



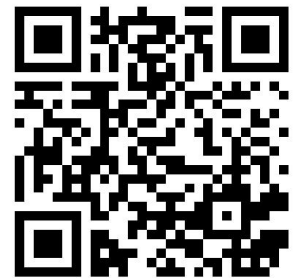
**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

250 Woodside Road  
Riverside, Illinois 60546  
Telephone: (708) 442-5250

Web page: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

**Rev. Ken Johnson**  
**Interim Pastor**  
**708-442-8511**

**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.*

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209***

**GATHERING**

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

**WELCOME AND PRELUDE**

“Comfort Ye” from *The Messiah*

Händel

**\*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.  
+ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

ELW 247

\*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\*LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of righteousness and peace; you promised to wait with patience for all to come to repentance, and to send your prophet to cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. As we light these candles, open our ears to hear you speak tenderly to your people; open our hearts to welcome you as a shepherd who gently leads the flock. Comfort us, O God, and forgive the sin of your people.  
**Reveal your glory to us, and speak to us your word of peace. Amen**

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through 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 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

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

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

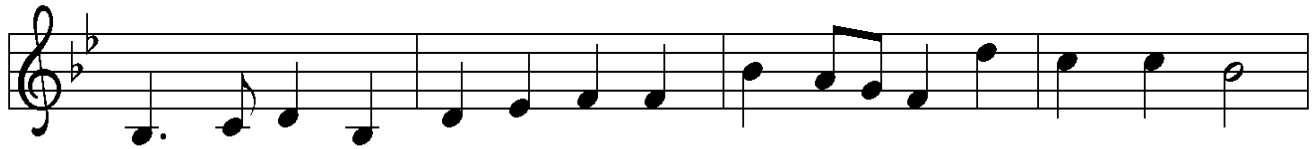
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## \*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Rev. Philip Lund*

**\*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**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease, especially... . Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially... and Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

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

## MEAL

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING OF GIFTS

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

#### \*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



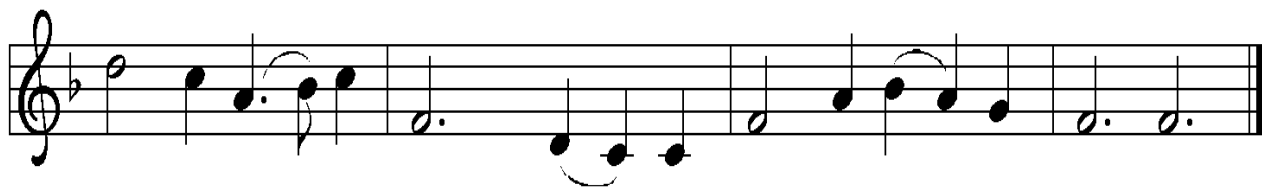
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

**All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, 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

Here is life. God is with us. Come receive what God has promised.

DISTRIBUTION

*Swan of Tuonela*

Sibelius

## \*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. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## \*BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptists' Cry*

ELW 249

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Puer Nobis*

setting Anne Krenitz Organ

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

ASSISTING MINISTER

MUSIC MINISTER

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

GREETER

USHER

LIVE STREAM

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Rev. Philip Lund

Carrie Watkiss

David Richards

Kristine Boike

John Broussard

Staci Harden

Rafael Martinez

Charles Matthies

Fred Kuzel



## PRAYER LIST

***Members of the Congregation:*** Elaine Haase, Staci Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Fred Kuzel, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara, and Gregg Valek. ***Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:*** Ann Boor, Rich Caliendo, Dan Costello, Becky Dice, Tom Doran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Jeff Kubik, Lisa Martin, Artem Molovkina, Eric Nehmzow, Progar Family, Greg Schaefer, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

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

## Altar Flowers

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of +Anna Slahor+ on the anniversary of her birth and the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death by remembering children John and Joanne Slahor and Shirley Babyar.

Homebound members wishing a visit from **Pastor Ken Johnson** can use the contact information below to arrange an in-person or phone visit. Pastor Johnson will serve as the presiding minister at our services on the second Sunday of the month as well as Christmas Eve. In the event of a pastoral emergency Pastor Johnson can be reached via e-mail or mobile phone at [Ken6168@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Ken6168@sbcglobal.net) of 773-947-4488, or his home at 708-442-8511.



If you would like to **order a poinsettia** to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the in the dining hall at the lower west entrance. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17 and the deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Offering envelopes for 2026** are available for pick beginning today in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so. **Financial donations** made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement. Also, **2026 calendars**, compliments of Hitzeman Funeral Home, are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and on tables in the dining hall. Please take copies for yourself, friends and neighbors.

*Oplatky*, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available throughout the season of Advent. A donation of \$1.50 per package (½ dozen) is appreciated. The *oplatky* is available on a table near the kitchen serving

Chorus Zora presents

## “Christmas Is A-Comin”

Today at 3:00 p.m.

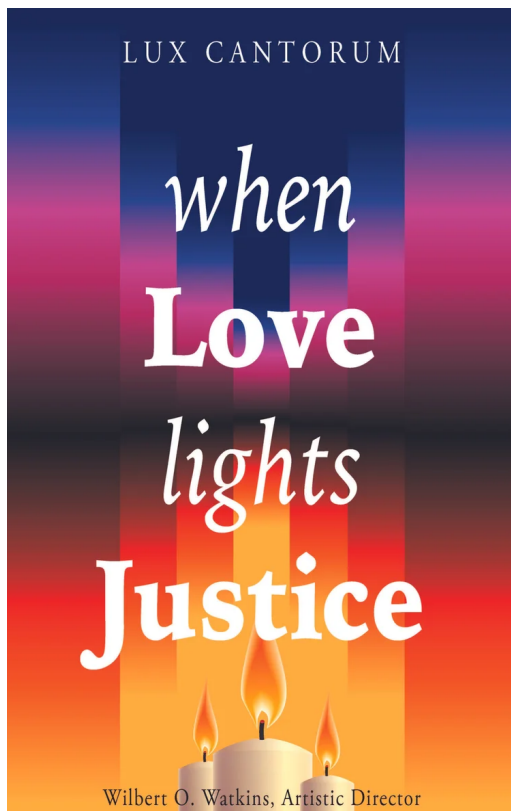
Trinity Lutheran Church  
5106 N. LaCrosse  
Chicago



Guest appearance by  
Lincoln Middle School Chorus, Berwyn

Free will donation to benefit Chorus Zora and the  
Lincoln Middle School Chorus.

*Our parish musician David Richards along  
with Beverly Tarbox perform with the choir.*



**December 7, 2025, 4 pm**

Buchanan Chapel  
at Fourth Presbyterian Church  
126 West Chestnut Street  
Chicago, IL 60610



**December 13, 2025, 7:30 pm**

Pilgrim Congregational Church  
460 Lake Street  
Oak Park, IL 60302

**December 17, 2025 –January 1, 2026**

An online version of the program will be available  
worldwide beginning Wednesday, December 17 through  
January 1, 2026.

Tickets for all performances including the online version are available at  
[luxcantorum.org](http://luxcantorum.org).

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397*

*Sunday, December 7, 2025*

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

*Lucy, martyr, died 304*

*Saturday, December 13, 2025*

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ 855.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,760.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

