



**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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
ST. JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF OUR LORD
March 19th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

*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 and merciful 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. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

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

PSALMODY

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation

Let your steady 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.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

SERMON

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Members of the Congregation Council are invited to stand as their names are read.

Officers

John Broussard, President
Carrie Watkiss, Vice-President
Fred Kuzel, Secretary-Treasurer
Charles Matthies, Financial Secretary

Members

Janet Broussard
John Kostelny
Linda Painter
Beverly Tarbox

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The congregation stands. Those being installed face the assembly while the presiding minister addresses the congregation.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord God, you sent Samuel to anoint David in front of his brothers, and your Spirit came mightily upon him all the days of his life. Anoint us with your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you all the days of our lives. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Good Shepherd. Even as the psalmist talked about you in his psalm, until he started talking with you, so train us to learn from his example. Become for us not only the subject of our holy conversation, but also our dearest confidant and companion. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Holy Spirit, help us understand what is pleasing to the Lord so that we may be children of the light. Wake up our sleeping spirits so that the light of Christ may shine on us and through us. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Light of the world. Even as you opened the eyes of the blind, open our eyes to see your presence everywhere, and give us the courage to confess our faith boldly, like one who knows whom to thank. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Great Physician, the infirmities of all people are subject to you and your word. If it be your will, heal those with special needs whom we name silently or aloud before you, especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

You have prepared a table for all who believe in you. We give you thanks for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who now dwell in your house forever, especially... . The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we remember that we are your precious dust. **Amen.**

*PEACE

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



MEAL

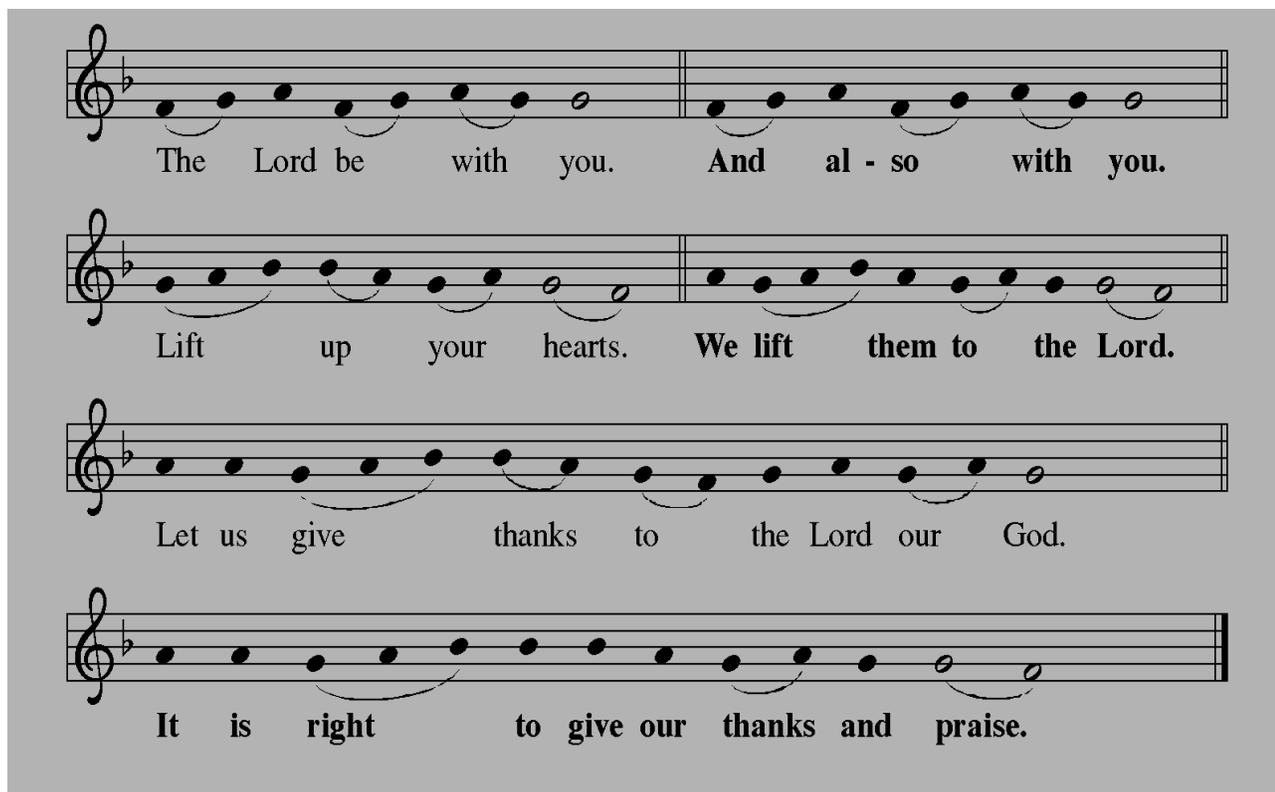
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*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.

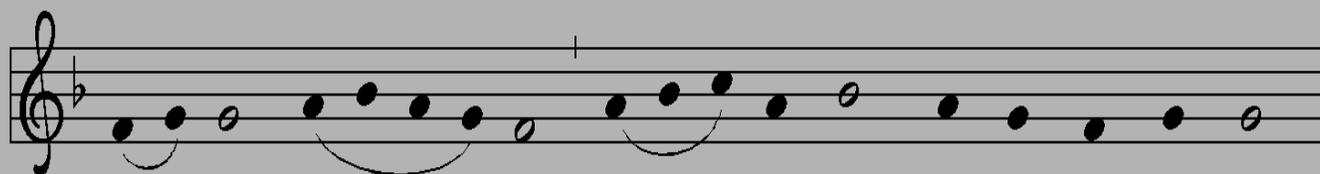
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

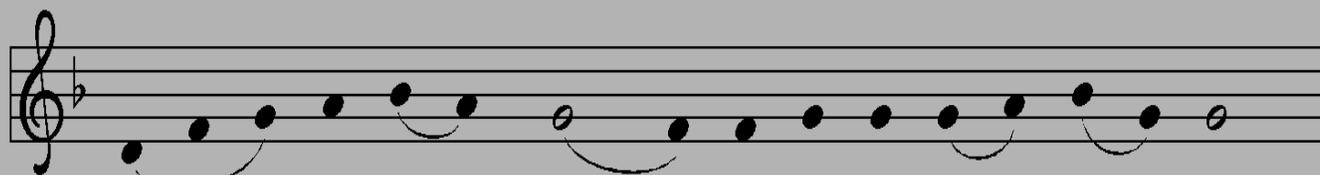
*PREFACE

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:

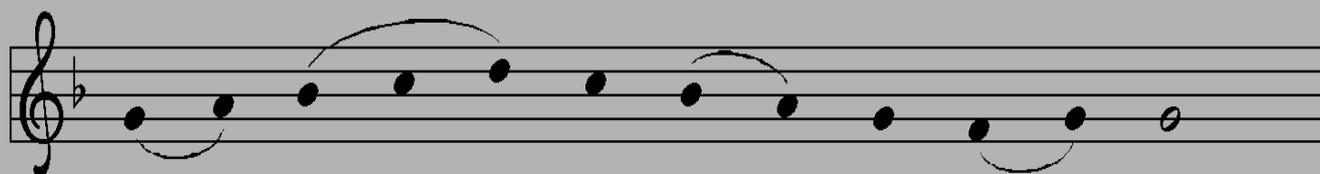
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



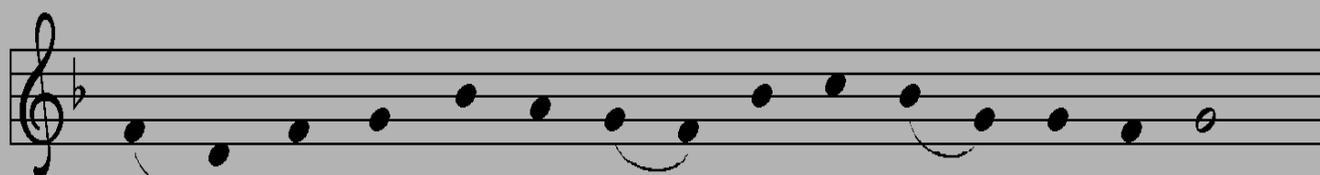
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



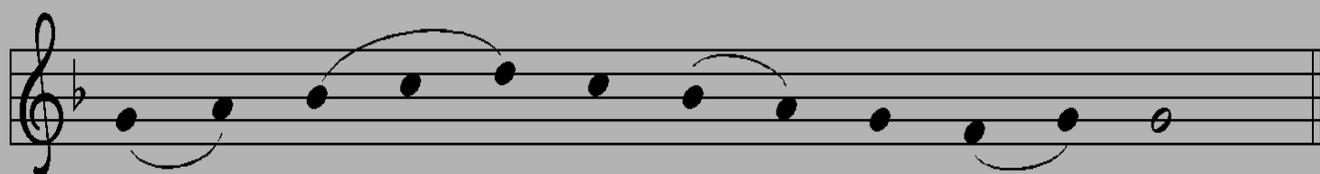
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

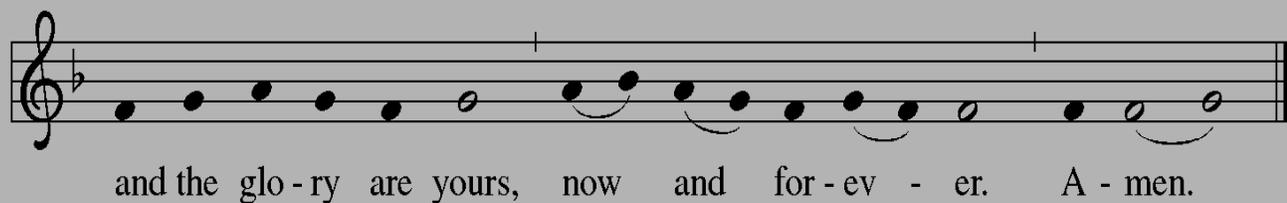
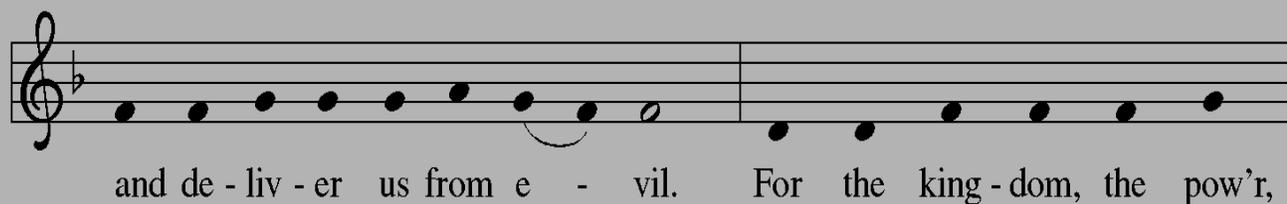
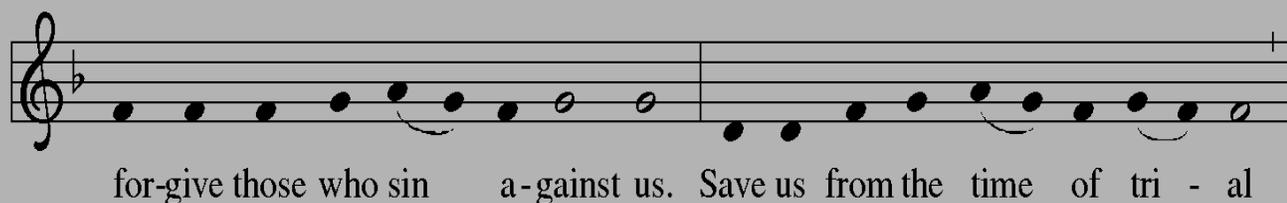
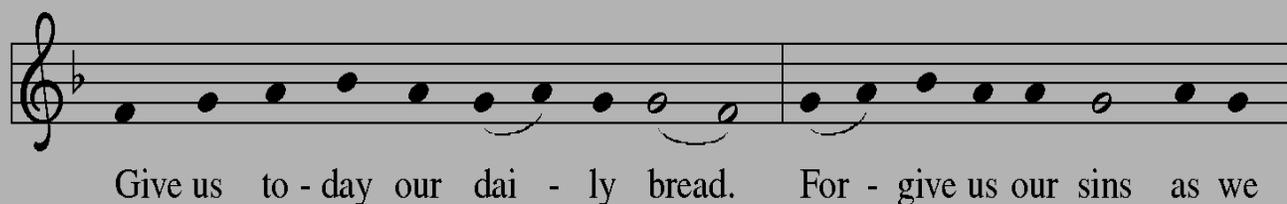
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

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



***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**

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

***DISMISSAL**

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

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

J. T. Tarbox

GREETER

Carrie Watkiss

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

George Valek

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

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, 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 loving memory of **+Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+** on the 80th anniversary of their wedding on March 20th by remembering son Charles.

You are welcome to join us at the **St. Joseph's Day Homemade Lasagna Luncheon** following the worship service today in the dining hall (lower level) hosted by Scott and Lenore Enloe, the Willowbrook-Burr Ridge Kiwanis International, and the Congregation at Sts. Peter and Paul. Donations for the luncheon will benefit the Prokopchenko Family, our guests and neighbors from Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine residing at Sts. Peter and Paul. Donations may be made payable to Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church (Memo: Ukraine Benefit). **Thank you to the Enloe's and everyone** who is serving today, attending the luncheon, and offering donations toward this ministry of hospitality (see Deuteronomy 10:18-20 ESV).



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, 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.

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or use the sign-up sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). The final day for ordering is Thursday, March 30th. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering March 12th , 2023

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS



Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
Sunday, March 19th

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556
Tuesday, March 21st

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758
Wednesday, March 22nd

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980
Friday, March 24th

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord
Saturday, March 25th

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

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.



GOD'S EYES ARE NOT OUR EYES

One heresy in the early church was called Donatism. The Donatists held that the sacraments were only efficacious if presided over by priests who were sinless. It didn't take the church long to realize that if it held to this policy there would be no sacraments for anyone. So if the gospel can be proclaimed through the preaching of a sinner, then we must allow for the possibility that God's healing may be accomplished through extraordinary means. God chooses a boy too young to be taken seriously to anoint as one chosen to lead Israel. When the prophet Samuel is sent by God to find the new king who will replace Saul, Samuel goes through a long line of all Jesse's tall, strapping, competent-looking sons of appropriate age. When none of them are chosen, finally Jesse sends for young David. All of the obvious-to-us choices were declined in favor of a boy. What we may see as authoritative, respectable, and trustworthy may not always align with God. Today's first reading reminds us that "the Lord does not see as mortals see" (1 Sam. 16:7).

This theme of sight runs throughout today's texts, both in terms of how God does not see as we see and also in Jesus' healing of a man born blind. Jesus chooses to heal a blind man on the sabbath with dirt and saliva, much to the dismay of the good religious people who were certain they knew better than to display such questionable judgment and behavior. Lent is a time to reevaluate. Let it also be a time to examine the ways in which we do not see what God is doing around us because we too think we know better. Bottom line: God often uses the unexpected to accomplish redemption.