



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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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

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## HOLY COMMUNION

*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164*

### GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE                      *Bradbury*    setting, Zach Unke

### \*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 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

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

ELW 339

**\*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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

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

## FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-3

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

### Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

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

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

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

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

SERMON

*Rev. David Olson*

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*When We Must Bear Persistent Pain*

ACS 1014



## \*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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day, especially... . Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.*

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys, especially... . Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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.*

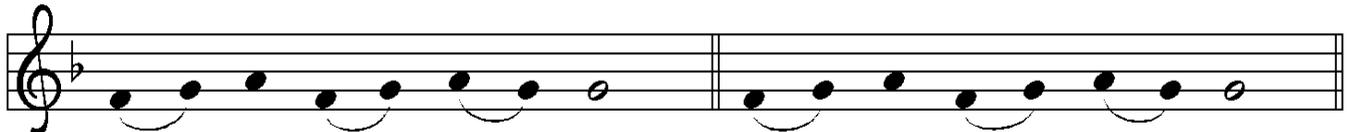
## OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

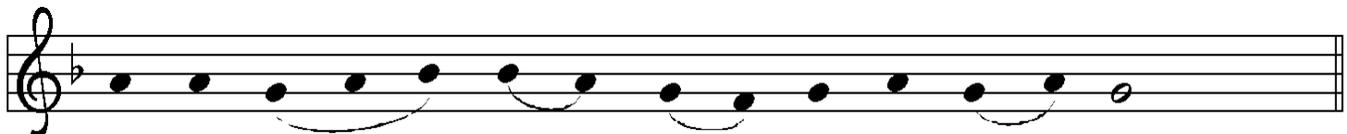
### \*DIALOGUE



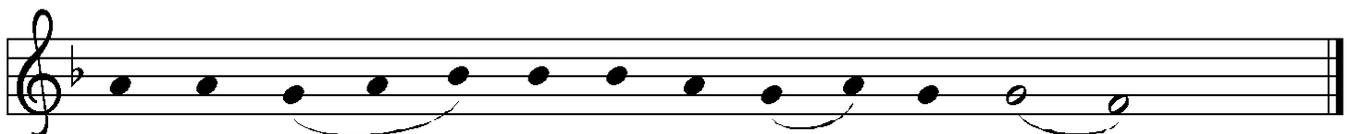
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

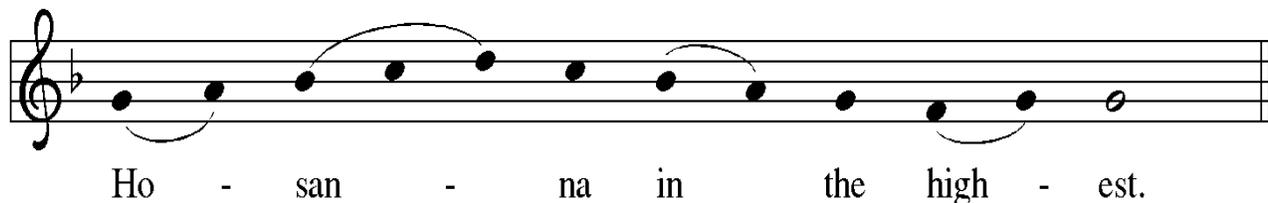
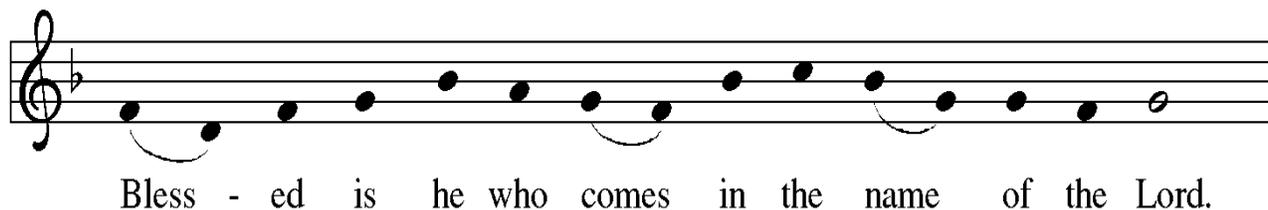
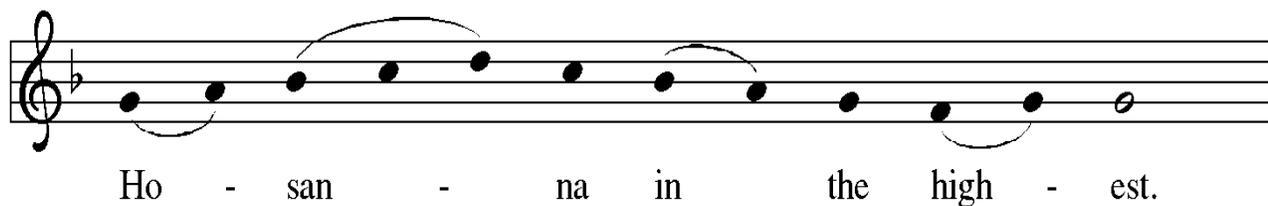
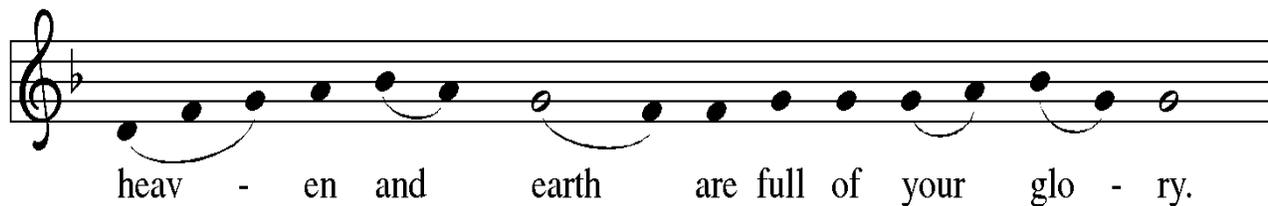
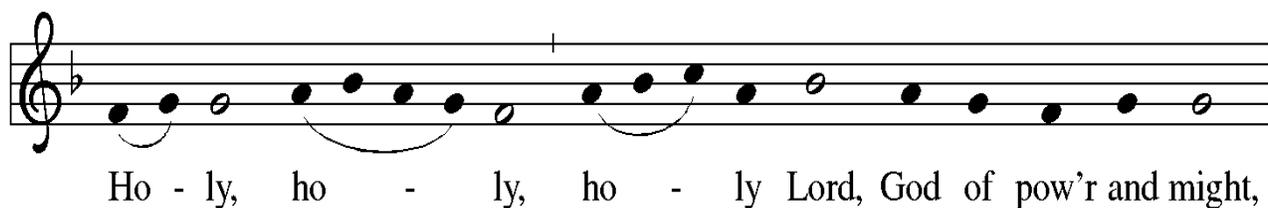


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*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. 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



## \*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.**

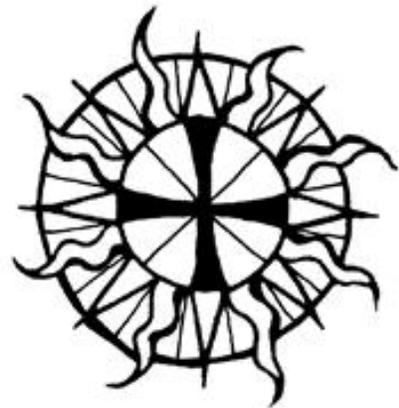
**Christ will come again.**

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.**

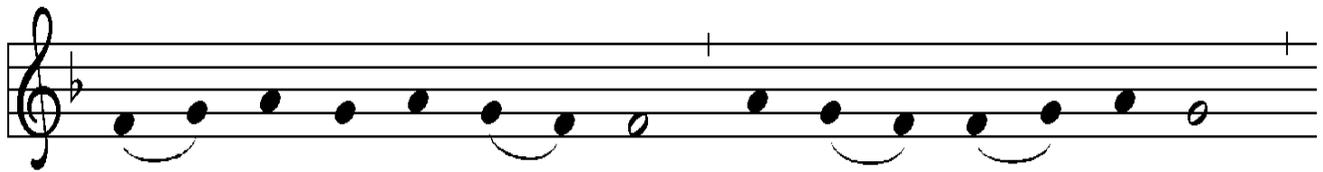
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

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**



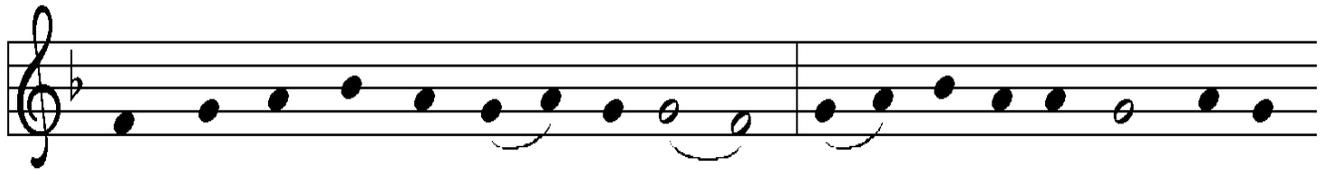
# \*LORD'S PRAYER



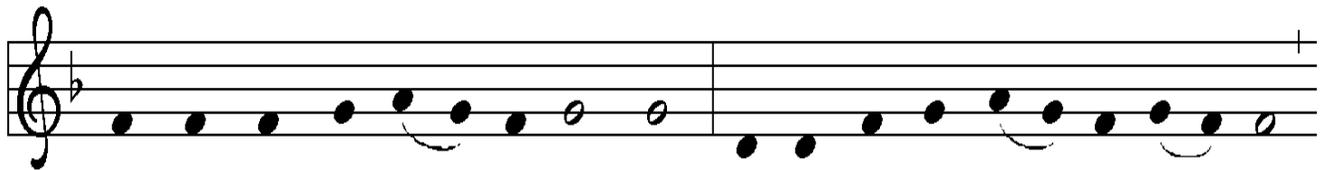
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



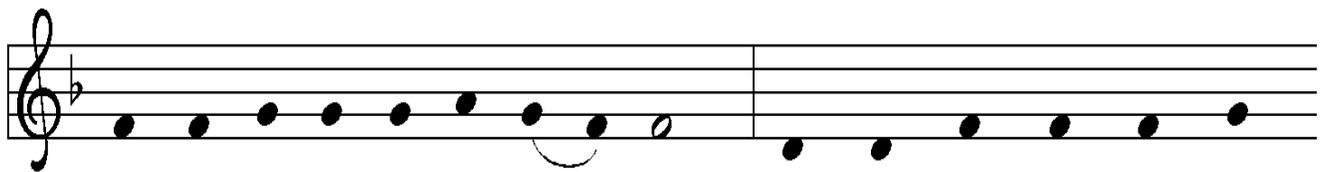
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



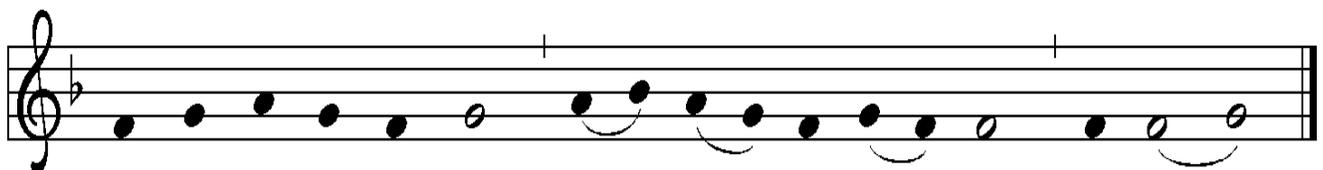
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst 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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Temple/Hayes

\*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 of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

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*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.

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

ELW 768

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Shepherd Me, O God*

Haugen/Hayes



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. David Olson

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tom Myers

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Kristine Boike

LECTOR

Charles Matthies

GREETER

Staci Harden

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

## PRAYER LIST

**Members of the Congregation:** Elaine Haase, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, and Gregg Valek. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Mary Ann Babiar, Ann Boor, Rich Caliendo, Dan Costello, Becky Dice, Tom Doran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Jeff Kubik, Brian Wickenheiser, Lisa Martin, Marcia Matthies, Artem Molovkina, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of **+Theodore+** and **+Elizabeth Matthies+** on the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of their wedding on March 20<sup>th</sup> by remembering son Charles; and also in loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather **+Robert Skudrna+** on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing today by remembering wife Sue and children Kristi Skudrna, Jason Skudrna and his family Brooke, Lyla, and granddaughter Skylar. *Attention: If anyone has any vases from the altar flowers, please leave them in the kitchen. Our florist's supply is running low. Thank you!*

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

Homebound members wishing a visit from **Interim 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. 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.

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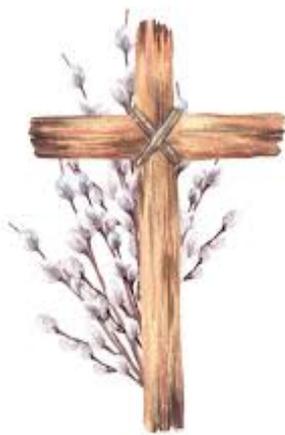
*Piano and Violin Studios Recital  
today at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary  
Students of Jane Lauritsen and Kristine Boike  
All are welcome!*

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**Easter lilies will be available** for \$17.00 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 to the left side of the doorway in the dining hall (lower west entrance). **The final day to order is Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.** You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the sanctuary.

Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?



## **Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch**

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> following service

Please bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to contribute to the brunch entrees being provided. Thank you!

**Holy Week 2026**  
**March 29<sup>th</sup>—April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

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  
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch

**Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

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



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461*

*Tuesday, March 17, 2026*

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

*Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*

*Thursday, March 19, 2026*

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

*Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556*

*Saturday, March 21, 2026*

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i>	\$1,827.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,826.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 1.00

Benevolence is our commitment to SZS and ELCA missionary support.

The budget's current need will be adjusted when a  
new pastor accepts our call.

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

