



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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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
March 30th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

HOLY COMMUNION
WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Intermezzo

Bach/Busoni

***ORDER FOR 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, gracious 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**

***GATHERING HYMN**

What Wondrous Love

ELW 666

*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. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW 606



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION AND *PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

*CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

BAPTISM

*WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, when our wilderness journey ends and normalcy returns to our lives, remind us to look back and see where you carried us through, deepened our faith, and provided us with your loving care. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, when suffering is the result of our rebellion, inspire us to turn around, ask for help, accept your forgiveness, and live a new life in your grace. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Holy Spirit, reconciling God, in Christ we ask you to make us a new creation by forgiving our sins and sending us with a mission to be your ambassadors of love, peace and new life. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Almighty God, hope beyond hope, love beyond understanding, we pray that you would wait for us in patience, and nudge us with the memory of your loving self and your loving home. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Lord Jesus, as you told parables in order to make the gospel clear, put us in a story of your choosing, and bring us to a deeper faith in you. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

We pray for those who need to be reminded that there is healing and homecoming in your presence because there is a home, praying especially for... . In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

Additional prayers may be added here in speech and silence.

We give thanks for the saints, remembering especially... . Bring us to your eternal home that we may rejoice in the inheritance of your grace. In the day of trial: **Be present, Lord.**

From every wilderness day, good Lord, deliver us. **Amen**

*PEACE

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

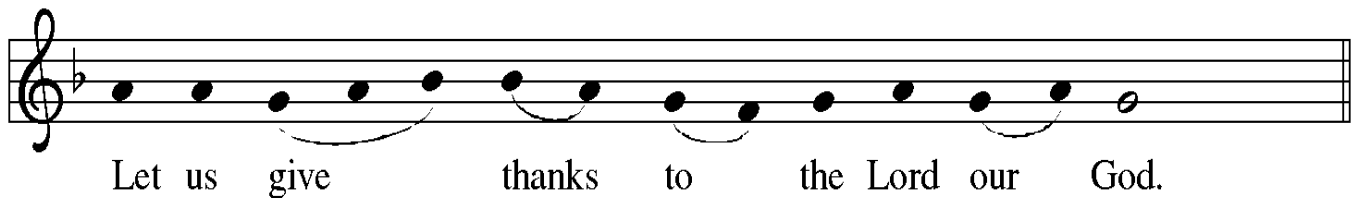
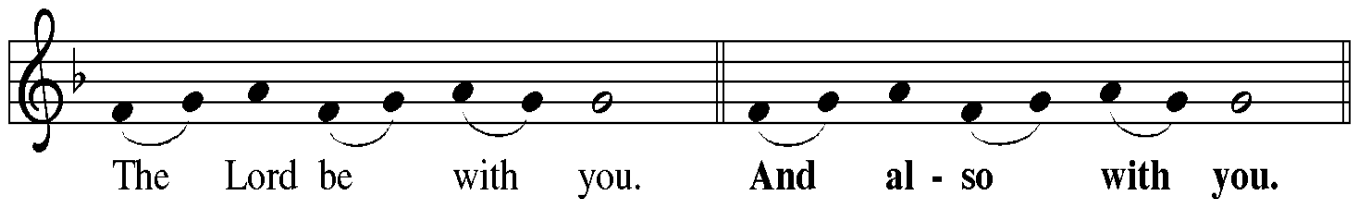
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God 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**

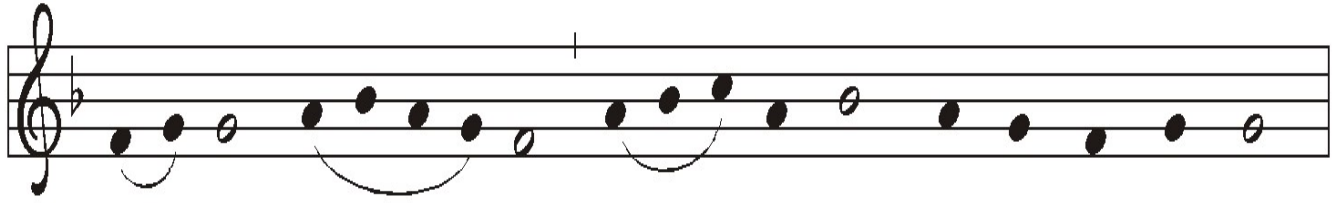
*DIALOGUE



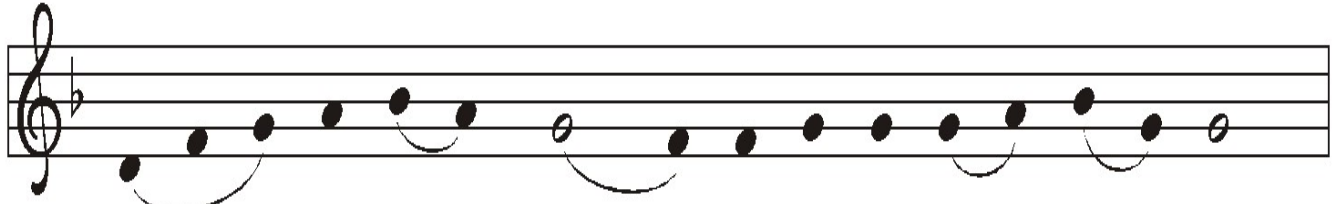
*PREFACE FOR LENT

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



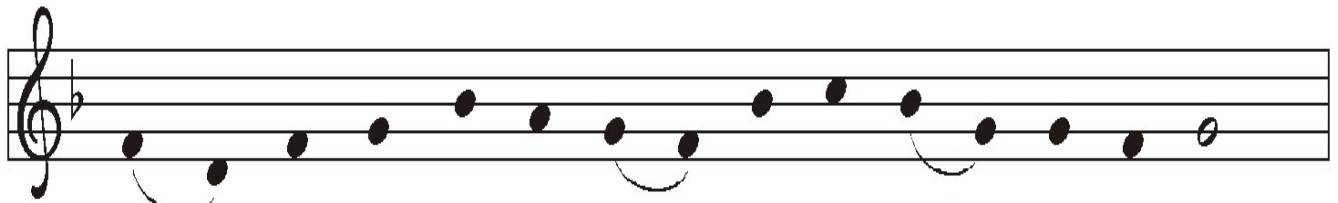
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



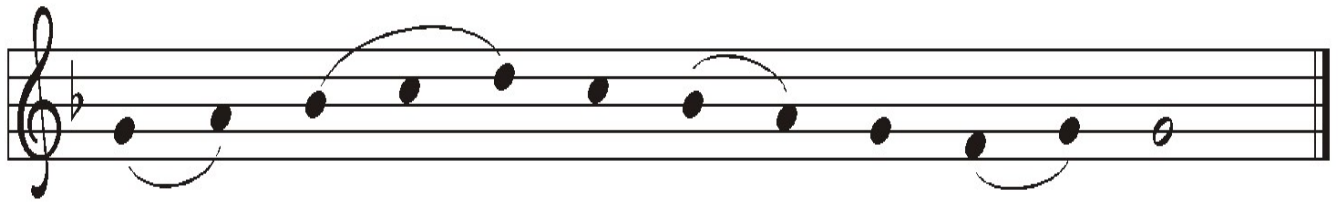
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

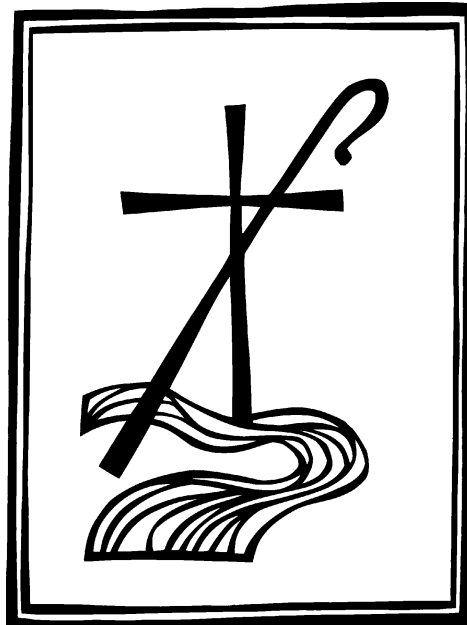
Christ will come again.

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.

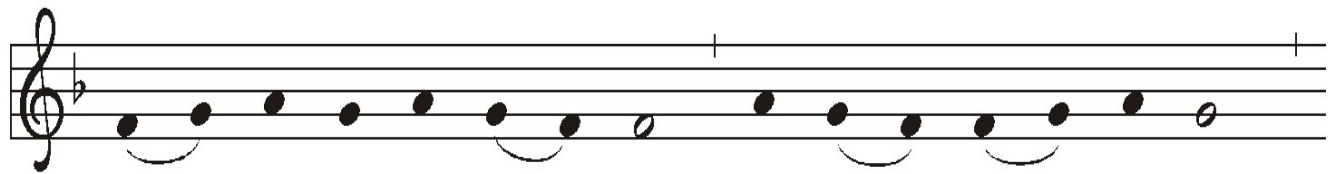
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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



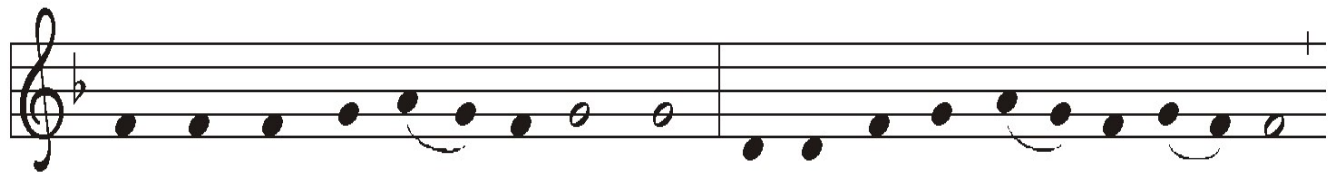
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



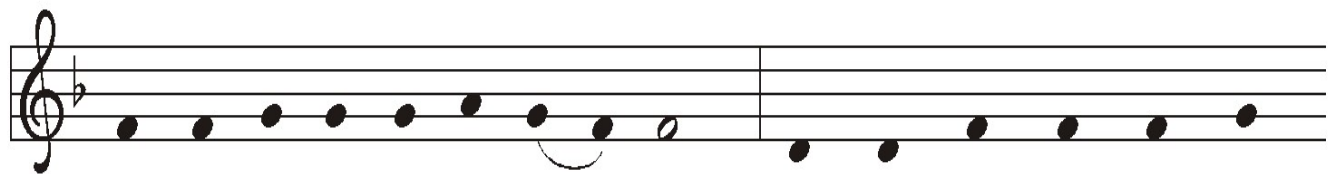
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



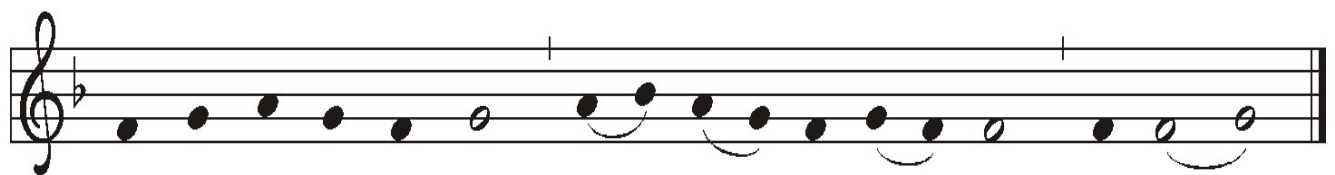
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION

Variations

Haydn

*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

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

ELW 763

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Sleeping Beauty

Chaikovsky

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Kristine Boike

LECTOR

J. T. Tarbox

GREETERS

Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

USHER

Walter Cudecki

SACRISTAN AND ALTAR CARE

Beverly Tarbox



IN THE PRAYERS...

Members of the Congregation: Heather Greer, Ann Head, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara, and Gregg Valek.

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Betty Bartel, Betty Cillo Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Artem Molokivna, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson and Tom Zajac.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated today for **Lilian Marie**, daughter of Gianna and Samuel Lauritsen. As members of the body of Christ, we promise with the parents and Godparents to nurture the growth of Lilian in the covenant of her baptism. We welcome her into the Lord's family and receive her as a member with us in the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the dominion of God. Lilian's Godparents are Joseph Barone and Olivia Lauritsen.



Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting

is sung every Wednesday evening at
7:15 p.m. through April 9th,
preceded by a supper of soup and bread beginning at 6:30 p.m.

One supper host(s) is needed and may sign up on the list posted at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or please leave a voice mail message by calling the church office at 708-442-5250 or send an email message to office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

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?

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 per plant 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 to order is Thursday, April 10th.** You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the sanctuary.

Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional **Palm Sunday Coffee Hour** on April 13th. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of the congregation.

Holy Week 2025
April 13th—April 20th

Palm Sunday, April 13th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Festive Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 18th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 20th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Handbells, Choirs and Trumpet

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
March 23rd, 2025

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$1,962.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,435.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 527.00

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