Greg Schaefer, Gus Sicaras, Thomas Sicaras, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Marta Vrtichova, Eric, Rondell, Diane, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

Welcome and thank you to **Rev. Paul Gebo** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition.

<p style="text-align: center;">Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering August 31st, 2025</p> <table><tr><td><i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i></td><td>\$2,615.00</td></tr><tr><td><i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i></td><td>\$1,584.00</td></tr><tr><td><i>Shortage:</i></td><td>\$1,031.00</td></tr></table>	<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00	<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,584.00	<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,031.00
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<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,031.00					

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
Saturday, September 13, 2025

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.