

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

Volume 47

June 2025

Issue 6

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.

A Poem for Good Shepherd Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

By Andrew King

There is a place we can find, a good place
like quiet meadows where flowers spread,
like green grasses by gentle streams;
a place where the heart feels nourished,
where the mind is hopeful, unhurried,
where the spirit is glad and at peace.
We'll name this place fulfillment,
we'll name it healing and thankfulness,
we'll name this good place pasture
for there we seek to feed.

And there is a voice we can hear that calls us,
a gentle voice, melodious,
a voice like songbirds and laughter,
like a mother comforting her children,
like a shepherd calling his sheep.
We'll name this voice acceptance,
we'll name it mercy and forgiveness,
we'll name it the voice of God's love,
inviting us gently to feed.

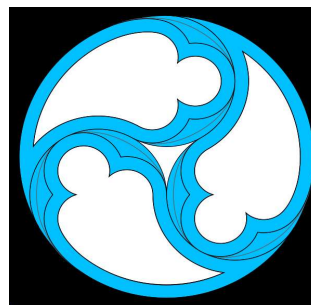
It invites us to enter pasture
when we think we're too hurting to listen,
too angry or grieving or fearful
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It invites us to enter pasture
when we're sure we're too busy to listen,
too burdened or worried or pressured
to hear the voice that calls us to peace.

It says: Come in and go out and find pasture.
It says: We are safe with the shepherd of all sheep.
It says: Meadows await us, in this moment.
It says: Rest in love. Where you are. Joyfully feed.

—submitted by Pastor Dennis

Adopted into the Trinity: Holy Trinity Sunday, June 15th



*Triskelion Element of Gothic
Architecture: The Dance of
the Trinity.*

We are children of God: the expression is so familiar as to lose its punch. Isn't everyone a child of God? Yes, absolutely, in the sense that God loves every single person with an infinite and abiding love. But today's readings use the idea of becoming a child of God in a different way. In baptism we become daughters and sons of God in such a way that we share in Jesus' own relationship as Son of God. We get to call God "Abba" as Jesus did; the Spirit who bears us is the wind that blows through our lives as it did through Jesus' life. (To follow today's gospel it helps to know that "spirit" and "wind" are the same word in Greek!)

Jesus uses the image of being born anew, born from above, born of the Spirit in the water of baptism. Paul uses the image of being adopted, as a Roman man might adopt a favored slave, giving the slave the status of son or daughter and legal heir. Birth and adoption are completely equivalent metaphors here, conveying the same truth that through the Holy Spirit we are brought inside the life of the Trinity, made to share in Jesus' own relationship with the one who sent him. The Spirit gives birth to us, the Father adopts us, and we are children of God just as Jesus is God's Son. And just as Jesus was God's self-giving to the world, we as God's daughters and sons are given to the world because God so loves the world.

We who are baptized live a Trinitarian life. The Spirit blows through you, and confidently cries "Abba!" in your voice, and you are sent as a sister or brother of Jesus to suffer with a world in pain and to be raised from every death by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26900.

Easter Day 2025



From “Via Dolorosa”

by Toyohiko Kagawa

*With sorrowful heart,
yet for the joy of atonement,
You went, O Christ, to Calvary.
If the stars ceased to twinkle
and the sun forgot to shine,
The ever-increasing rays of God's love
Would find an earthward passage through You.*

*O Christ,
that a thousand and a thousand years
Have passed since Golgotha You braved;
And still we gasp with fear
and grasp with greed—and suffer:
Let us swing into the orbit of Your love.*

*Hasten the day
when we can forget the borders of countries,
The hues of the skin;
When we—all of us together—
can praise in harmony Your love.*

*O, let us see more vividly
Your blood of love from Calvary,
Streaming like ever-increasing rays... Earthward.*

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

In remembrance of the 76th wedding anniversary of +Steve+ and Beverly Podzamsky on April 23rd by daughter and son-in-law Diane and Ben McGee.

In memory of grandmother +Anne Gavac+, great-grandmothers +Suzanna Hluchy+ and +Suzanna Gavac+ by grandchildren Joe, John, Sheryl and Sarah.

Michael Wood, in memory of mother +Shirley Wood+ and grandmother +Anne Small+ on Mother's Day.

Adolf and Ellen Heimann, in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary on May 9th.

Shirley Pekarek, Jennifer Pekarek, Brian and Robyn Pekarek and family, Leanne Grauerholz and family, in memory of aunt +Betty Cillo+.

Charlene Patula, in memory of the Patula, Terem, Meyers and Vandlik Families, Blizzard, Piper, and Pete (*building maintenance fund*).

Charlene Patula, in honor of Pastor Lauritsen's retirement (*building maintenance fund*).

Those Winter Sundays

by Robert Hayden

Sundays too my father got up early
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know, what did I know
of love's austere and lonely offices?

—submitted by Pastor Dennis



June 2:	Ann Kasper	June 20:	Jessica Barajas
June 5:	Peyton Murray		Clare Ruska
June 6:	Nico Tarbox	June 21:	Lana Papadatos
June 7:	Paul Drahos	June 22:	Jillian Collins
June 8:	Linda Painter	June 24:	Jonathan Haase
June 10:	Betty Buffa	June 25:	Judith Cudecki
	David McShane		Staci Harden
June 18:	Krystyna Ritacco	June 30:	Rowan Smith

Anniversaries

June 6, 1983: BettyAnn Mocek and Adam Walker

June 7, 2014: Ashish and Kristina Patel

June 13, 1992: Paul and Carrie Watkiss

June 15, 2024: Carl and Deborah Busch III

June 20, 1987: Martin and Ann Pennino

June 21, 1980: Philip and Linda Painter

June 24, 1973: Anita and Lester Henley

June 25, 1988: Thomas and Vicki Michaels

“Free man is by necessity insecure; thinking man by necessity uncertain.”

By Erich Fromm

We hear comments like “Hang in there!” “Don’t quit now,” and “Don’t give up the ship!” When our outlook is gloomy and pessimistic, we should remember we are not in charge and we are not all-knowing. We cannot predict what will be around the next corner. If a difficult problem looms before us, we cannot be sure what help might also be there for us to meet the problem.

Our compulsion for control tempts us to quit and give ourselves over to defeat. Then the outcome would be settled and predictable. We no longer would have to live with the insecurity of not knowing the future. When we are tempted to indulge in our addictive ways, or to return to a relationship that isn’t good for us, or to face a painful problem, it helps to recall that change is a basic fact of life. However stressful this moment is, it will change. Not at our command, but it will change. We aren’t in control of outcomes, but we can choose now to “hang in there” and to give our energy only toward positive solutions.

May I have the serenity to accept the process and the courage to be true to my part. I will leave outcomes for the future.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.

Memorial Flowers

May 11th: In memory of dear mother +Betty Zittman+ on Mother's Day by remembering family Rocky, Tina and grandchildren.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, IL 60546
Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Riverside, IL
Permit No. 37

DATED MATERIAL

JUNE WORSHIP SERVERS

- June 1st:**
Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: George Valek
- June 8th:**
Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez
- June 15th:**
Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard
- June 22nd:**
Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki
- June 29th:**
Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Kristine Boike

The Resurrection
Palm Sunday, 2025

The Resurrection, which Christians celebrate one week from Sunday, is not the reversal of Christ’s crucifixion. It is its vindication. It declares that even when the empire kills truth, truth still rises. That even when justice is crucified, it does not stay buried. The Caesars among us don’t get the final word.

—Father Andrew Thayer, Episcopal priest

JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

- July 6th:**
Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek
- July 13th:**
Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard
- July 20th:**
Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny
- July 27th:**
Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Gary and Jocely Drahos
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

A Prayer for Fathers

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers
as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.
Amen