



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. 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 AFTER EPIPHANY  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ♦ 10:15 a.m.

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP**

**GATHERING**

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE      *Chorale Prelude*      Streicher

**\*ORDER FOR CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW 314

\*GREETING

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

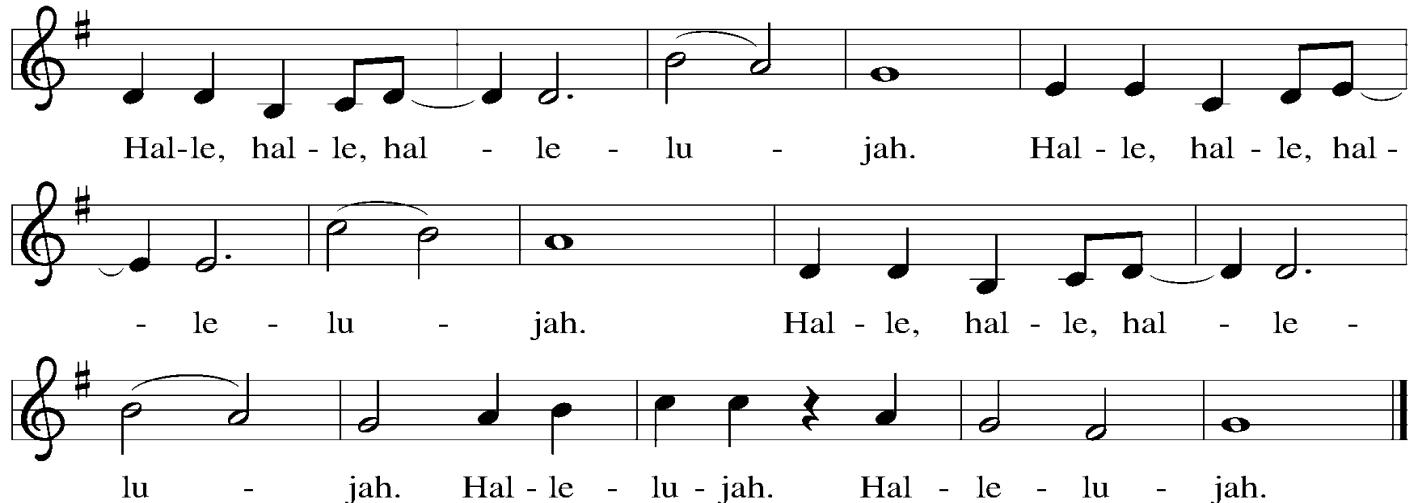
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - -

lu - - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## \*GOSPEL

John 1:29-42

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

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

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

## SERMON

*Rev. Ken Johnson*

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Only Son from Heaven*

ELW 309

## \*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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, especially.... . Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Other prayers may be offered here in speech or silence.*

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you, especially.... . Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

\*PEACE

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

## MEAL

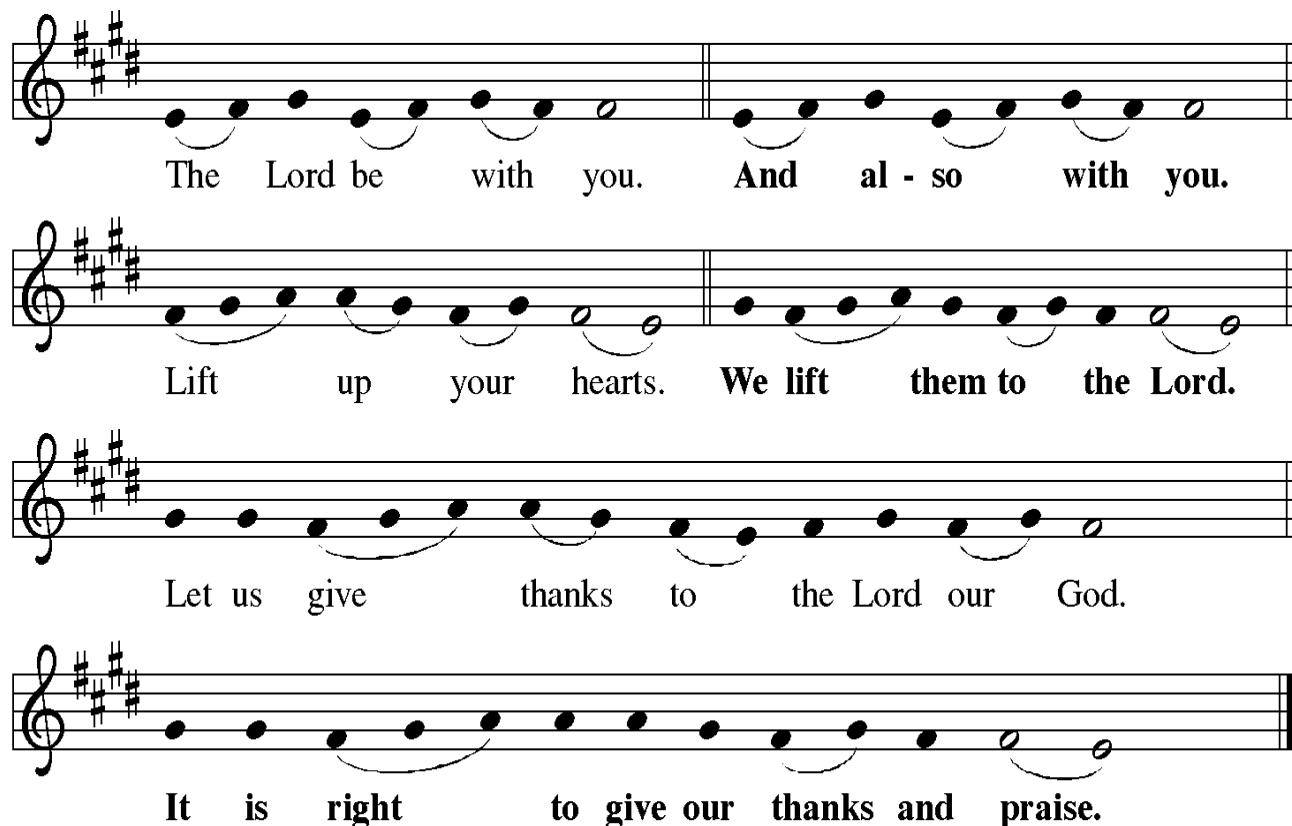
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### \*DIALOGUE



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

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

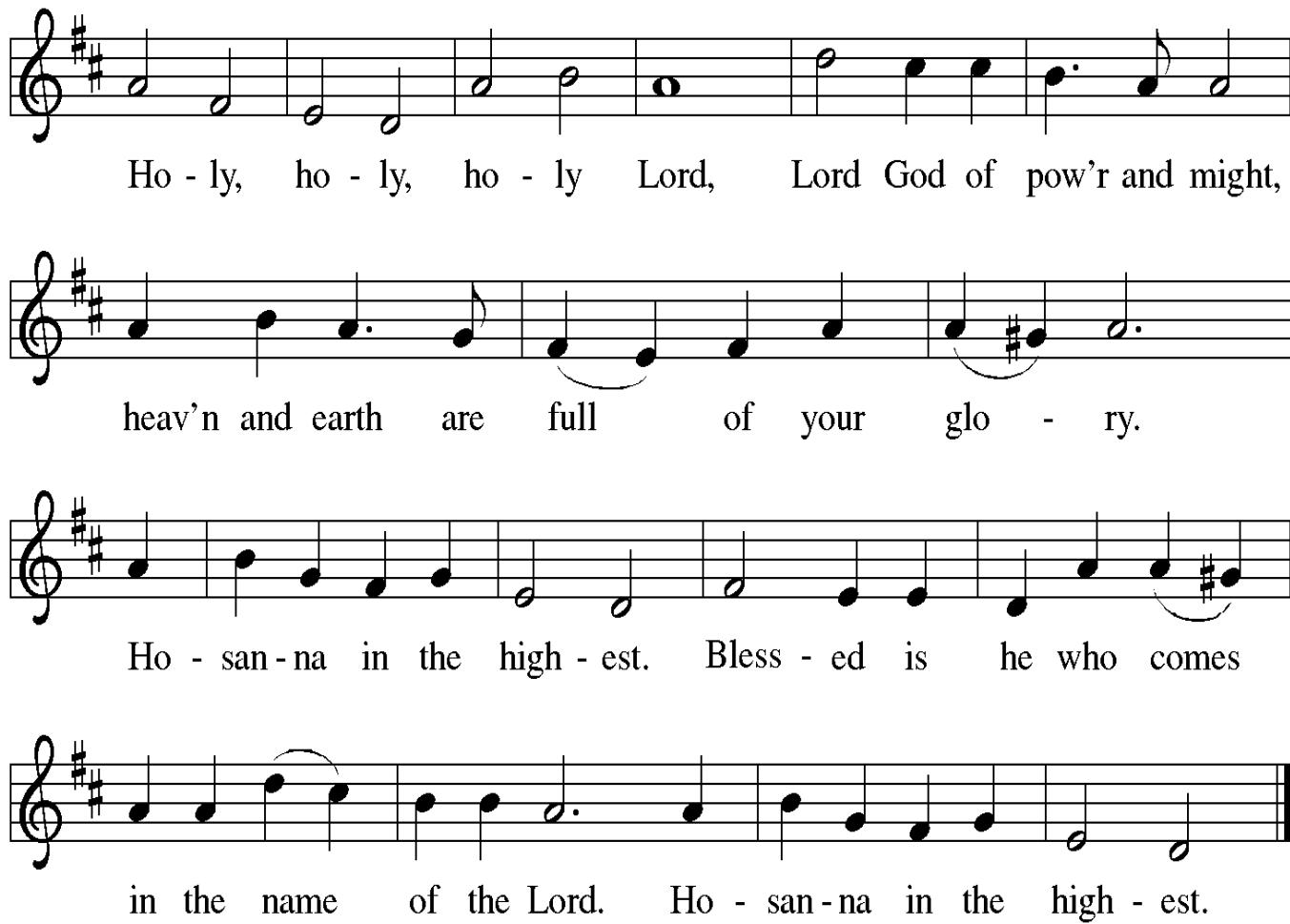
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table, taste and see.

DISTRIBUTION

*Lift Every Voice*

Johnson/Hassell

## \*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## \*BENEDICTION

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
+ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN

*Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

ELW 539

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*The Summons*

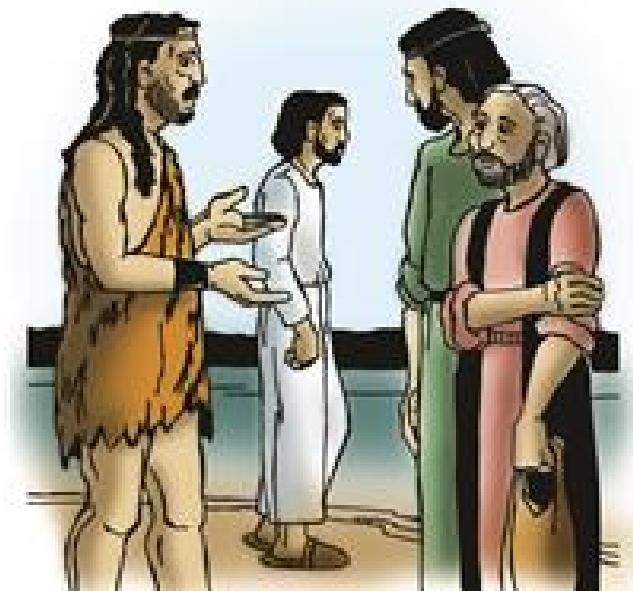
setting, Hiram Titus

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER  
ASSISTING MINISTER  
MUSIC MINISTER  
SERVICE LEADER  
LECTOR  
GREETER  
LIVE STREAM  
USHER  
ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Rev. Ken Johnson  
Charles Matthies  
David Richards  
Philip Painter  
George Valek  
Carrie Watkiss  
Paul Watkiss  
Rafael Martinez  
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, John Harris, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Jeff Kubik, Lisa Martin, Artem Molovkina, Eric Nehmzow, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, Brian Wickenheiser, and Tom Zajac.

Welcome back and thank you to our Interim Pastor **Rev. Ken Johnson** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition. Homebound members wishing a visit from Pastor 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 each month. 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.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of beloved mother **+Laverne Hanzel+** on the anniversary of her death by loving children Karen Cox, Kevin Hanzel, David Hanzel and their families, loving sister Audrey Bucz, nephew Brian Bucz, and niece Adrienne Gana.

### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> in the dining hall following worship. Chairpersons of all committees and organizations of the congregation as well as officers of the Congregation Council are reminded that **annual reports are due in the church office no later than TOMORROW** in order to have packets ready for distribution next Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, one week prior to the annual meeting. Thank you!

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### *Confession of Peter*

*Sunday, January 18, 2026*

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

### *Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156*

*Monday, January 19, 2026*

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

### *Agnes, martyr, died around 304*

*Wednesday, January 21, 2026*

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.





