



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical  
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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



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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.*

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in Holy Communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING TEN, PAGES 203-209***

**GATHERING**

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*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**

\*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.

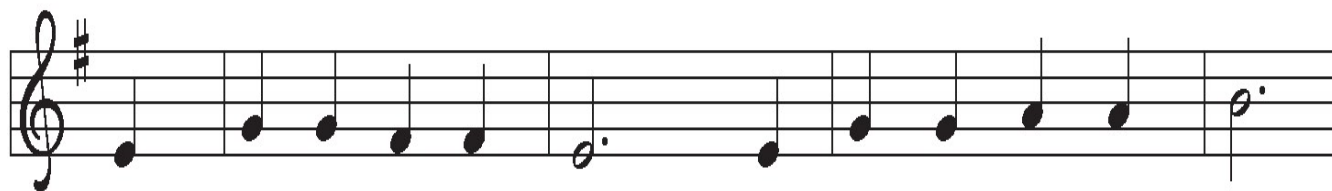
**And also with you.**

\*LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

Holy are you, God of steadfast love and faithfulness; you promised to make a covenant with your chosen ones, to establish the throne of your servant David forever. As we light these candles, open our hearts to the mystery of the incarnation revealed to your servant Mary and plant your Word in us that it may grow and prosper. Show us your favor, O Rock of our salvation.

**Reveal your love to us, and strength us for service in your name. 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

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

### PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

*Prayed in unison by the congregation.*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

**You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

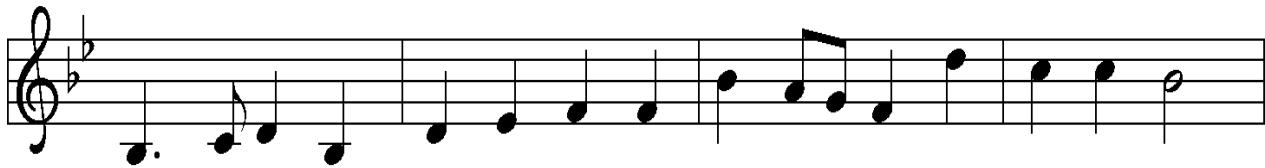
**You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

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

Luke 1:39-45

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

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

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

\*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

Immanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

O God our Wisdom, give to all the baptized knowledge of your truth and the power of your presence. Inspire worship leaders, church musicians, and all of us toward ever-deepening praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O King of nations, bring peace and justice to all the countries of the world. Guide all leaders toward honest and merciful rule. Raise up those whose courage falters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Key of David, look from your throne upon all in need. Mend the broken and the brokenhearted. Free those imprisoned by anxiety or illness. We pray especially for... . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Tree of Jesse, we ask you to nurture our community. Give us joy in one another, and make us servants of all in need. Bless our Christmas celebrations with your Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O Dayspring, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, especially... . Gather us to yourself and teach us to sing together Mary's song of praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

\*PEACE

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

**MEAL**

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*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:





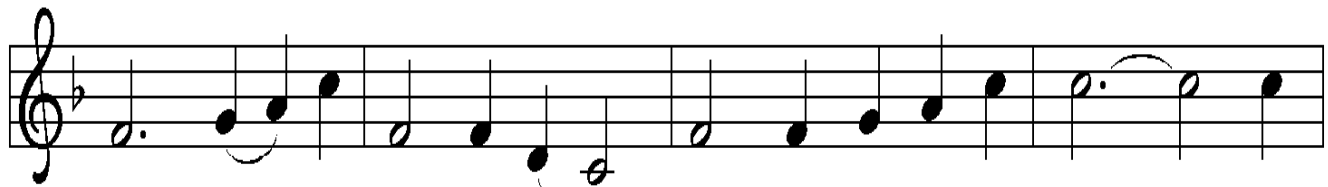
\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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**



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

ASSISTING MINISTER

MUSIC MINISTER

HARPIST

SERVICE LEADER

LECTOR

GREETERS

USHER

LIVE STREAM

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS



Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

Carrie Watkiss

David Richards

Beverly Tarbox

Kristine Boike

Beverly Tarbox

John and Shirley Kostelny

John Kostelny

Fred Kuzel

Jane Lauritsen and Fred Kuzel

## IN THE PRAYERS...

*Members of the Congregation:* Heather Greer, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel, Mary Sasuta, and Edward Sefara. *Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:* Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, 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.

***Oplatky***, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available today. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Christmas**  
at Sts. Peter and Paul



**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)

**Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup> , 2024**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,375.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,240.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org) .



**“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.*

## COMMEMORATIONS...

*Stephen, Deacon and Martyr*

*Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

*John, Apostle and Evangelist*

*Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>*

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

*Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>*

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

