



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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 11th, 2021 ♦ 10:15 a.m.

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

***GATHERING**

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

PRELUDE

***EASTER ANNOUNCEMENT**

Announced responsively by the leader and congregation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

Rejoice then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*GATHERING HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope
(Sung by leader)

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world,
by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured:
- 2 How vast your mercy to accept
the burden of our sin,
and bow your head in cruel death
to make us clean within,
to make us clean within.
- 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,
the ransom has been paid;
you reign above at God's right hand,
in robes of light arrayed,
in robes of light arrayed.
- 4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail
to purge us of our pride,
that we may stand before your throne
by mercy purified,
by mercy purified.
- 5 All praise to you, ascended Lord;
all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest
through all eternity,
through all eternity!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.

*GREETING

Responses spoken gently by the congregation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

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

SECOND READING

1 John 1:1—2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

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

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

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

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

SERMON

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others, especially... Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy, especially... Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through 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. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, 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 offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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, 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

Spoken gently 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

*EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION

Spring Sonata

Beethoven

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

*EASTER POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes
(Sung by leader)

- 1 Peace, to soothe our bitter woes,
God in Christ on us bestows;
Jesus bought our peace with God
with his holy, precious blood;
peace in him for sinners found
is the gospel's joyful sound.

- 2 Peace within the church still dwells
in our welcomes and farewells;
and through God's baptismal pow'r
peace surrounds our dying hour.
Peace be with you, full and free,
now and through eternity.

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860-1943, alt.

*DISMISSAL

Responses spoken gently by the congregation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rustic Dance

Vivaldi

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

John Broussard

LECTOR

Fred Kuzel

GREETERS

Walter and Judith Cudecki

USHER

Walter Cudecki

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Edward and Joanne Sefara

Prayer List

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Ann Head, Anita Horak, Richard Hurbanis, Luddy Kovalsky, Dot Myers, George Pagurko, Steve Podzamsky, Mary Sasuta and Olga Zavodny

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daugs, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, Marjorie Hudnall, Nicole Kisiel, Mary Kmet, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Daryle Lauritsen, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Dr. Craig Reckard, Dale Renville, Sandy Rossella, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Ralph Thompson, Mark Van Scharrel, Anthony Valdez and Taz Zajac

COMMENTS FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Let all the pious and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay. The Lord gives rest to those who come on the eleventh hour as well as to those who have toiled since the first: yes, the Lord has pity on the last and serves the first.... Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward. You rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day. You who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet...; let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of the goodness of the Lord. For Christ is risen, and death is abolished; Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down; Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice; Christ is risen, and life is freed. To Christ be glory and power forever and ever.

—*John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (died 407 A.D.)*

COMMEMORATIONS THIS PAST WEEK

*Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529;
Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists
Friday, April 6th*

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945
Friday, April 9th*

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

*Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557
Saturday, April 10th*

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

