



# Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**

**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**

**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**

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## 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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# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of Scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*

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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

#### \*WELCOME AND ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**God of peace, we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reunite us with one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior and Lord Jesus. Amen**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **Amen**

#### \*GATHERING HYMN

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*  
(Sung by leader)

ELW 886



**\*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. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy Scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.*

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

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

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

**\*GOSPEL**

Luke 4:14-21

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

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

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



## SERMON

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered together by God's Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Grant unity in the body of Christ, your church. Replace dissension with reconciliation, and strengthen its witness to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your creation is harmed, all suffer together. Guide your people to make wise choices that protect the land, sea, and all life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Put an end to strife, violence, and hate in nations where there is turmoil. Guide leaders and movements for change to seek peace above all else. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present where there is loneliness. Be comfort where there is pain. Be healing where there is brokenness. We pray especially for... . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant health and new life in this assembly. Send us to share the good news of your abundant love in Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

We give thanks for the faithful departed who have come to know the fulfillment of your promises, especially... . Assure us of your hope until we join the saints in light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all of your beloved for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### \*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**



## MEAL

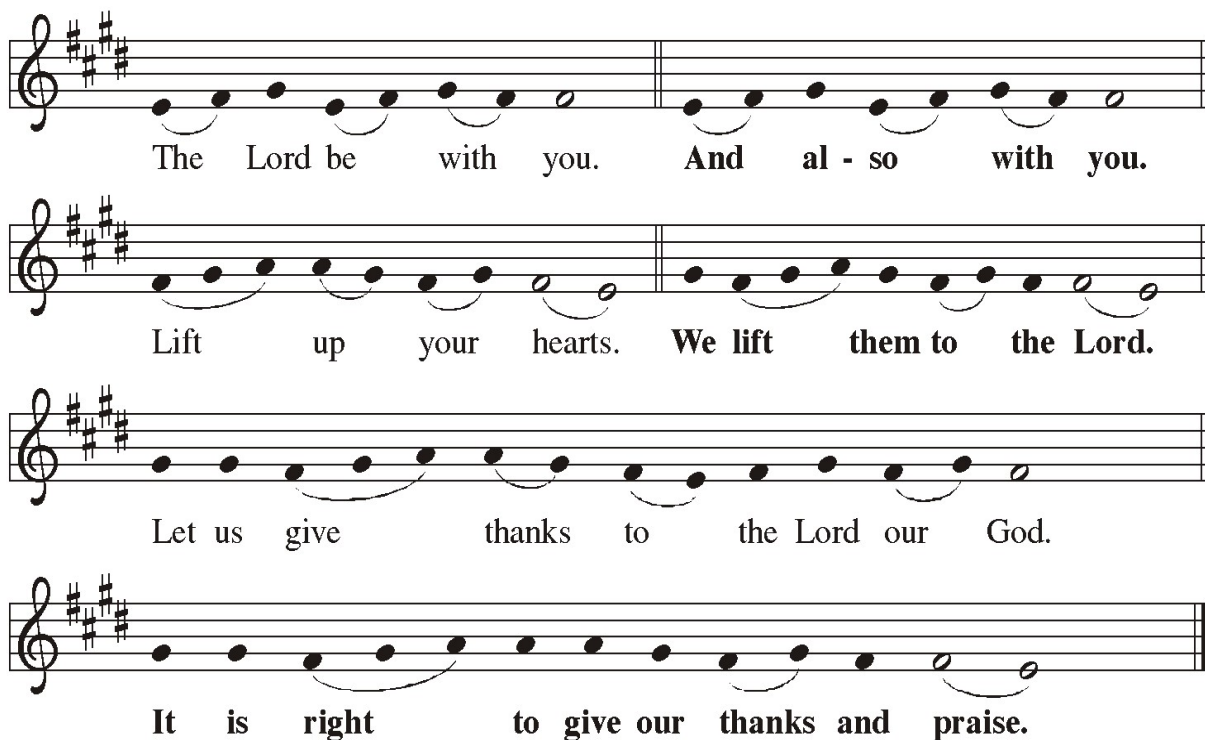
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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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 EPIPHANY

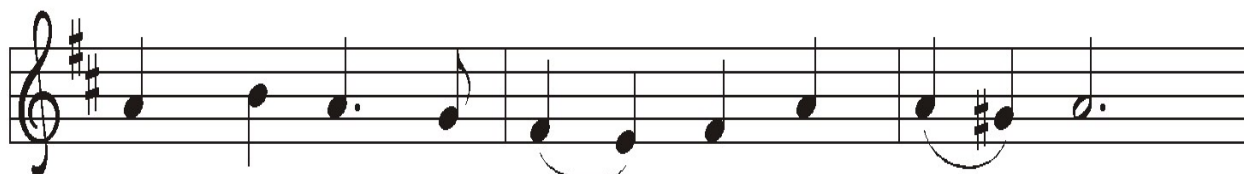
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



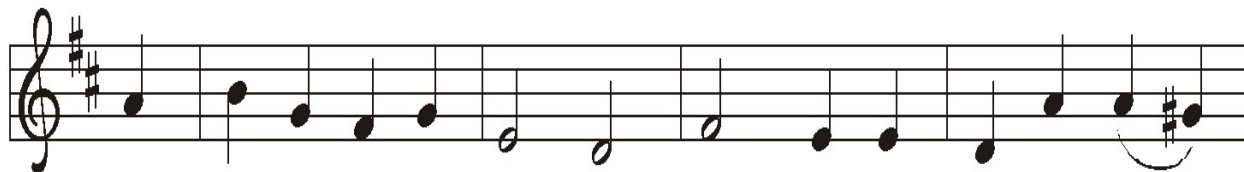
# \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



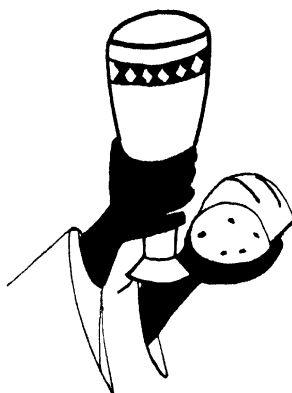
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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 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**

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**

*Psalm 117*

**Mozart**

**\*BLESSING**

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

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen**



## SENDING

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

### \*BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Die Zauberflöte*

Mozart

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

LECTOR

John Kostelny

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

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 Daus, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, 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, Bill Redis, 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.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of **+Paul Predny+** on the anniversary of his birth on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our prayers and condolences are extended to the families and loved ones of **+Bobby Hicks+**, father of Beverly Tarbox, who passed from this life on January 12<sup>th</sup> in Naples, Florida and **+Walter Kessler+** who passed away on January 15<sup>th</sup>. A liturgy of the resurrection and rite for burial was held this past Thursday for Wally. Services for Bobby will be scheduled sometime during March in Florida. We share the grief of those who mourn the passing of these our brothers in Christ but find solace and hope in the promise of the resurrection given to us through our baptism into the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

<b>Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering</b>	
<b>January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022</b>	
<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2021:</i>	\$2,500.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ .00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ .00



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### *Conversion of Paul*

*Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>*

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

### *Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries*

*Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>*

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

### *Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith*

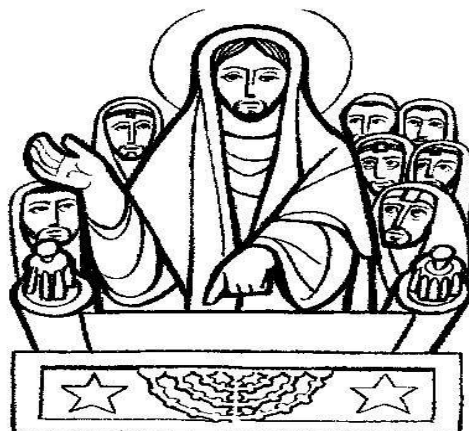
*Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>*

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

### *Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274*

*Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>*

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.





## **LIVING “WORDS WITH FRIENDS”**

Playgrounds still resound with “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” But those words ring hollow. As adults, and as children, we know only too well the power of words to do harm. In contrast, the scriptures for today point us to the word that bears hope, promise, and life. Human words can hurt or fail, but now we hear this holy word of wisdom, challenge, instruction, and hope that really does form us in God’s promise. Rather than words that tear down, we are invited by the prophets and Jesus into God’s living words with and among friends.

Jesus, in coming home and attending the synagogue, reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus announces good news to those struggling economically on the fringes of society, hope to those who are imprisoned, healing to those without sight, a lifting of the burden from those who are weighed down or oppressed, and even the in-breaking of a holy year of favor. Standing in a tradition of prophets and priests who speak, engage, and teach God’s word, Jesus now offers one thing more—fulfillment. The words of those who dream and hope, who work for justice and mercy on behalf of God, are now true.

Today as we look around and see people spending time speaking, reading, and even playing games with words, this is an opportunity to ground ourselves in the one full Word that bears life. This word counters sticks and stones and all that oppresses; Jesus address announces God’s liberating actions. This Word sounds promise to all who hear; it is an invitation to see God at work among God’s people.



**Scroll of Isaiah from Qumran**