



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
Telephone: (708) 442-5250

Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 4th, 2026 • 10:15 a.m.

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

“Rejoice Greatly” from *The Messiah*

Händel

*CHRISTMAS CALL TO WORSHIP

Here is the emptiness of my night
may it be filled with your glory
Here are the silences of my heart
may they be filled with your songs

Here is the watchfulness of my eyes
may they be opened to wonder
Here is the listening of my soul
may it hear the joy of your love

Here is the hopefulness of my journey
may it lead me swift to your side
Here is the searching of my anxious mind
may it find rest in your peace

Here is the wood and straw of my days
may they be a bed for your presence
And here is the humble cave of my life
may it be your home, gentle Savior.

by lectionary poet Andrew King

*GATHERING HYMN

*Holy Child within the Manger
Carol at the Manger*

WOV 638

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light en with your wis - dom, come and us
In our lives and in your our liv - ing give us and us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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 God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

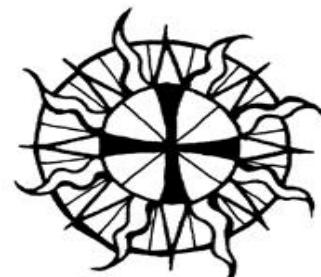
SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

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.

Music: Caribbean traditional

*GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

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

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

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

SERMON

Rev. Philip Lund

*HYMN OF THE DAY

The First Noel

ELW 300

*CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**



**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

**in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day, especially.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died, especially... and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through 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.

OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

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.

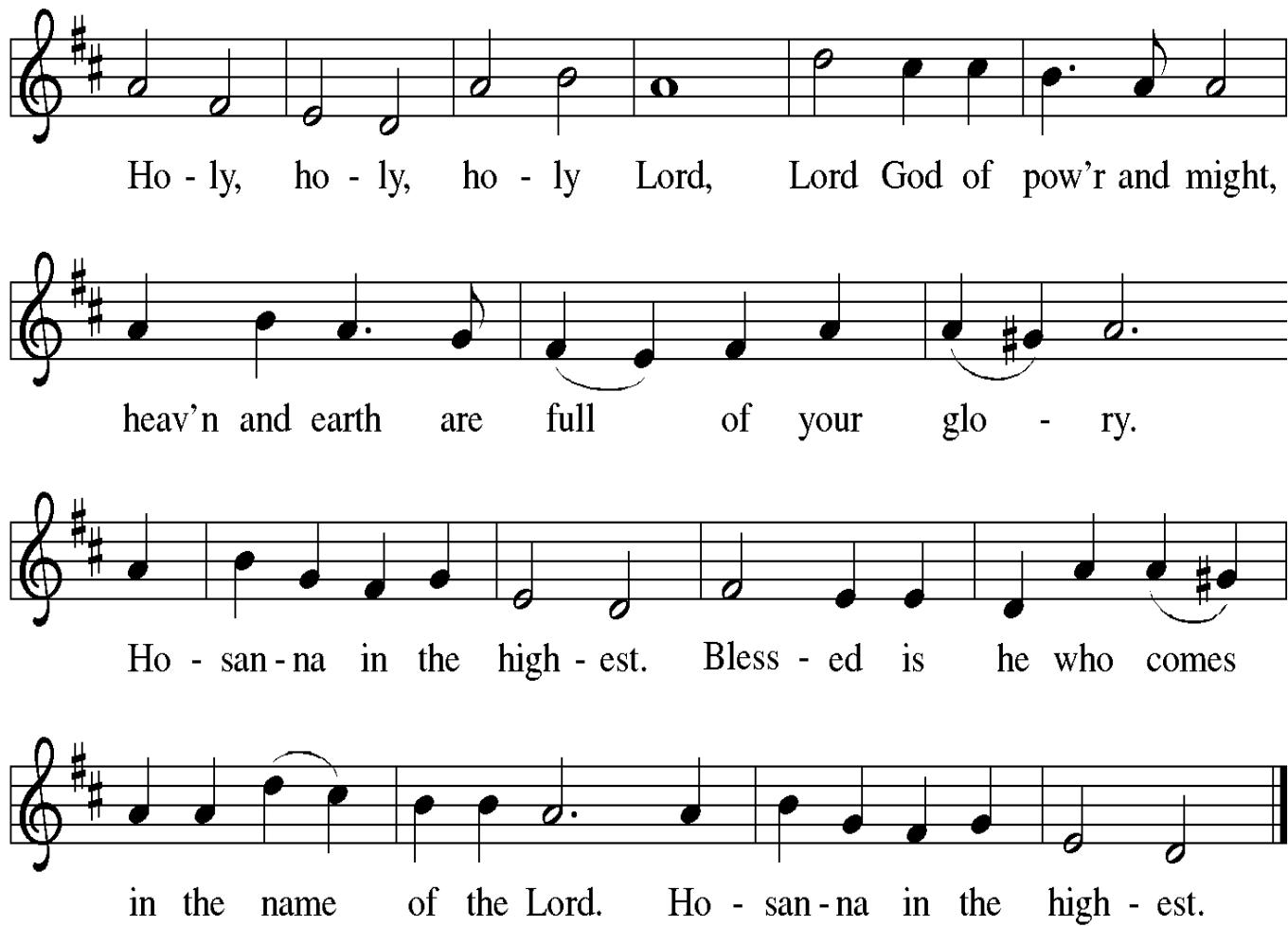
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



*PREFACE FOR CHRISTMAS

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
+ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

*DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark!

Mendelssohn/Unke

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Philip Lund

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Aidan Altavilla

GREETERS

Edward and Joanne Sefara

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

John Kostelny

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

Fred Kuzel

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, Artem Molovkina, Eric Nehmzow, Greg Schaefer, Peter Spilotro, Marta Vrtichova, Geoff Vana, and Tom Zajac.

Welcome back and thank you to **Rev. Philip Lund** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition.

Homebound members wishing a visit from Interim Pastor Ken Johnson can use the contact information below to arrange an in-person or phone visit. Pastor Johnson will serve as the presiding minister at our services on the second Sunday of the month. In the event of a pastoral emergency Pastor Johnson can be reached via e-mail or mobile phone at Ken6168@sbcglobal.net of 773-947-4488, or his home at 708-442-8511.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in celebration of **Esther Meksto** on her 95th birthday.

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. The **2026 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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 1st in the dining hall following worship.
Chairpersons of all committees and organizations of the congregation
as well as officers of the Congregation Council are reminded that
**annual reports are due in the church office no later
than Monday, January 18th.** Thank you!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

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

Friday, January 9, 2026

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.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering December 28st, 2025

Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025: \$2,615.00

Offering Received for the Above Categories: \$2,885.00

Surplus: \$ 270.00

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



