



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

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. 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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 1st, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around Word and Meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

HOLY COMMUNION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP FOR A NEW YEAR

based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season:

And a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

A time to break down, and a time to build up.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

God has made everything suitable for its time.

God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Whatever God does endures forever.

—by Rev. Thomas Weitzel

*GREETING

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.**

*DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTMAS

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of Righteousness, you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.

Let heaven and earth ring out their praise.

O Mystery of the Word made flesh, with all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming as our Savior.

Let men and women and angels sing of your glory.

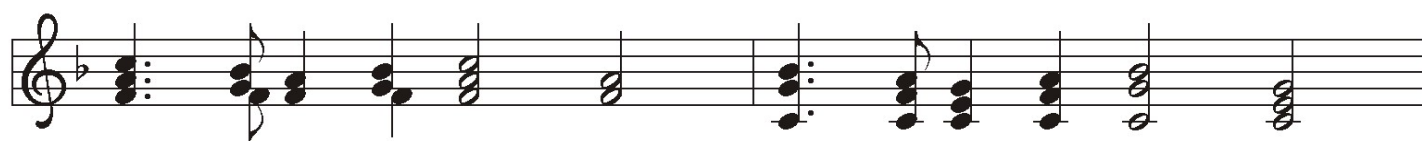
O Splendor the Father's Light, with all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth.

Praise and honor and glory to you, O Incarnate Word.

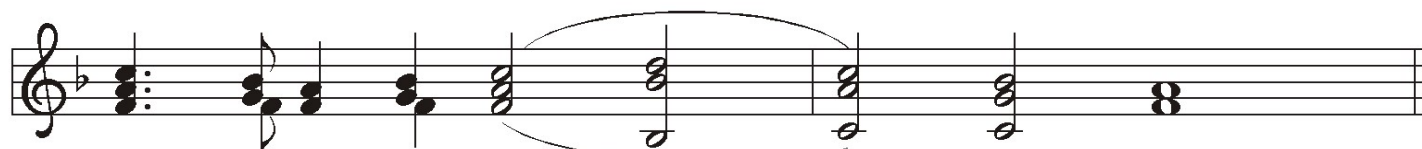
*KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy

ELW 155



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

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

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

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

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

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

SERMON

*CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Praise is on our lips and in our hearts, Holy One, for the gracious deeds and acts that you have bestowed upon your church. Give to your whole church open hearts that we might work together to share your good news in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Praise to you, Creator of all, for you have created a rich diversity of nature and creatures: sun, moon, stars, mountains and all hills, oceans and rivers. Sustain all that you made and keep us faithful in our care for creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We bless you, Ruler of all, for the communities and nations of which we are a part. Gather into your arms the many peoples of the world and grant humility to all leaders, so that all may find blessing and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Holy One, you overcame death and freed us from all fear. Give courage to all who are afraid and comfort to all who suffer in any way, especially... Give patience and compassion to those who provide care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you care for your children in any danger. Grant courage to our congregation, that we are present with children who need our love and protection, with parents who grieve the loss of children, and with those who seek safety from hurtful situations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

Light of life, you claim us as your children forever. We praise you for those who have gone before us in the faith, serving as witnesses to your presence, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus 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. Almighty and Eternal God, we are mindful of the supreme gift that you have given us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. We bring as well the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and for others. Hear our prayers and accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born this day, 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.

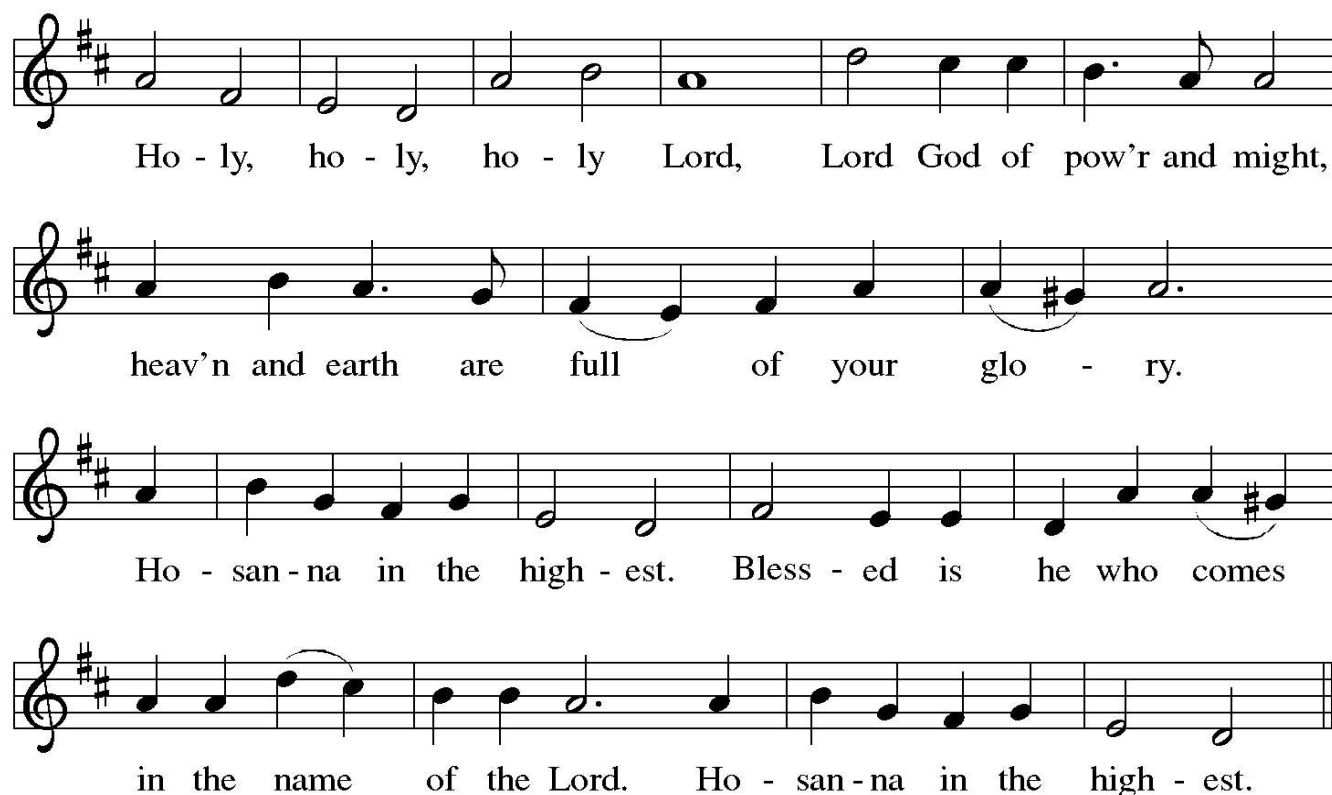
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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, 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, 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**

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**

The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.
And dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.
Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
The Word was made flesh. Alleluia, alleluia.

DISTRIBUTION

*BLESSING

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

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, on this night you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the One foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

*DISMISSAL

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

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

J. T. Tarbox

GREETER

Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

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, 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, Julie Patron, Patricia Pfeiffer, Pat Pileggi, Alice Puglise, Gail Purcell, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Peter Spilotro, Harvey Swenson, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following households who purchased poinsettias to decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for our Christmas services. Poinsettia plans may be taken home today following the worship service.

Ruth Bakalich

Karyn Minarcin Bute

John and Shirley Kostelny

Fred Kuzel

Esther Meksto

The Family of Steve Michael

The Mocek Family

Charlene Patula

Martin and Ann Pennino

Tina Rothstein and Family

The Slahor and Babyar Families

The Family of Shirley Wood

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
December 25th 2022

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2022:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Name of Jesus

Sunday, January 1, 2023

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Monday, January 2, 2023

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the Holy Communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.



The stable still outshines the throne.
Countee Cullen, 1903–1946