



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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
February 2nd, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-156

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Sonatina

Schubert

***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.
Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

God of light and 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. 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.

Amen

*GREETING

The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, 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

Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Rejoice, Ye People of Zion

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

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

SERMON

*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

Gathered together by God's Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

For messengers of the gospel throughout the world, especially our sponsored missionaries, Bethany and Steven and Sarah and Andrew, that the light of Christ be made present to all, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the well-being of the earth and all its inhabitants, and for those who advocate for the just use of resources, that all creation continue to thrive, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations of the world—the prosperous and the poor, the peaceful and the perilous—that leaders work toward the betterment of all, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and all who need help for any reason, especially..., let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those gathered in this house of worship, that we continue to praise God, rejoice at the salvation brought about through Christ, and be guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Other prayers may be offered here in speech or silence.

In thanksgiving for those who died in the faith, especially..., that by their witness we live in confidence that Christ has destroyed death and brought about life eternal, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

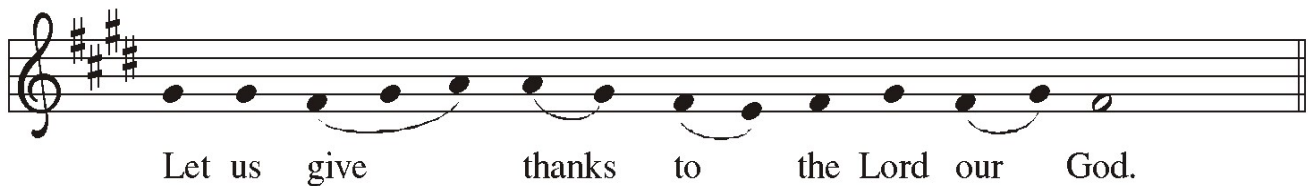
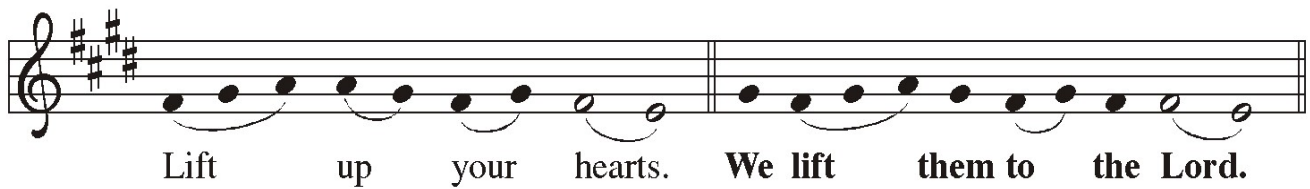
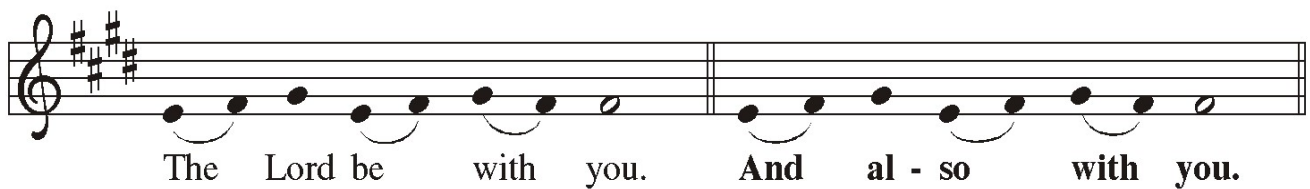
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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**

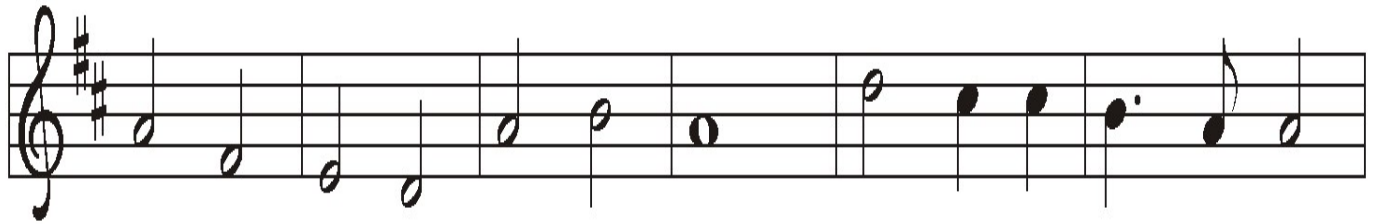
*DIALOGUE



*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:

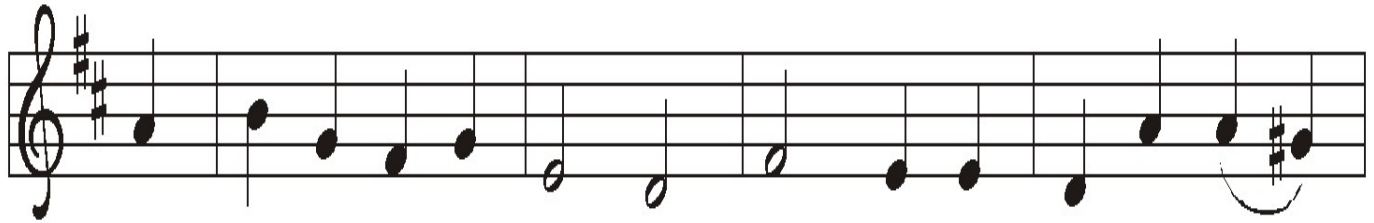
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



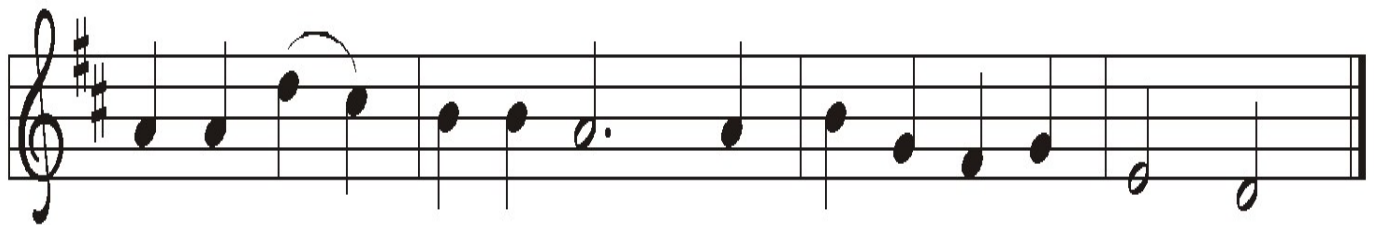
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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 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**

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

DISTRIBUTION

If With All Your Hearts

Mendelssohn

***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. O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW 313

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTORS

Paul and Carrie Watkiss

GREETER

Staci Harden

USHER

Rafael Martinez

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Janice Hapgood

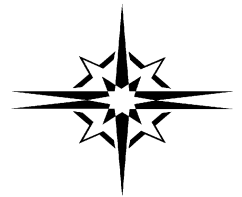
IN THE PRAYERS...

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, Nick, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson and Tom Zajac.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in celebration of **Lois Mika** on the 92nd anniversary of her birth on February 4th by loving son Earl and daughter-in-law Rita.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Today...

...beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the dining hall
following worship.



COMMEMORATIONS

Presentation of Our Lord

Sunday, February 2nd

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Monday, February 3rd

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

An Invitation from Terry Sullivan



Guitarist Gabriel Datcu

Today at 4 p.m., I will perform a concert with the superb young guitarist Gabriel Datcu who is a native of Transylvania, Romania and one of the most gifted musicians I have met. Music simply pours out of him. To top it off, we will be joined by bassist Clark Sommers who is, in jazz parlance, a “monster” (meaning he plays very well). Clark has literally toured the world with jazz vocalist Kurt Elling; but for one Sunday afternoon he is ours. Location: Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, 250 Woodside in Riverside (31st and Desplaines). Easy to get to from First Avenue and parking is wide open. Members of the congregation may attend for \$10 (payment in cash only) rather than the usual admission ticket price of \$25 by identifying as such at the door.

Jazz guitarist Gabriel Datcu is a native of Transylvania, Romania. He began his musical journey at age four and by age nine was playing piano and acoustic guitar. As a teen, he was given several cassette tapes, one was Christopher Parkening playing Bach and another was a recording of jazz guitarists Joe Pass and Barney Kessel with Ella Fitzgerald. Since then, Gabriel’s commitment to studying these two music styles—classical and improvisatory—has been uncompromising.

While a student at both the National University of Music and the National University of Arts in Bucharest, Gabriel was invited to perform at several local music venues. Doing so allowed him to meet, study and perform with several of the best Romanian jazz musicians, including Sorin Romanescu, Tudy Zaharescu and Pedro Negrescu. At age eighteen he was asked to record at the National Radio-Television studios, and at nineteen, to embark on a two-week tour across Switzerland. In 2000, Gabriel was offered the chance to study and settle in the United States.—*TS*

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering January 26th , 2025

<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@stspeterandpaulriverside.org .