



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
Telephone: (708) 442-5250
Parsonage: (708) 442-0238
Fax: (708) 442-5264

Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Email address: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service

Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13th, 2020 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

GATHERING

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

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts. *Silence is observed for reflection and self-examination.*

Faithful God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. **Amen.**

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God. **Amen.**

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

*GREETING

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.

And also with you.

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of the brokenhearted and oppressed; you promised to send your chosen One who gives a garland instead of ashes to those who mourn; who brings down the powerful and lifts the lowly. As we light these candles, open our lips to testify to the true light coming into the world who enlightens everyone. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the desert.

Reveal your truth to us, and fill our mouths with shouts of joy that declare the great things you have done for us. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the Spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

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

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

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

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

John's Gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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

SERMON

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need, remembering especially... Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in silence or spoken softly.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved people whose lives testified to your radiant love, especially Lucy, martyr of the church and those we name... Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **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 him 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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**



*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**

Spoken softly by the congregation.

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**

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

DISTRIBUTION

Largo

Beethoven

***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. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

Hark, the Glad Sound!
(Sung by leader.)

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ronda

Beethoven



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Lucy, martyr, died 304

Sunday, December 13th

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.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591

Monday, December 14th

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas (LLC)

Wednesday, December 16th

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

LECTOR

Tom Michaels

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother **+Mary Riban+** on the 19th anniversary of her death on December 19th, 2001 by remembering children Mildred Riban and Michael Riban, Jr. and family.

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation:

Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Robert Melnyk, Dot Myers, Steve Podzamsky, Mary Sasuta, Bob Skudrna and Olga Zavodny

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:

Ben Adelman, Kelly Alvey, Paul Bakke, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daus, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Sharon Hicks, Bill Holmes, Jacob Kavicky, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Daryle Lauritsen, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Danny Orozco, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Dr. Craig Reckard, Dale Renville, Sandy Rossella, Eli Santow, Kyle Schardt, Ben Smith, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Jim Sward, Harvey Swenson, Jacob Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Ralph Thompson, Mark Van Scharrel, Kyle Schardt and Taz Zajac.



Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering December 6th, 2020

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2020:</i>	\$2,597.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$2,565.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 32.00