



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
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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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15th, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the Holy Supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

***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**

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

*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.

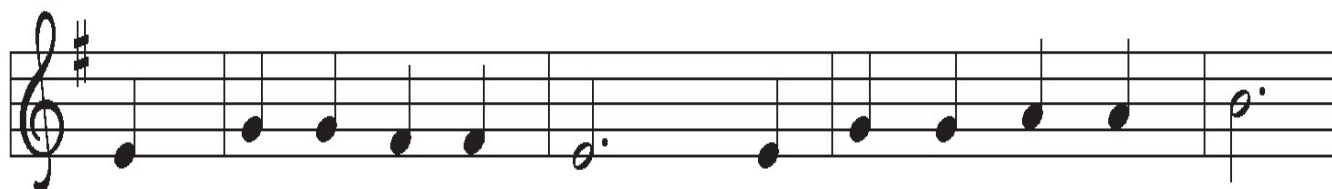
And also with you.

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD 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 up 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 your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

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

PSALM

Isaiah 12:2-6

Prayed in unison by the congregation.

**Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
and has become my salvation.**

**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;
proclaim that this name is exalted.**

**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

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

*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**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus, like John the Baptist we want to know if you are the Messiah. You tell us to listen and to take notice of you in this world, and then, from experience, you talk about the kingdom of heaven. Open our eyes to see the lame walking, cures occurring, and hope rising in the kingdom that shall come, all as evidence of your presence among us. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Dearest Father, your glory is made manifest by the strength you give us as your believing people. Fear dissipates when you are near. Weak knees no longer tremble. We want to sing, and joy replaces doubt. We reach for you with our feeble hands, but it is your hand that holds us fast. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy Spirit, we need your counsel. We do not wait well. Like farmers waiting for crops to ripen, we need to remember that your time and presence saturates all of our days, especially those in which nothing much seems to be happening. And then you make us bloom in due season. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

We remember, Lord, that you set the prisoners free, and give justice to the wronged. Now you care for parent-less children and surviving spouses through us who are your hands and heart and voice in a world that does not see loneliness as suffering. Be present through us as we attend to all in need. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

As we name those whom we know have special needs for healing, remind us of our own need to be prayed for by the faithful. Hear us as we speak aloud, or in our hearts, the names of those who need you, even as we whisper our very own names, praying today especially for... . Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Soon, Lord Jesus, comes the Day of Christmas. Help us, like children, to feel the excitement, for we are all your children. We remember those who have died and now rejoice in your glory, especially... . Give us voices to sing your praise in every time and place. Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

All the earth, seas, and heavens are yours, and we pray these prayers because you have promised to listen to us. **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 FOR ADVENT**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



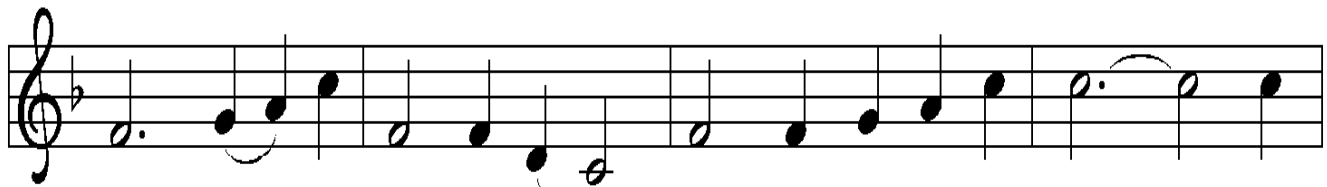
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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**

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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. 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 direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rejoice Greatly from “The Messiah”

Händel



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

John Broussard

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Gary and Jocelyn Drahos

GREETERS

Walter and Judith Cudecki

USHER

Walter Cudecki

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel



IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Elaine Haase, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel and Mary Sasuta. *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Mike Matthies, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson and Janie Tarbox.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering December 8th, 2024

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$0.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at donations@stpeterandpaulriverside.org .

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 posted on the bulletin board in the dining hall at the lower west entrance.** 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 Wednesday, December 18th.

Oplatky, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available today and throughout the season of Advent. A donation of \$1.50 per package (½ dozen) is appreciated. The *oplatky* is available on a table near the kitchen serving window or through the church office during the week.

Financial donations made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Monday, December 30th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement. Also, **2025 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, friends and neighbors.



**Will there really be a ‘Morning’?”
by Emily Dickinson**

*Will there really be a “Morning”?
Is there such a thing as “Day”?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?*

*Has it feet like Water lilies?
Has it feathers like a Bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?*

*Oh some Scholar! Oh some Sailor!
Oh some Wise Man from the skies!
Please to tell a little Pilgrim
Where the place called “Morning” lies.*

Advent and Christmas
at Sts. Peter and Paul



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22nd
10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Children's Christmas Presentation

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

Christmas Day
at Ascension Lutheran Church
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion
(No liturgy here on Christmas Day)

COMMEMORATIONS...

Las Posadas (LLC)

Monday, December 16th

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Friday, December 20th

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

