

# The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 \* (708) 442-5250  
"Faith Active in Love"  
[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

Volume 45

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Issue 4

*We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and Sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.*

## Holy Week 2023 April 2<sup>nd</sup>—April 9<sup>th</sup>

### Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</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  
Festive Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

### Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

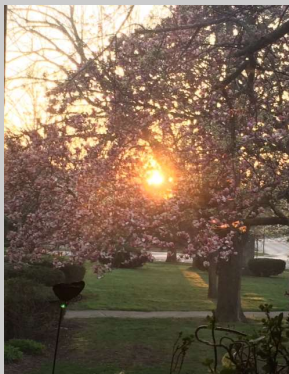
7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,  
Individual Absolution,  
and Foot-Washing

### Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

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

### Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

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



## The Three Days

We use the term three-in-one to describe the Holy Trinity, but it is also an apt way to speak of the triduum, or the Three Days. At the center of the church year is our annual celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. One way of observing Holy Week is to walk with Jesus through the last days of his earthly life and to emotionally relive the darkness of Good Friday and the surprising resurrection of Easter Sunday. Yet the triduum is closer to the Gospel of John's interpretation, in which Jesus' death is seen as his glorification and cannot be separated from his resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit.

Which days are included in the paschal triduum? With a recent understanding of Holy Week, many would name Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, with Easter Sunday identified as a separate observance. However, a more ancient counting would include Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. A Jewish understanding of time begins the day at sundown. Hence, the triduum begins at sundown on Maundy Thursday as we enter the Three Days.

As many congregations are recovering the ancient observance of the Three Days, the designation of Holy Week with its tendency to historicize "events" in Jesus' last week of earthly life may need to be reconsidered. The concept of Holy Week often led to Easter Sunday as the climax, but to observe the Three Days is to find the heart of the church year in the celebration of the triduum itself.

The Three Days is our Christian Passover. We are not trying to recreate first-century Jerusalem; rather, we are participating in the mysteries at the core of our faith. Distinctions between past, present, and future disappear. Like Jews who observe the Passover in light of their current context, we mark the Three Days not as a way to go back in time but to let the spiritual power of death and resurrection be unleashed for us today. With Christ we "pass over" from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

With the preparations of Lent behind us, we enter the Three Days with great joy and anticipation. A traditional entrance antiphon for Maundy Thursday invites us to glory in the cross which is our life, salvation, and resurrection. Because death and resurrection are intertwined, the Maundy Thursday liturgy begins with a note of triumph. This moment is our Easter Passover. The cross is our resurrection. Death is the gate to new life. Surrender is the path to victory. On Good Friday the cross is acclaimed as the tree of life that brings healing and salvation to the world. We do not wait until Easter morning to proclaim the vindication of this apparent defeat, but we lift high the cross as the very sign that we find life in the midst of death.

For these three days we put everything else aside so that we may attend to the awesome mystery that defines our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! In a sense time stops and we enter eternity. We have waited a year to celebrate these powerful liturgies, and we savor every moment. We are not merely commemorating events from the past; we are participating in the very mystery at the center of our lives. Baptismal dying and rising with Christ is not only our baptismal vocation, it is our sure and certain hope.

The words of these days are the scriptures, hymns, and rites that mark our Christian identity. Yet the images of the liturgies may speak even more powerfully to our souls and bodies. A basin of water and the washing of feet are a sign of Jesus' self-offering and his ultimate sacrifice on the cross, even as the new commandment calls us to empty ourselves for the sake of others. A wooden cross carried among the assembly and honored with adoration is our wordless response to the great mystery before us. The blazing new fire on an early spring evening stirs in us yet another invitation to new beginnings. The paschal candle carried into a dark worship space starkly contrasts darkness with the radiant light of Christ's resurrection. New Christians bathed in water and anointed with oil are signs of the body of Christ taking on flesh and blood in our midst. The first Eucharist of Easter is none other than our eating and drinking the rich abundance of the promised land.

When the Three Days is observed with careful planning, joyful intentionality, and reverent celebration, it becomes the heartbeat of a parish's life together. The triduum is the center of the year; Lent flows to it and Easter flows from it. In these holy days we find both our identity and our mission—remembered in the past, made present through word and sacrament, and propelling us with invincible hope into the future.

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## Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ indwelling in them.  
 Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.  
 Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.  
 Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
 Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
 Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
 Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
 Fast from worry; feast on trust.  
 Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
 Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
 Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.  
 Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.  
 Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
 Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
 Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
 Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
 Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.  
 Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
 Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
 Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
 Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
 Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting,  
 gift us with your presence, so we can be a gift to others in  
 carrying out your work. Amen

“...And there was light!”



*Exterior grounds lights were recently repaired and replaced with funds from a generous gift by long-time member and resident of Riverside, Mary Sordel, and the dedicated efforts of John Kostelny and Rafael Martinez.*



## Palm Sunday Coffee Hour!

Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional Palm Sunday Coffee Hour on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

## New Council Members...

The following individuals were installed as our new council members on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to these elected leaders for the service they offer to the congregation and its local, domestic and global ministries.

### *Officers*

John Broussard, President  
 Carrie Watkiss, Vice-President  
 Fred Kuzel, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Charles Matthies, Financial Secretary

### *Members*

Janet Broussard  
 John Kostelny  
 Linda Painter  
 Beverly Tarbox



## Birthdays

Apr. 3: Betty Licko-Keel Michelle Ruska Rafael Martinez	Apr. 13: Robert Kavicky Apr. 15: Susan Jones Apr. 20: Anita Bulir
Apr. 4: Anne Marie D'Alexander John McShane	Apr. 21: Gregg Valek Apr. 22: Hannah Boike
Apr. 6: Krystina Gomez Kathi Zinsser	Apr. 24: Paul Watkiss Apr. 26: Susan Gillund Carol Triska
Apr. 7: Benjamin Myers Brayden Murray	Apr. 27: John Hassel
Apr. 11: Arnost Bulir Joshua Czerak Diane Ritacco	Apr. 29: Arden Kurhayez Courtney Kurhayez Laura Teter

## Anniversaries

April 9, 1982: Joseph and Carol Ruiz  
April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones

## News from the Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Dear Friends,  
Happy Easter! We will be “hopping” into April with crafts, songs and activities about Easter eggs, kites and bugs.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

## Memorial Flowers

*March 5<sup>th</sup>:* In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his birth on March 6<sup>th</sup> and in memory of parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

*March 12<sup>th</sup>:* In loving memory of dear mother and grandmother +Betty Kany+ on the third anniversary of her passing on March 8<sup>th</sup> by remembering children Dr. Robert Kany and Liz Rouck, son-in-law Mark, and grandchildren Dr. John and Lauren.

*March 19<sup>th</sup>:* In loving memory of +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding on March 20<sup>th</sup> by remembering son Charles.

## Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or, if attending worship, please sign-up on the sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall. *The final day for ordering is Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.* You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.

## Memorials and Honorariums

### ✠ For the Church ✠

Adrienne Gana, in memory of +Eugene Gana+.  
Mark and Elizabeth Rouck, in memory of +Audrey Ducay+.  
John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +John Kozik+.  
Milan Oklepek, in memory of dear wife +Deanna+ on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing on March 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Edward and Joyce Svancara (*for the newsletter*).  
Mark and Liz Rouck and Family, in memory of mother and grandmother +Betty Kany+, on the third anniversary of her passing.  
Audrey Bucz, in memory of dear husband +John+ on the first anniversary of his passing on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
Brian Bucz, in memory of dear father +John+ on the first anniversary of his passing on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.  
John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Darlene Roubal+.  
Emil Kostel, in memory of +John Kostelancik+.



February 2023	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$2,527.00	
Date	Offering
2/5	\$3,112.00
2/12	\$2,666.00
2/19	\$2,745.00
2/26	\$2,255.00

## The Place Where We Are Right

*by Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai*

From the place where we are right  
Flowers will never grow  
In the spring.

The place where we are right  
Is hard and trampled  
Like a yard.

But doubts and loves  
Dig up the world  
Like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
Where the ruined  
House once stood.

*God of infinite mercy and goodness, with grateful hearts we pray to you today for peace. You offer us your peace continually, and you constantly remind us that peacemakers are blessed “for they shall be called children of God.” May your voice resound in the hearts of all as you call us to follow the path of reconciliation and peace, and to be merciful as you are merciful. We pray to you for the people of the Ukraine and Central and Eastern Europe, and all in that region of the world who are experiencing conflict, violence, injury, grief, displacement and death. Bless the leaders with wisdom, vision and perseverance needed to build together a world of justice and solidarity, and to break down walls of hostility and division. Let us walk: in the light of the Lord. Amen*

## APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

### Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector and Crucifer: George Valek  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: John Kostelny  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:

Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
Lectors: Charles Matthies, John Broussard,  
Carrie Watkiss, J. T. and Beverly  
Tarbox, Tom Michaels, Jane  
Lauritsen, and Kristine Boike  
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: John Kostelny

### Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Fred Kuzel  
Live Stream: John Broussard  
Ushers: Rafael Martinez & John Kostelny

### April 16<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz  
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox  
Lector: Emily Bittner  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: John Kostelny

### April 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik  
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels  
Lector: Tom Myers  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: Fred Kuzel

### April 30<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey  
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels  
Lector: George Valek  
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: George Valek

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Edward and Joanne Sefara



## MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

### May 7<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Ann Kmet  
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies  
Lector: Tom Michaels  
Live Stream: John Broussard  
Usher: Janet Broussard

### May 14<sup>th</sup>:

Greeter: Karyn Bute  
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers  
Lector: Carrie Watkiss  
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss  
Usher: Walter Cudecki

### May 21<sup>st</sup>:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny  
Assisting Minister: John Broussard  
Lector: J. T. Tarbox  
Live Stream: Charles Matthies  
Usher: John Kostelny

### May 28<sup>th</sup>:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki  
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss  
Lector: Beverly Tarbox  
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel  
Usher: Rafael Martinez

**Sacristan and Altar Care:**  
Carole Pollitz and Jane Lauritsen



For more information, news, photos,  
worship videos and sermons, visit us on the  
web at:  
[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)





## Images of the Season for Easter

What image comes to mind when you think of Easter—Jesus getting up and walking out of the tomb? Actually, none of the resurrection stories gives a detailed description of what happened in the tomb, other than to say that the Crucified One was raised. We are not told that the hand of God reached into the tomb to jostle Jesus from his death sleep, or that the Holy Spirit came into the tomb to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. Whatever happened in that tomb was something beyond human understanding. So the primary image for Easter is a profound absence: just the empty tomb itself.

Matthew gives additional details about the entombment of Jesus that enhance our understanding of the resurrection. He relates how the Jewish religious authorities requested that the tomb be sealed and that guards be posted, so that the body could not be stolen and the claim made that Jesus had been raised. Jesus became a prisoner of the tomb. But it is death itself, not the guards, who is the jailer. Fittingly, in the Easter hymn "Come, you faithful, raise the strain" (LBW 132) we sing that "Christ has burst his prison" (st. 2).

Of course the rolling away of the stone did not release Jesus from the tomb, for he had already been raised and gone ahead of the disciples to Galilee. In the resurrection Jesus transcended time, space, and death—those things that limit human existence. So the stone was not rolled away for Jesus, but for the disciples and for us. We need to see the evidence that the "right hand of the Lord has triumphed" (Psalm 118:16) in raising Jesus so that we might believe, and through believing "have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Jesus' victory over death is but a foretaste of God's final victory over death in the age to come. Isaiah anticipates God's ultimate defeat of death (25:7) when he speaks of God destroying "the shroud that is cast over all peoples" and swallowing up death forever. Death having been defeated, the only thing left for God's people to do is to throw a big celebration, replete with the best food and wine. Each repetition of the Lord's supper anticipates the new life of the end-time, and the risen Lord comes again to share with us the gifts of eternal life in the bread and wine, which are his own body and blood.

Other images for the Easter season remind us that Jesus' victory over death was not for his sake alone—a divine tour de force—but was for us and for our salvation. Jesus' resurrection is the precondition for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). It is also the precondition for our new birth as God's sons and daughters destined to receive a permanent inheritance (1 Peter 1:4), and for our being ransomed from the ways of sin and death with Christ's own blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The good shepherd image of John 10 is also one that we associate with Easter, specifically, the fourth Sunday of Easter. Why Easter? The reason is that Jesus can only be our good shepherd insofar as he himself has conquered death. He lays down his life (that is, sacrifices himself) for his sheep, but he takes it up again, and he can share the power of eternal life with the sheep who hear his voice (10:10, 28). Only the one who has conquered death can be the guardian of God's sheep.

Jesus' victory over the grave is completed in the ascension and at the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus ascends not just to another place, but to another age, the future reign of God where sin and death have no power. As the one who conquered death, Jesus ascends to take his rightful place in the dominion where the power of eternal life has full sway. Jesus takes his place in the future reign of God for us. He pours out his Spirit on the church to empower it for mission in the world (Acts 1:8), and through the sacramental means of grace—proclamation of the word, the meal of thanksgiving, and the cleansing and renewing bath—Jesus comes in the power of the Holy Spirit to incorporate us into the reign of God. The risen Lord, death's conqueror, gives us a share in what will be our future glory with him.

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*Jazz vocalist Terry Sullivan returns to Sts. Peter and Paul in concert on Sunday afternoon, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4 p.m. The concert will feature selections from My Fair Lady. More information will be coming soon.*

### "The Unison Benediction" (A Scottish Blessing)

May the blessing of light be on you—  
light without and light within.  
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,  
so that the stranger and friend may come  
and warm himself at it.  
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,  
like a candle set in the window of a house,  
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.  
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,  
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,  
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of heaven  
shines and sometimes a star.  
And may the blessing of the earth be on you,  
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,  
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of the day.  
And may it rest easy over you when, at last you lie under it.  
May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out  
from under it quickly,  
up and on its way to God.  
And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly.  
Amen



*Coming in May...*

Lux Cantorum Chicago  
*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert and Celebration*

“CELESTIAL THEATER”

LCC continues the commemoration of its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a spring program of sacred music from both musicals and operas. Our concerts will include a commissioned work by Jonathan Miller and compositions spanning almost two hundred years.



In concert here on Sunday afternoon, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m.  
followed by a celebratory anniversary reception.

*Ticket information will appear in the May newsletter,  
emailings, and the LCC website at  
[luxcantorum.org](http://luxcantorum.org).*

## ***All Creation Sings:***

A recently released hymnal supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Sts. Peter and Paul,

Back in the fall of 2020, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released *All Creation Sings (ACS)*, a hymnal supplement that goes hand in hand with *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)* to support the church's mission of worship in Word and Sacrament that leads to service and justice in the world. *ACS* invites us to expand our song and prayer with timely attention to the health of our planetary home and the human community within it. Included are 200 hymns and songs, more than 30 of them multilingual and many being new since *ELW* was released.

We have been downloading and including hymns from *ACS* in our worship bulletins as needed over the past several months; however, the formatting of the included hymns is difficult to read for many of our members. The Worship and Music Committee has recommended we purchase pew editions of *ACS* to use in our services in conjunction with *ELW*.

You are invited to prayerfully contemplate and donate towards the cost of obtaining these pew editions. See the attached form for more details. Should you wish your donation(s) to commemorate a special event or to be given in memory of a departed loved one or loved ones, please indicate this on the form. Bookplates will be placed in each copy for each donation received.

I pray that God's Holy Spirit guide you as you consider this commitment.

In Christ,

*Charles Matthies*

*Chairperson, Sts. Peter and Paul Worship and Music Committee*

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*(Detach here and return as indicated below.)*

## **Donate a Hymnal!**

You can contribute a copy or copies of *All Creation Sings* for just \$15.00 each. Please provide the information requested below, attach a check, and either drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

If you are donating more than one hymnal, please use a separate form for each donation. Extra forms are available at the back of church, in the weekly bulletins, or the church office.

Thank you!

Please complete the information below as you would like it to appear on the nameplate in the hymnal.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation will appear on your mailed contribution statement:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope No: \_\_\_\_\_

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Permit No. 37

**DATED MATERIAL**

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# Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Home Baked Goods,  
Rummage Tables, Used Toys and Books,  
Jewelry, Raffle, and Holiday Decorations

*Donations are being accepted for the Spring Rummage Sale. Donations may be brought to the church Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. til noon. Please let Karen in the office know when you are delivering by calling 1.708.442.5250. All items need to be clean and in working order. No electronics, including computers and TV's, and clothing. Thank you!*