



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](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
Email address: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service](mailto:www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org/service)

**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 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.*

---

---

---

# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

---

## HOLY COMMUNION

*EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155*

### GATHERING

---

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

*Es ist ein Ros’*

Brahms

### \*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God’s mercy.

God of peace,

**we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reunite us with one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of Peace, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God’s pardon and peace: in the name of Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

\*GATHERING HYMN

*Brightest and Best of the Stars*

ELW 303

\*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.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*Prayed responsively by leader and congregation.*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more.  
**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.  
**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road

The Gospel of the 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

In grateful response to God's endless bounty of grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious God, unite the wills of your people. Empower us to be of the same mind in the Lord, so that through word and deed we might give faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of valleys and green pastures, of small towns and urban centers, give your care to this world. Inspire in us, your creatures, a love for all you have made, and grant us wisdom to care for it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all people, establish your peace in the world. Give the leaders of the nations a desire for reconciliation and a yearning for justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, lead all who are sick to the healing waters of your mercy. Bless the work of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, and through their efforts restore the sick to health, especially... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, by your power grant this congregation the faith to stand firm in Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit to this place, so that through all its ministries your wisdom and truth might be made known. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.*

God of blessed hope, comfort those who grieve with the promise of new life in Christ Jesus. Give us the blessed assurance that you have given the saints, remembering especially... and the promise that you will swallow up death forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

\*PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O How Beautiful the Sky*



# MEAL

---

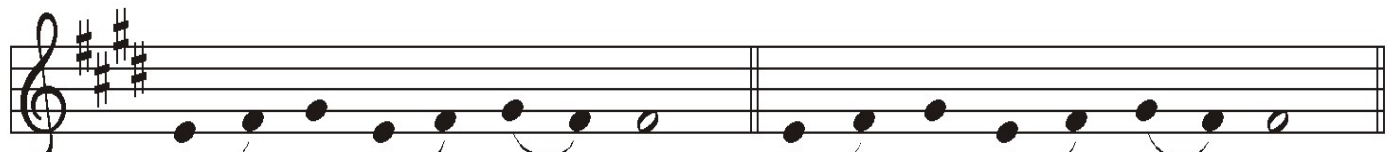
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

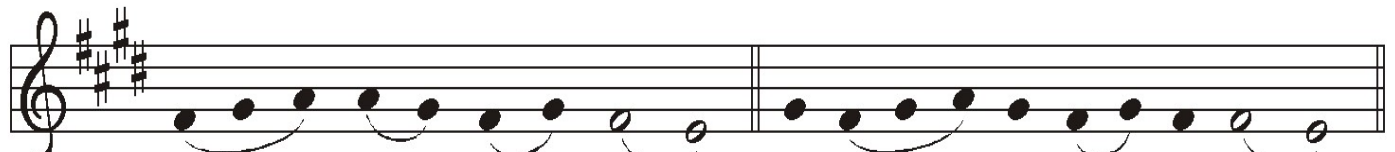
### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**


### \*DIALOGUE



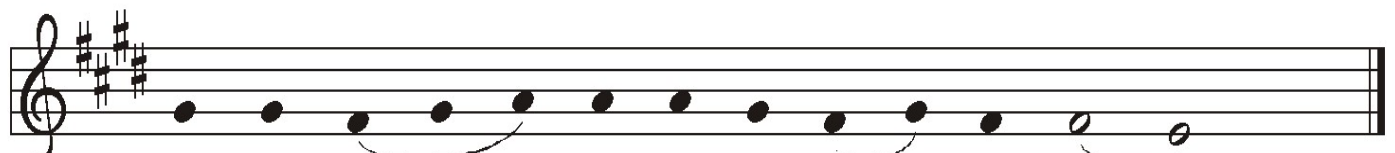
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

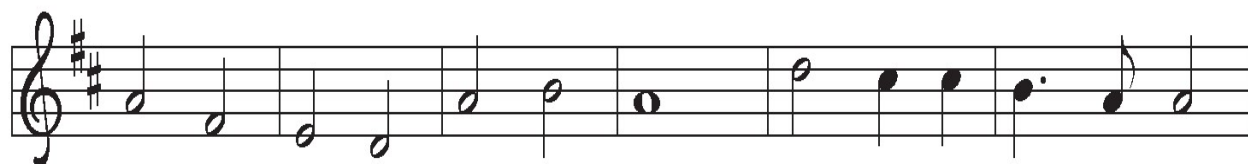


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

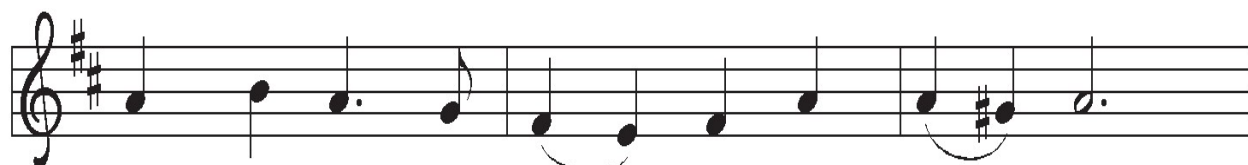
## \*PREFACE FOR EPIPHANY

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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



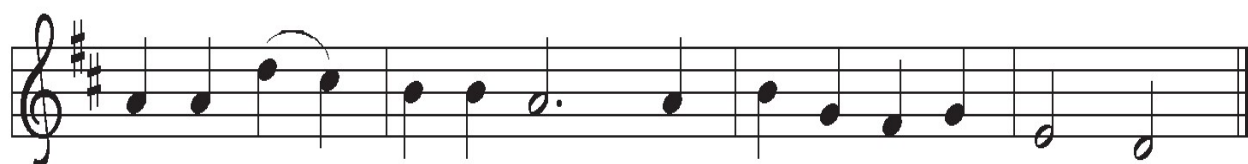
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

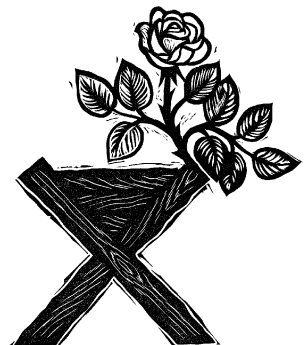
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## SENDING

---

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

### \*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

**1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

#### *Refrain*

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again;  
king forever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Partita on Morningstar*

Ann Krentz Organ



## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

---

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Philip Painter

LECTOR

Philip Painter

GREETER

Fred Kuzel

USHER

Rafael Martinez

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Fred Kuzel



### IN THE PRAYERS...

*Members of the Congregation:* Heather Greer, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, 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, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson and Janie Tarbox.

### Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$ .00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ .00

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



## COMMEMORATIONS

*Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)*

*Thursday, January 9*

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

## WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

In North America almost everyone is familiar with Christmas and Easter. Many Christians are at least somewhat familiar with Advent and Lent. Epiphany, on the other hand, has not captured our imaginations to quite the same extent. Imagine informally surveying your neighborhood and asking what Epiphany means or signifies. The most likely response would be a blank stare.

The marginal nature of Epiphany as a major festival in North America is a pity, but there is probably at least one practical cause: it is a moveable feast that doesn't always fall on a Sunday. A few churches observe the tradition of chalking the doors to mark the occasion, but like Ascension and a few other neglected but liturgically rich holy days, it is simply not well known.

So if you are reading this, you are invited to make it your mission to raise Epiphany awareness. This needn't be difficult; some of the most beloved "Christmas" hymns are actually for Epiphany, such as "We three kings." And today's gospel text, the magi's presentation of "gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" to the Christ child (Matt. 2:11), is a story beloved by children and adults alike.

Tell the story of light made manifest (epi-phanos means "manifestation" in Greek). There is that light in the sky, a star, that the magi follow on their journey. Then there is the true Light himself, Christ, who shines for them while they pay him homage. This is the manifestation of a Light so radical that it threatens Herod and sends the holy family off as refugees to Egypt.

Epiphany is a time to remember that faith itself is a journey and that Light which manifests in the darkness is always welcome.