



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](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
Email address: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service](mailto: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.*

---

---

---

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

---

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

**GATHERING**

---

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

PRELUDE

*Vom Himmel Hoch*

J. S. Bach

\*CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP

Here is the emptiness of my night  
**may it be filled with your glory**  
Here are the silences of my heart  
**may they be filled with your songs**

Here is the watchfulness of my eyes  
**may they be opened to wonder**  
Here is the listening of my soul  
**may it hear the joy of your love**

Here is the hopefulness of my journey  
**may it lead me swift to your side**  
Here is the searching of my anxious mind  
**may it find rest in your peace**

Here is the wood and straw of my days  
**may they be a bed for your presence**  
And here is the humble cave of my life  
**may it be your home, gentle Savior.**

—by lectionary poet Andrew King

(Sung by leader.)

## \*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.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

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

## ANTHEM

"Every Valley" from *The Messiah*

Händel

## SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



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

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

\*CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way, especially... Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.*

Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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

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

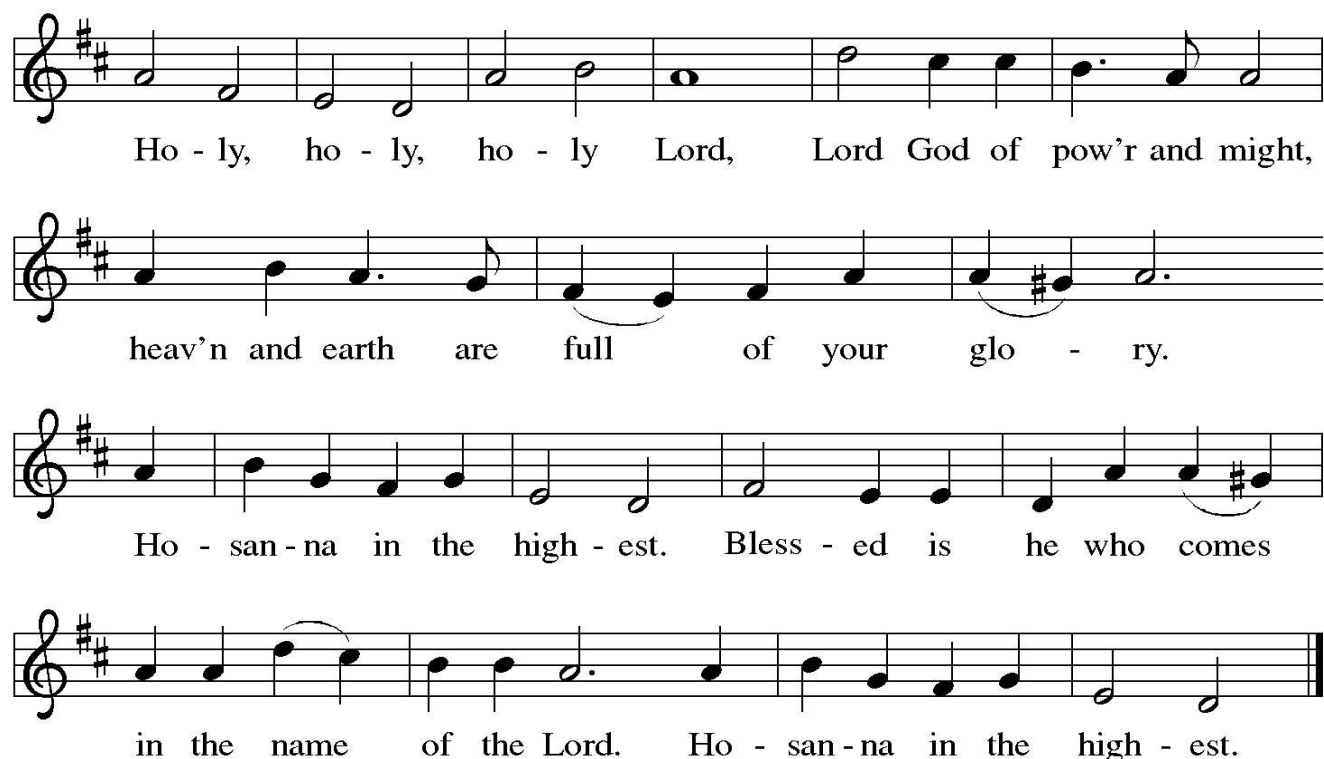
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... 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

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**And dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.**  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
**The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.**



## DISTRIBUTION

### \*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. Almighty and Eternal God, on this night you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

---

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

### \*BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation  
has filled us with grace and truth,  
give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*  
(Sung by the congregation.)

ELW 290

### \*DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!  
**Peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Trepak*

Chaikovsky

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

---

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Brandon Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

SOLOIST

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Tom Michaels

GREETERS

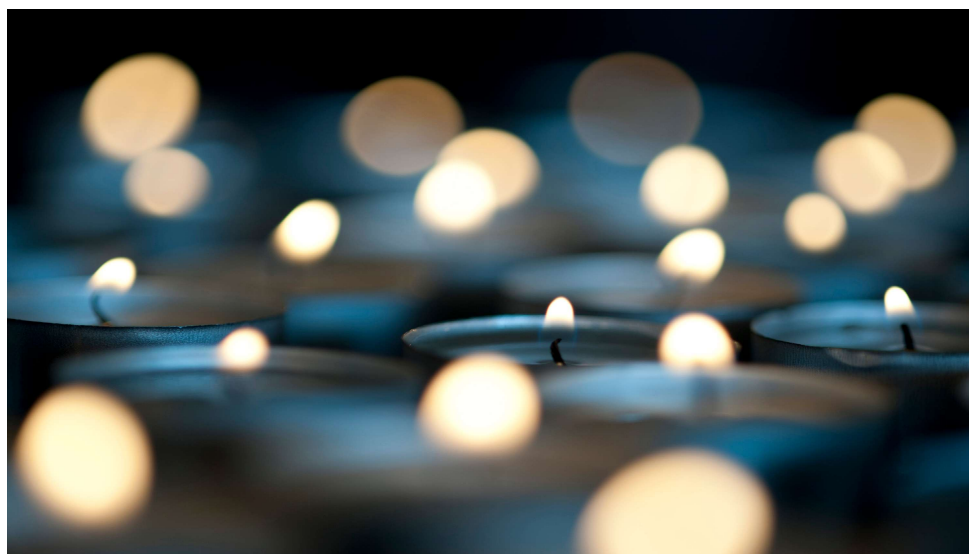
Walter and Judith Cudecki

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel



## **PRAYER LIST**

*Members of the Congregation:* Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Dot Myers, George Pagurko, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel

*Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daug, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bob Hicks, Bill Holmes, Marjorie Hudnall, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Daryle Lauritsen, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Celia Martinez, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Patricia Pfeiffer, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Elaine Sorich, Peter Spilotro, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Taz Zajac.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Stephen, Deacon and Martyr*

*Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

*John, Apostle and Evangelist*

*Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>*

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

*Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>*

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

*Name of Jesus*

*Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>*

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

<b>Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering</b> <b>December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>	
<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2021:</i>	\$2,500.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ .00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ .00