



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.*

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**  
***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP***

**\*GATHERING**

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*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!**

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake;  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast richly spread  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be;  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

**\*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. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.*

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

**SECOND READING**

1 John 3:16-24

*Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.*

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

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

*In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

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

SERMON

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need, especially... Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you, especially the evangelist Mark, and others... Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. 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

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*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

*Biblické písně*

Dvořák

**\*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

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*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

*Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

(Sung by leader)

- 1 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing,  
worship, thanks, devotion voicing:  
glory be to God on high!  
Christ, your cross and passion sharing,  
by this eucharist declaring  
yours the final victory.
  
- 2 Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing,  
lost and lonely, one voice hearing,  
ears attentive to your word;  
by your blood new life receiving,  
in your body, firm believing,  
we are yours, and you the Lord.
  
- 3 Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving,  
we go forth alert and living  
in your Spirit, strong and free.  
Partners in your new creation,  
seeking peace in ev'ry nation,  
may we faithful foll'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt.  
Text © Oxford University Press.

**\*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

*Psalm 150*

Lewandowski

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

LECTOR

Jane Lauritsen

GREETER

Carole Pollitz

USHER

Fred Kuzel

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Edward and Joanne Sefara

**PRAYER LIST**

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

*Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Kelly Alvey, Brian Bakalich, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daug, 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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in celebration of the 72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary of **Steve and Beverly Podzamsky** on April 23<sup>rd</sup> by their loving family.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Mark, Evangelist*

*Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>*

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

*Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380*

*Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>*

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

*Philip and James, Apostles*

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

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.



**Good Shepherd.** By John August Swanson