



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. 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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 8th, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis Vaughan Williams

*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 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**

*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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*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
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

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

SERMON

Rev. Ken Johnson

*HYMN OF THE DAY

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 332

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Members of the Congregation Council are invited to stand as their names are read.

Officers

John Broussard, President
Paul Watkiss, Vice-President
Charles Matthies, Financial Secretary
Fred Kuzel, Secretary-Treasurer

Members

Keith Altavilla
Kathy Ganschow
Linda Painter
Phil Painter
Carrie Watkiss
Rev. Ken Johnson, Ex Officio member

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The congregation stands. Those being installed face the assembly while the presiding minister addresses the congregation.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord Jesus, we may not know that some of us need healing because the disease is not yet obvious. Heal us all, with special attention to those whom we name aloud, especially... . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, especially..., and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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

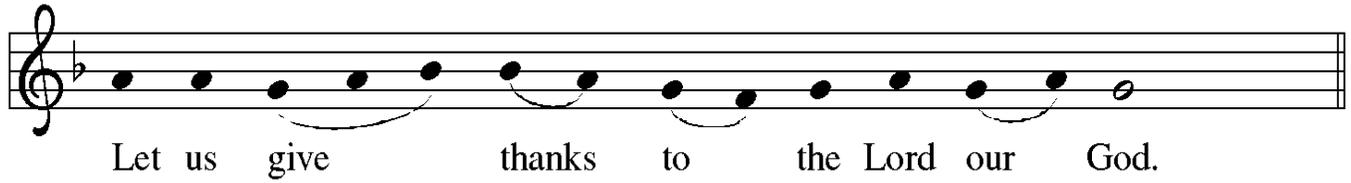
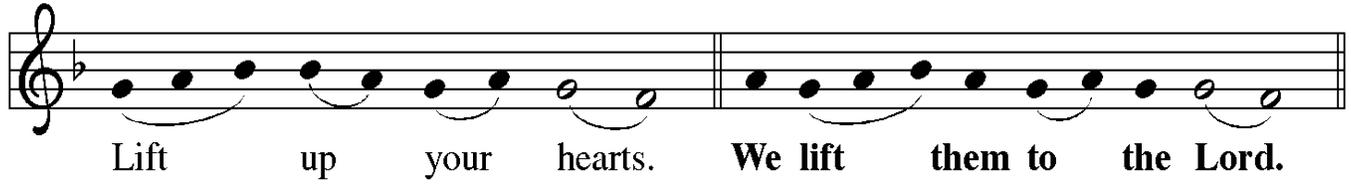
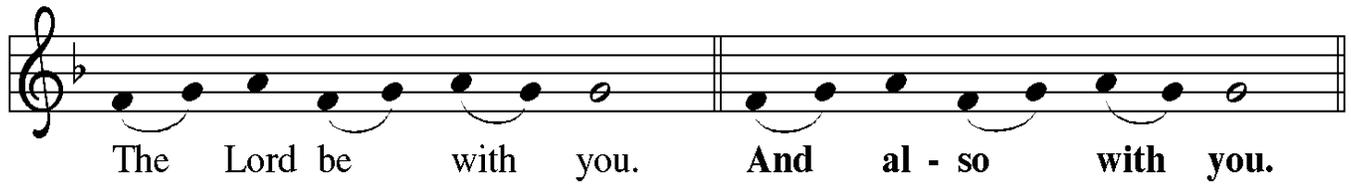
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



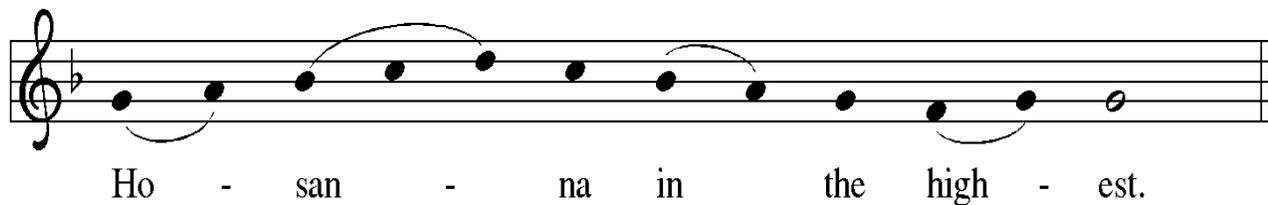
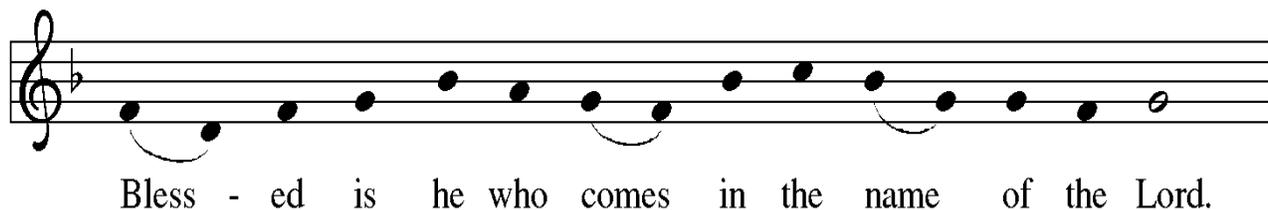
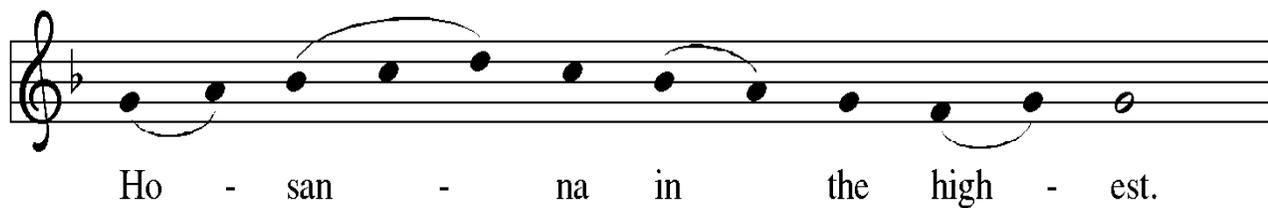
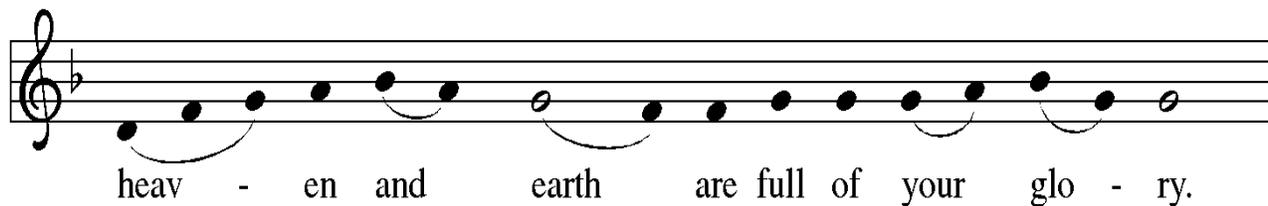
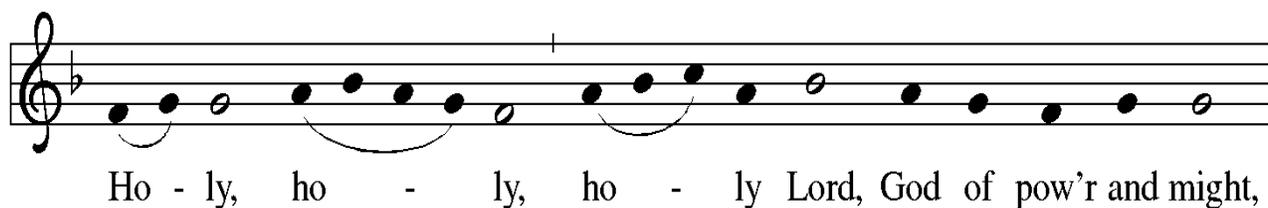
DIALOGUE



*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 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



*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.

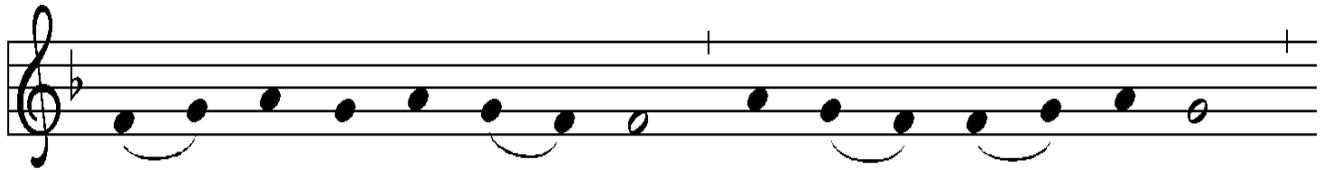
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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**



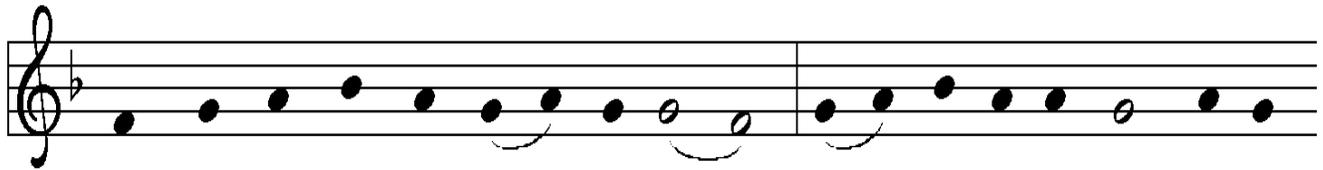
*LORD'S PRAYER



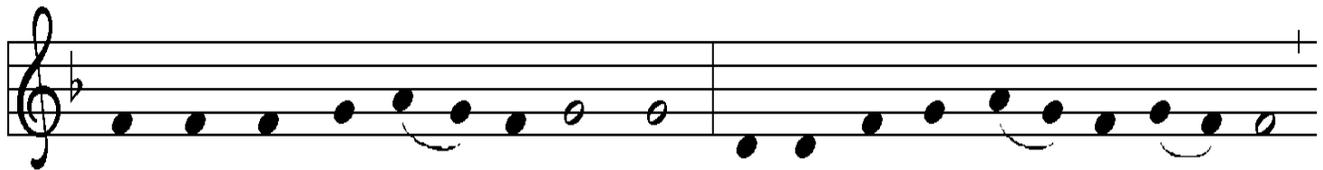
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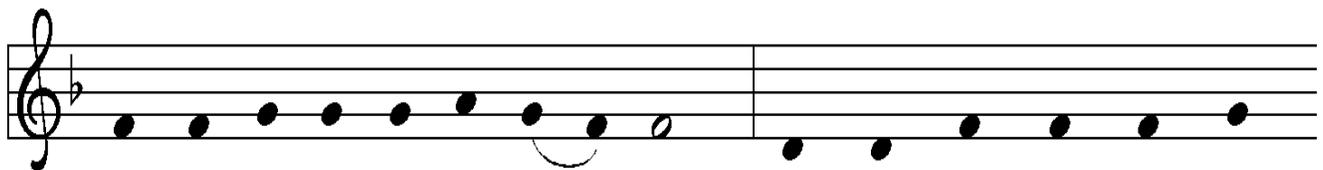
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



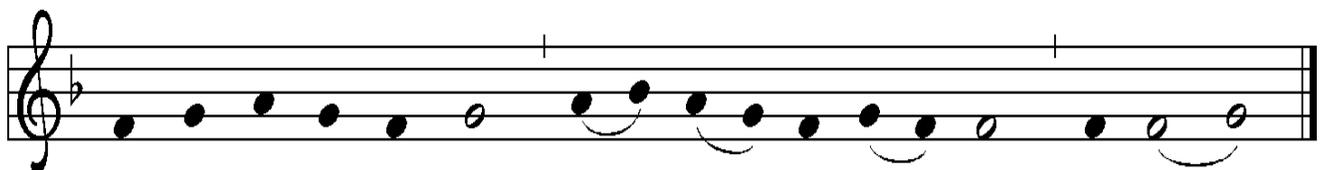
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

Be Still and Know

Anne Crosby Gaudet

*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 of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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.

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
+ bless you now and always.

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777
(vss. 4-6)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pavane

Ravel



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Ken Johnson

ASSISTING MINISTER

John Broussard

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

SERVICE LEADER

Philip Painter

LECTOR

Beverly Tarbox

GREETER

Carrie Watkiss

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Janet Broussard

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

PRAYER LIST

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

Attention: If anyone has any vases from the altar flowers, please leave them in the kitchen. Our florist's supply is running low. Thank you!

Welcome back and thank you to our Interim Pastor **Rev. Ken Johnson** for serving as the preaching and presiding minister in the liturgy this morning during our time of transition. Homebound members wishing a visit from Pastor 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 each 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.

Today the following officers and members of the Congregation Council are being installed for the coming year: John Broussard (President), Paul Watkiss (Vice-President), Charles Matthies (Financial Secretary), Fred Kuzel (Secretary-Treasurer), Keith Altavilla, Kathy Ganschow, Linda Painter, Phil Painter, and Carrie Watkiss. Please offer your thanks to these members of the Council for their service to the congregation and its local domestic and global ministries.

*Piano and Violin Studios Recital
next Sunday, March 15th, 1 p.m. in the sanctuary
Reception follows in the dining hall
Students of Jane Lauritsen and Kristine Boike
All are welcome!*

Easter lilies will be available for \$17.00 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 to the left of the doorway in the dining hall (lower west entrance). **The final day to order is Tuesday, March 24th.** You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the sanctuary.

Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch

Sunday, March 29th following service

Please bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to contribute to the brunch entrees being provided. Thank you!



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?

Holy Week 2026
March 29th—April 5th

Palm Sunday, March 29th

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
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

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

Good Friday, April 3rd

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

Easter Sunday, April 5th

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



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society
Tuesday, March 10, 2026*

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

*Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604
Thursday, March 12, 2026*

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering March 1st, 2026

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i>	\$1,827.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$3,265.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$1,438.00

Benevolence is our commitment to SZS and ELCA missionary support.
The budget's current need will be adjusted when a
new pastor accepts our call.

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



