



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

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**Rev. Ken Johnson
Interim Pastor
708-442-8511**

**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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30th, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the Word and Meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

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

Picardy

setting John Carter

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
+ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

*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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of power and glory; you promised to make your mighty presence known among the nations, and to strengthen your people to the end, when Christ will come in clouds to gather his people. As we light this candle, open our eyes to see the sin that separates us from you and from one another, and restore us again, that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Stir up your might and come save us.
Reveal your face to us, and give us life. 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. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in that light of the Lord now!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

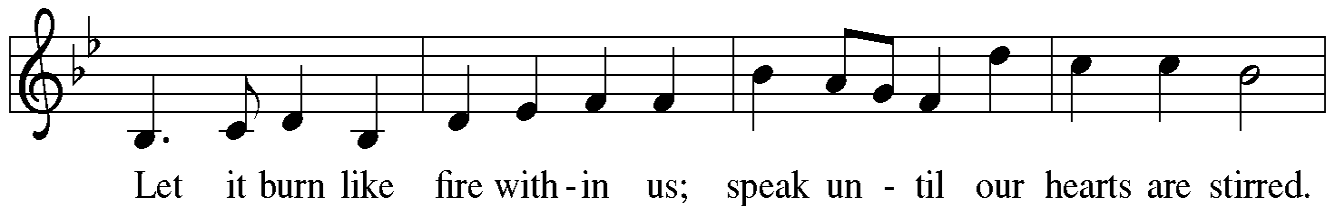
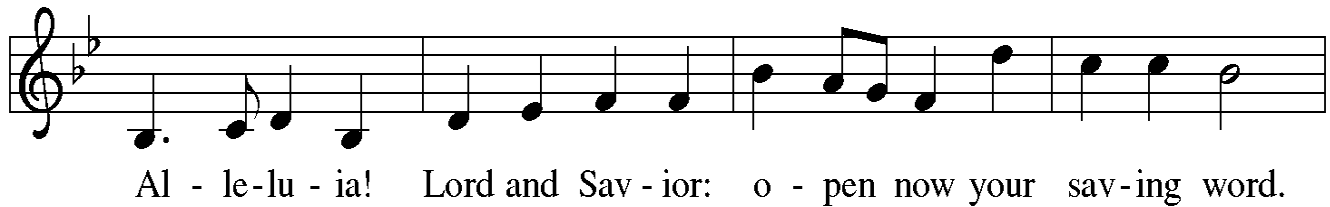
SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

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

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

SERMON

Rev. Marnie Rourke

***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 our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially . . . , and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be added here in speech and silence.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints, especially..., to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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.

OFFERING OF GIFTS

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

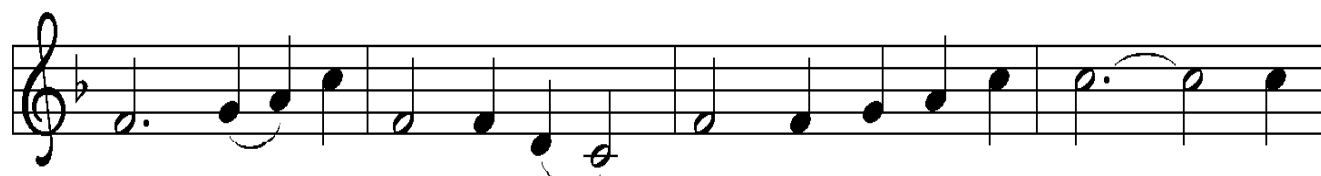
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-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

Here is life. God is with us. Come receive what God has promised.

DISTRIBUTION

Aria

Donizetti

*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 our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon

ELW 439

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning setting Howarth

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Marnie Rourke

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Tom Myers

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

For more news, additional announcements,
worship video recordings, and other information, please
visit us on the web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org.

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Elaine Haase, Staci Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Fred Kuzel, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara, and Gregg Valek. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Ann Boor, Rich Caliendo, Dan Costello, Becky Dice, Tom Doran, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Jeff Kubik, Lisa Martin, Marcia Matthies, Artem Molovkina, Greg Schaefer, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available for pick beginning today in the lower hallway adjacent to the dining hall. Please pick up envelopes for friends or relatives who are unable to do so. **Financial donations** made to the congregation need to be received in the church office no later than Tuesday, December 30th in order to be included in your end of the year financial statement.



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 at the 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 Wednesday, December 17th.

Oplatky, a traditional wafer used at Christmastime in Central and Eastern European countries, is available 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.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering November 23rd, 2025

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,155.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$1,460.00

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

Michael Teolis Singers presents

Echoes of Christmastide

Saturday, December 6th, 2025
7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
324 N. Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302
Handicap Accessible

Online tickets at www.MTSingers.org

\$25 general admission

\$20 seniors/students

Tickets at the door

\$30 general admission

\$25 seniors/students

Please join the Michael Teolis Singers as we present our Grande Finale concert. Yes, after 18 seasons MTS will be signing off with its final concert: "Echoes of Christmastide." As always, the audience will be treated to the group's usual array of familiar sounds of the season, as well as some unique musical surprises. For this concert, the Maestro is reprising several pieces that "echo" the fun, spirit, and delight from their past holiday programs.

*Our parish musician David Richards along
with Beverly Tarbox perform with the choir.*



KEEP AWAKE

Days are getting shorter; nights, ever longer. It seems like an appropriate season to fall asleep. It can be difficult, after all, to work in the dark, to plan in the dark, even to hope in the dark. All the more reason to curl up with a good book or television show and let the comfort of sleep take over. All the more reason to forget the cares and concerns of life and, if possible, just let oneself drift off.

But we are called in this day, as much as in any other, to "Keep awake" (Matthew 24:42). Even in these shortened days, there might be something new coming just over the horizon. Something spectacular. Something the eye may not believe it is seeing, the ear may not believe it is hearing. Something we will not want to miss, for being asleep.

"Keep awake!" Jesus cries. He is coming again, just when we least expect him to return. For sure, no one knows the day and hour, but return he will, right in the midst of ordinary life. Right in the midst of working and preparing meals. Right in the midst of taking care of children and tending to bills. Right in the midst of driving the car, taking the transit. Possibly, right in the midst of lengthening nights.

"Keep awake!" We're going to want to see this one who comes with healing on his wings, who comes to forgive and to redeem. We are going to want to see this one, the resurrection, the life, the beginning of all things and their end. We're going to want to see him and be a part of his love, his mercy, his grace.

Days are shorter; Advent is here. Far from drifting, it's time to focus. How shall we make our lives ready for the coming king?

