



**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 IN LENT
February 26th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Minor

Chopin

***WELCOME AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Holy God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the Creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*CREED

**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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Let us pray for the whole Christian church. Instruct and teach your church in the way that it should go so that it worships and serves only you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the well-being of creation. Renew all waters, lands, and skies to reflect your glory and guide us to be respectful in how we use all earthly resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples. Grant justice where there is inequity, peace where there is conflict, and wisdom for all who lead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all in need. Provide caring communities for all who are burdened by guilt, shame, addiction, and illness, especially... Preserve them from all trouble. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for this assembly. Keep all who worship in this place steadfast in your word. Fill with your Spirit all who are preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed whose transgressions are forgiven and who now rejoice in heaven, remembering especially... Lead us in their path. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant 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. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

***DIALOGUE**



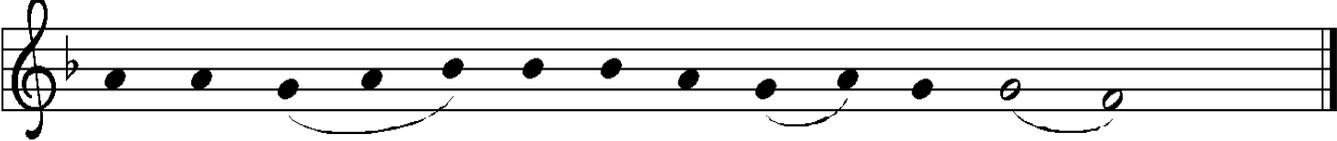
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

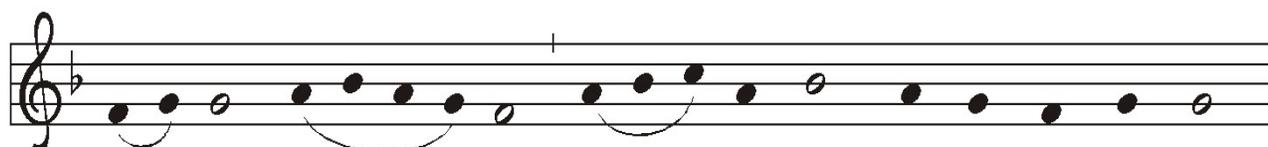


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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



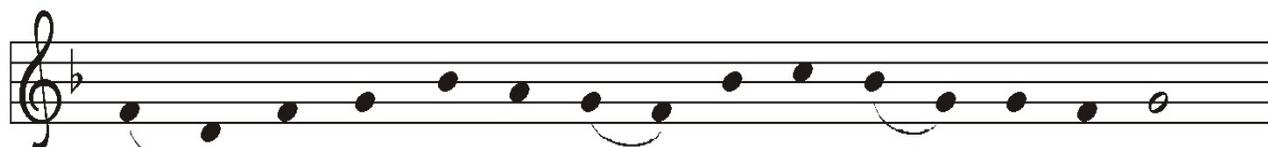
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en 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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

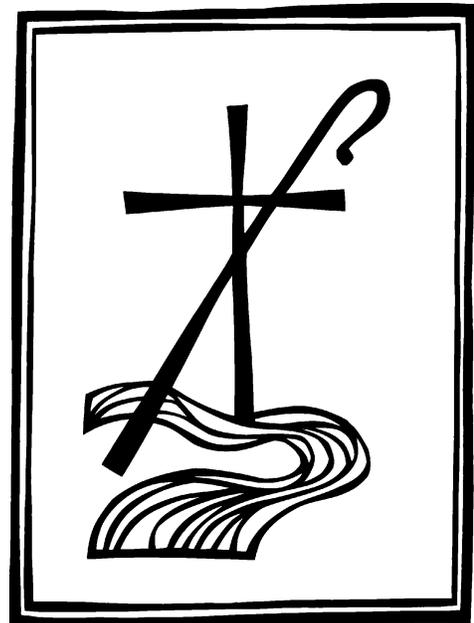
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

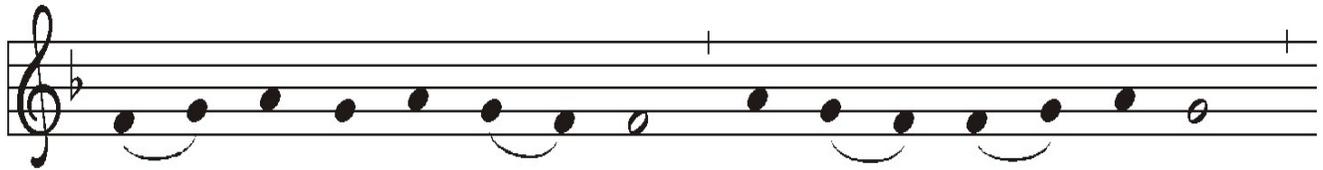
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen**



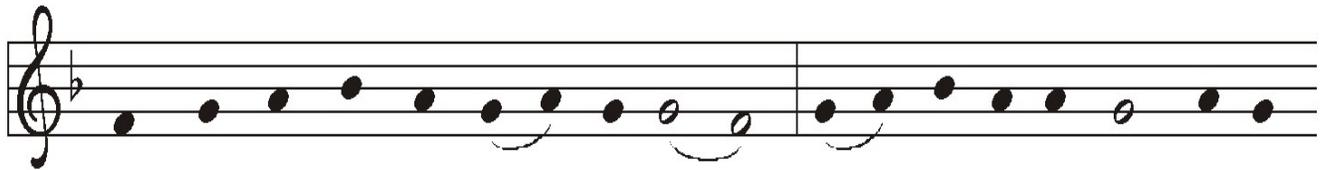
*LORD'S PRAYER



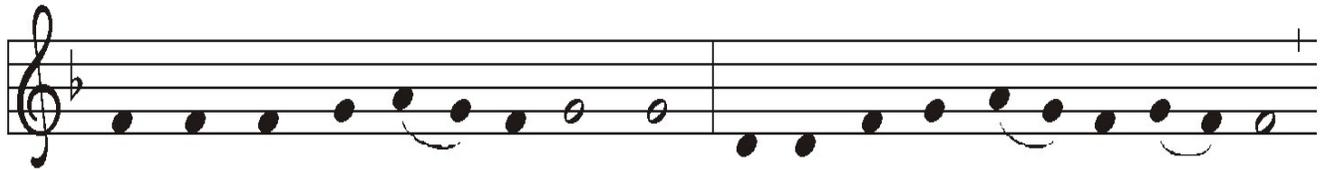
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



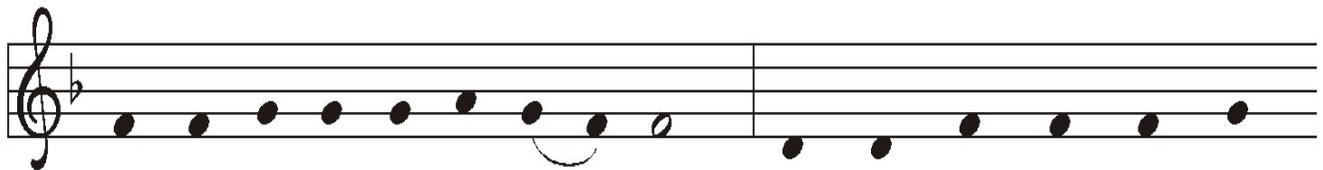
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



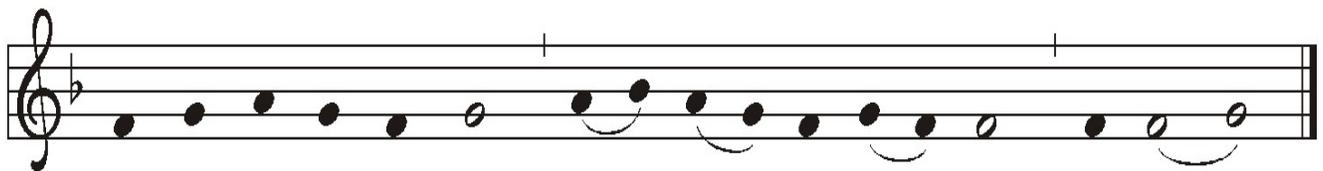
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION

***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. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

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

***BENEDICTION**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sonata

Händel

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

ASSISTING MINISTER

MUSIC MINISTER

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

GREETERS

LIVE STREAM

USHER

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

Charles Matthies

David Richards

Beverly Tarbox

Fred Kuzel

Philip and Linda Painter

John Broussard

George Valek

Janice Hapgood



PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, Beverly Podzamsky, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban, 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, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Julie Patron, Pat Pileggi, Alice Puglise, Gail Purcell, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Elaine Sorich, Peter Spilotro, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in memory of father and grandfather +**John Kostelancik**+ on the 90th anniversary of his birth from his loving family.



Lenten **SOUP** Supper

Lenten Vespers and Supper
every Thursday in Lent, March 2nd thru March 30th.
Vespers (Evening Prayer) is sung at 7:00 p.m.,
preceded by Supper at 6:00.

*Sanctuary opens one half hour before Evening Prayer
for quiet meditation and personal prayer and reflection.*

You and your household, friends, groups or others are invited to **host a light soup supper** on a Thursday evening during Lent preceding Evening Prayer. A simple soup (from the store or made at home or in the church kitchen) with bread for 15-20 people would be much enjoyed and appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall at the usual place (lower west entrance). Thank you for considering this opportunity for Lenten prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
February 19th, 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$2,745.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ 218.00

This Is the Time to Be Slow

This is the time to be slow / Lie low to the wall / Until the bitter weather passes

Try, as best you can, not to let / The wire brush of doubt / Scrape from your heart / All sense of yourself / And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous, / Time will come good; / And you will find your feet / Again on fresh pastures of promise, / Where the air will be kind / And blushed with beginning.

by John O'Donohue

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633

Wednesday, March 1st

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church

Thursday, March 2nd

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.



Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NERVE, SKILL, AND TRUST

It's tempting to write off Jesus' victory over temptation as admirable but distant from our own experience. Usually nothing as obvious as a devil appears in order to engage us in repartee, let alone quote scripture. Right and wrong are seldom so clear. The stuff that actually tempts us on a daily basis stands out by how dull it is in comparison to today's gospel; when in recent memory have any of us been offered world domination? Then there are those elegantly-crafted responses Jesus pulls from thin air without missing a beat. When ambushed, how often can we think on our feet and argue effectively? We may be in awe of Jesus; can we identify with him?

The temptations of Jesus follow his baptism. He has been called Beloved by God. What will he make of that? Will he manipulate the environment purely for himself, pretend to be helpless by taking risks, or try to take over? Fall off the temple, or fall down before Satan? The religious and political tests foreshadow the accusations in his final trials: that he threatens the temple and Caesar. Our own temptations may not be imperial or divine, but they are specific to our relationships and callings. We who share baptism in Christ must also discern on a daily basis what to do with the gifts and power we have.

Much Christian devotion has encouraged letting go of power; but too often goodness and passivity have been equated, with terrible consequences. Today's gospel encourages developing our ability to struggle and to defend ourselves, not least against the accusing voices within our own heads. We sing, "lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's eternal word" ("O Lord, throughout these forty days," ELW 319). We may be surprised at the angels that join us for our song.

