



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.*

---

---

---

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's Gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*

---

**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

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*  
(Sung by leader)

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*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. Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, 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 1:15-17, 21-26

*In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas' treachery and death.*

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

**SECOND READING**

1 John 5:9-13

*God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.*

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

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

*In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

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.*

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need, especially... Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

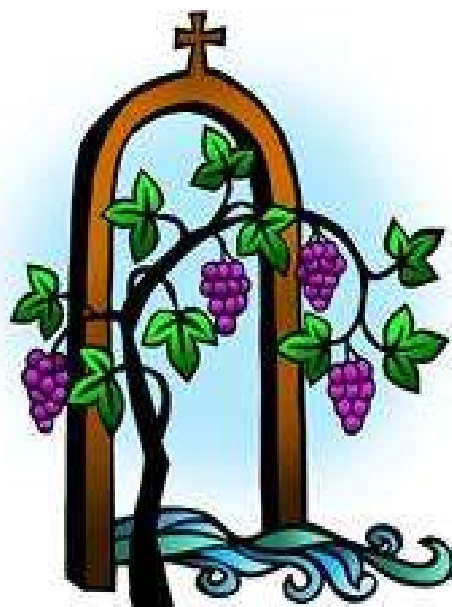
*Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.*

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints, especially... 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.

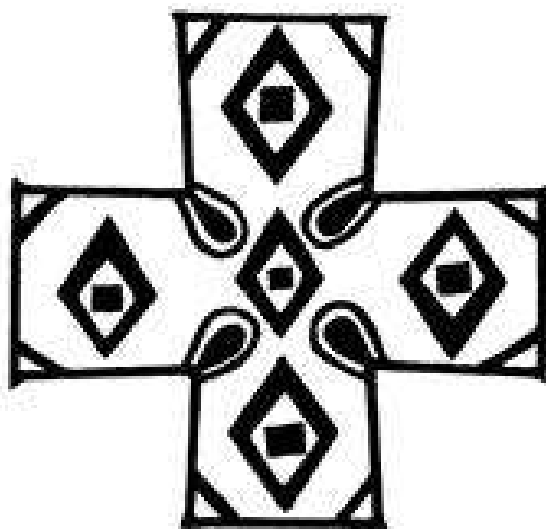
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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**

**\*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

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

(Sung by leader)

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The holy apostolic band  
upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
and with his faithful foll'wers see  
their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 To whom the shining angels cry,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"This is the Savior!" thus they say,  
"this is his glorious triumph day!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 "You see him now, ascending high  
up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*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**

**SERVING IN THE LITURGY**

---

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER	Dennis Lauritsen, pastor
ASSISTING MINISTER	Brandon Michaels
MUSIC MINISTER	David Richards
SERVICE LEADER	Carrie Watkiss
LECTOR	Joanne Sefara
GREETERS	Edward and Joanne Sefara
USHER	John Kostelny
ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS	Carole Pollitz and Kristine Boike

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2020:</i>	\$2,597.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ .00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ .00

## 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, Wally Bisping, Mary Costello, Ramona Daus, 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, Pat Pileggi, Dolores Pollitz, Alice Puglise, John Racek, Dr. Craig Reckard, Dale Renville, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Rev. Dave Stefanson, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Ralph Thompson, Mark Van Scharrel, Anthony Valdez and Taz Zajac

Our prayers and condolences are extended to the family and loved ones of **+Brian Bakalich+**, especially his wife Sandra, daughters Alexandra and Rachel, mother Ruth, and brothers Bruce and Craig. Brian passed from this life on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We share the grief of his loved ones but find solace and hope in the promise of the resurrection given to us through our baptism into Christ our Lord.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160*

*Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>*

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

*Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330*

*Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>*

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.