



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11th, 2022 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in Word and Holy Supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE “Comfort Ye My People” from *The Messiah* Händel

***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 approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Faithful God, we confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved. Amen

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken hearts. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.
And also with you.

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of the brokenhearted and oppressed; you promised to send your chosen One who gives a garland instead of ashes to those who mourn; who brings down the powerful and lifts the lowly. As we light these candles, open our lips to testify to the true light coming into the world who enlightens everyone. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the desert.

Reveal your truth to us, and fill our mouths with shouts of joy that declare the great things you have done for us. Amen.

*KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

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

PSALM

Psalm 146:4-9

Prayed responsively by leader and congregation.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise forever;

who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes
of the blind;**

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

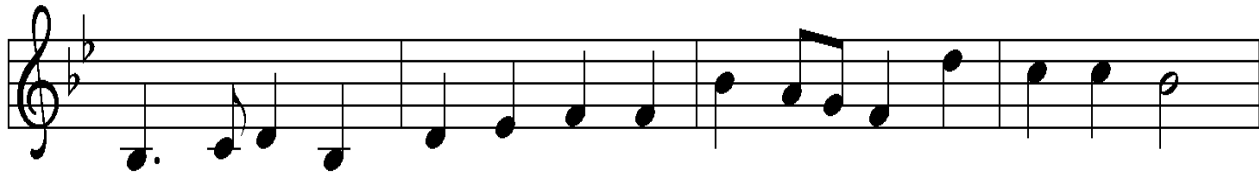
The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

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

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

SERMON

ANTHEM

“Every Valley” from *The Messiah*

Händel

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ, living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Friends in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

***WELCOME**

Let us welcome these sisters in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Stir up in our hearts an eagerness for your coming. Grant us patience in our waiting, and while we wait, strengthen us to persevere in ways of justice and righteousness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In this season, nurture dry and dormant lands so that they will blossom in the coming months. Spread your abundance throughout all lands, that every living thing may be filled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to all who are oppressed or neglected. Lift up all who are cast down. Deliver those in the captivity of loneliness and poverty into your freedom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen those who are made weak by the heavy burdens that they carry, especially... Surround them with messengers who announce your presence with them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise the expectations of all who seek you in this season. Turn us from material things, and open us to a life full of healing and renewal, where all people receive good news. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers of the congregation may be offered here in speech and silence.

Remembering the saints who have entered into your eternal reign, sustain us through their witness to your everlasting faithfulness until we are united in the fullness of your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through 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. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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 our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

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, God of pow-er 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, 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**

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Now share in the feast of salvation.

DISTRIBUTION

Panis Angelicus

Franck

***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. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Jane Lauritsen

SOLOIST

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Charles Matthies

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Beverly Podzamsky, George Pagurko, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Ellen Bailey, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Victoria Dieska, Audrey Ducay, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, 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, Gail Purcell, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Peter Spilotro, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.



If you would like to **order a poinsettia** to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board at the lower west entrance to the dining hall. You may also contact the church office to place your order. The cost per plant is \$17 and the **deadline for payment and sign-up is this Thursday, December 15th.**

Offering envelopes for 2023 are now available for pick up in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so. **Financial donations** made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Thursday, December 29th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement. Also, **2023 calendars, compliments of Hitzeman Funeral Home**, are available at both entrances to the sanctuary and on tables in the dining hall. Please take copies for yourself and neighbors.

For more news, additional announcements,
worship video recordings, and other information, please
visit us on the web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

Christmas Worship Schedule



Christmas Eve
7:15 p.m., Festival Liturgy of
Holy Communion with Candlelight

Christmas Day
10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion

Please note: Next Sunday is the last day to make a donation to Lutheran Child and Family Services through the congregation. A check will be sent to LCFS on Monday, December 19th for donations received.

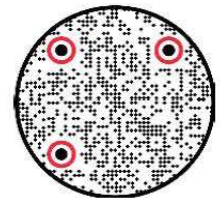


YOU CAN MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

Your donation will put gifts under the tree for the children in our care. Foster parents will receive money specifically to buy Christmas gifts for each child—assuring they receive what they want and need.

This is a real blessing to the families we serve!

Donate at LCFS.org/ChristmasDrive
or scan the QR code.



Questions? Contact Mandy_Widtfeldt@lcfs.org or 630-470-3853

Mail donations to:

Attn: LCFS Christmas Drive | 1 Oakbrook Terrace, #501 | Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

BEDS HOLIDAY ADOPT A FAMILY 2022



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

PURCHASE HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR BEDS FAMILIES

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR 3 MONTHS TO A YEAR

PURCHASE GIFT SETS FOR BEDS CLIENTS

ASSIST A FAMILY IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

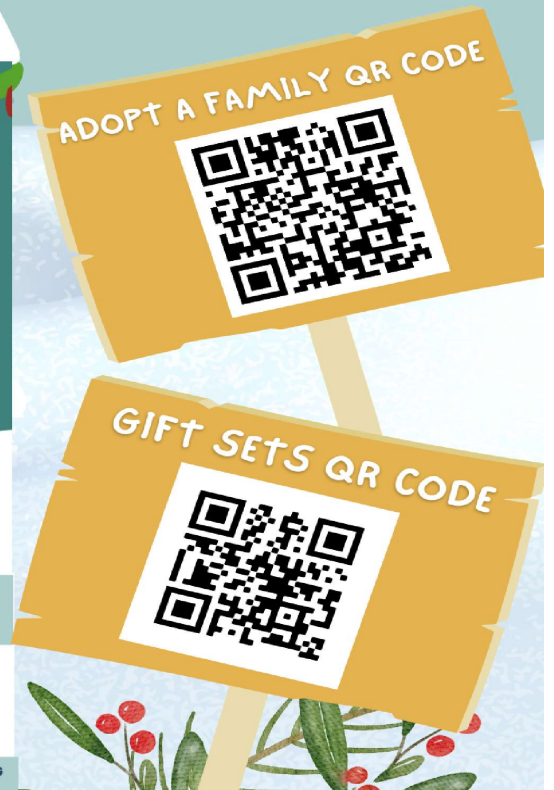


EVERYONE DESERVES A HOME.

USE QR CODES OR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BEDS RESOURCES OR TO DONATE GO TO WWW.BEDS-PLUS.ORG



Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering December 4th, 2022

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2022:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$0.00