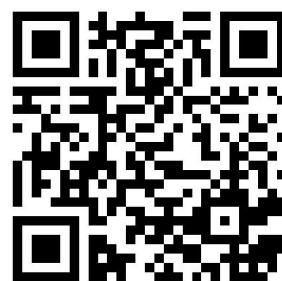




Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
Telephone: (708) 442-5250

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.

HOLY CROSS DAY
September 14th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

***GATHERING**

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

St. Christopher

Frederick Maker/
Mark Hayes

***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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

*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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

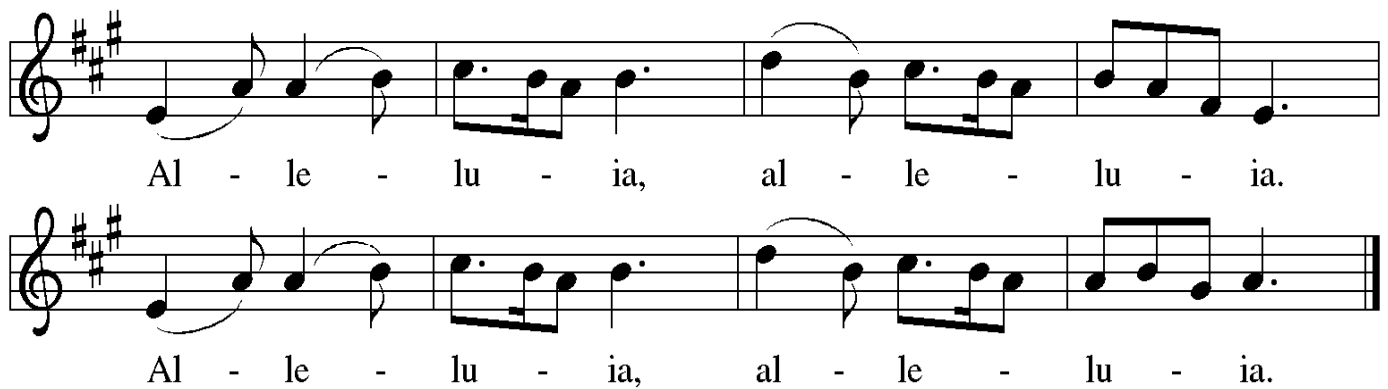
At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understand how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

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

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

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

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

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

SERMON

Rev. Marnie Rourke

***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.

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and grieving especially.. . Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Good shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died, especially... . Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in cross and live in the hope of resurrection. 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

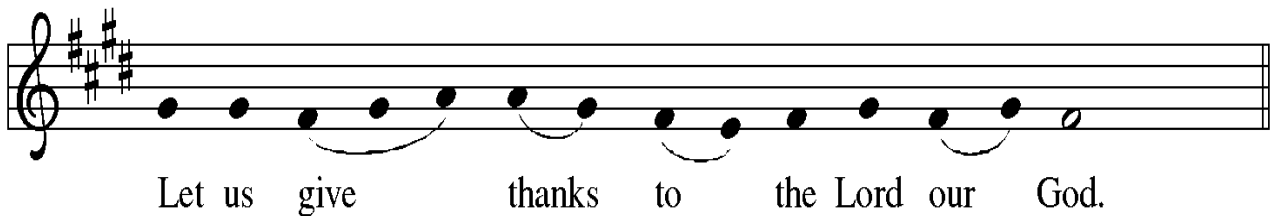
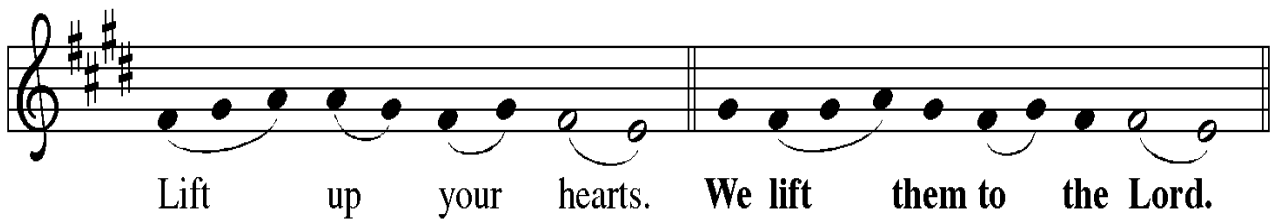
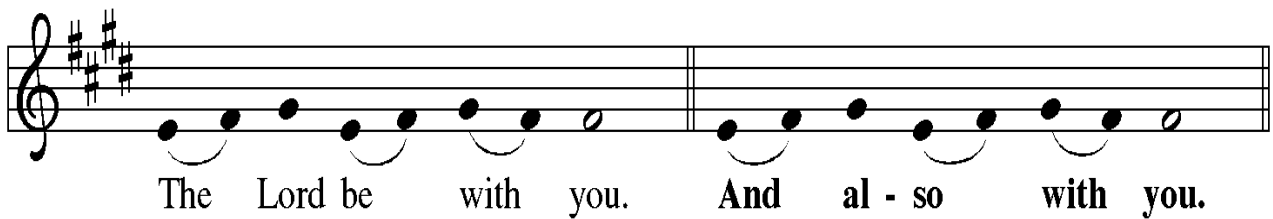
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.**

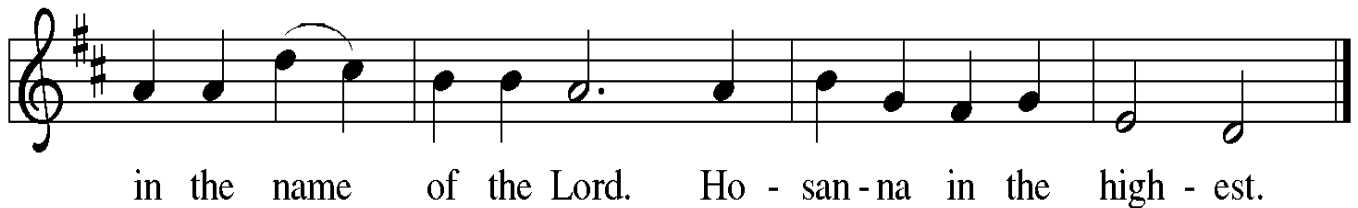
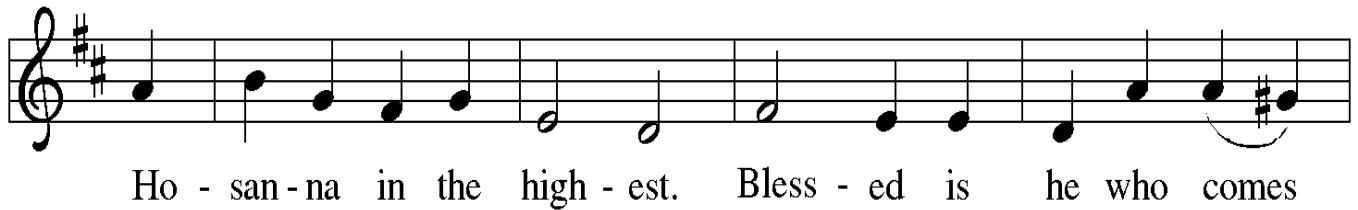
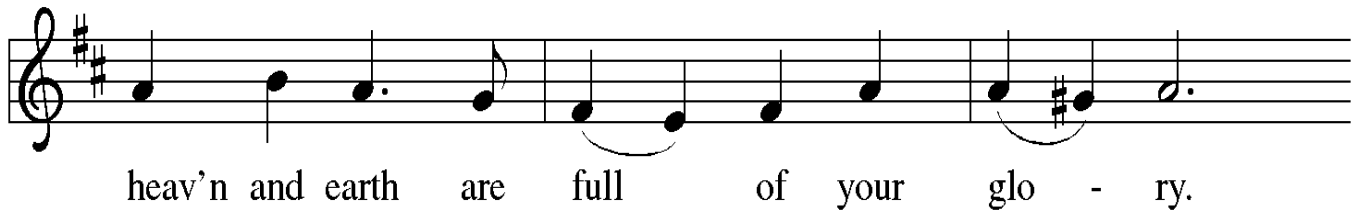
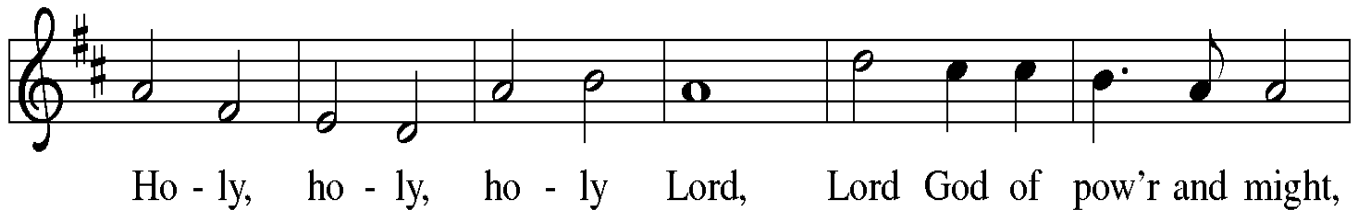
*DIALOGUE



*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; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into 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



*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.

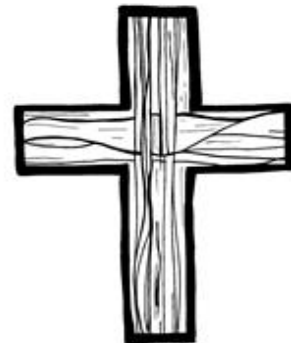
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Stabat Mater

Dubois

*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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Aria

Pergolesi

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Marnie Rourke

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Joanne Sefara

GREETERS

Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Fred Kuzel

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 back and thank you to **Rev. Marnie Rourke** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering September 7th, 2025

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,669.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 946.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Tuesday, September 16th

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Cyprian worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in North Africa during a time of great persecution. During Cyprian's time as bishop many people had denied the faith under duress. In contract to some who held the belief that the church should not received these people back. Cyprian believed they should be welcomed into full communion after a period of penance. He insisted on the need for compassion in order to preserve the unity of the church. His essay *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* stressed the role of bishops in guaranteeing.