



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 22nd, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

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

J. S. Bach

“Prelude in F Minor” from *WTC*

*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. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

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 is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

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

SERMON

Rev. Marnie Rourke

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886



*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

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

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, especially... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

We offer our thanksgiving for Jonathan Edwards and all people who have died in faith, especially... . Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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.

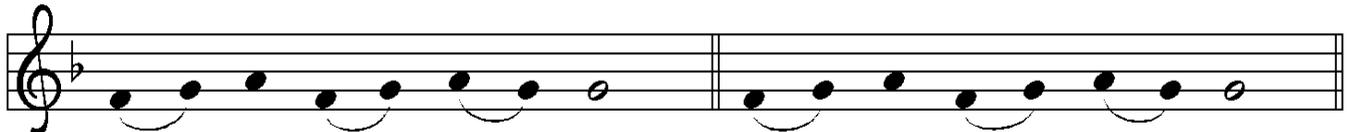
OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

*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



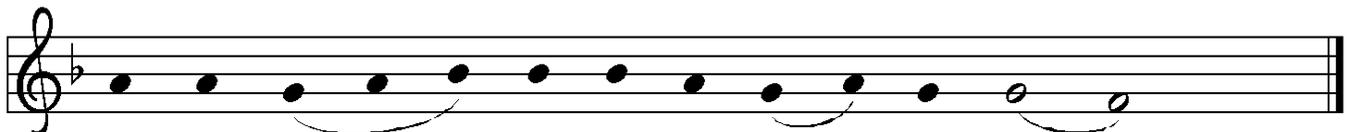
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

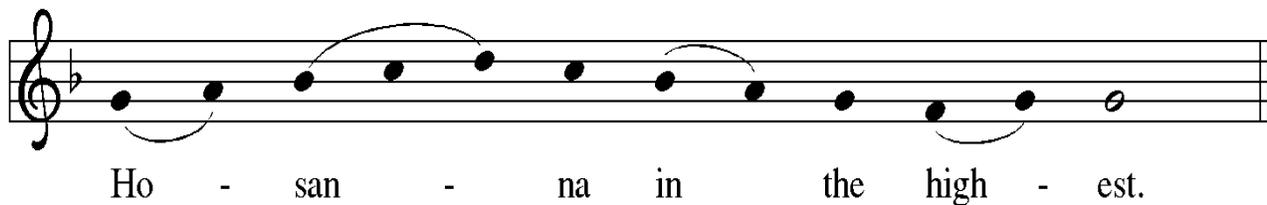
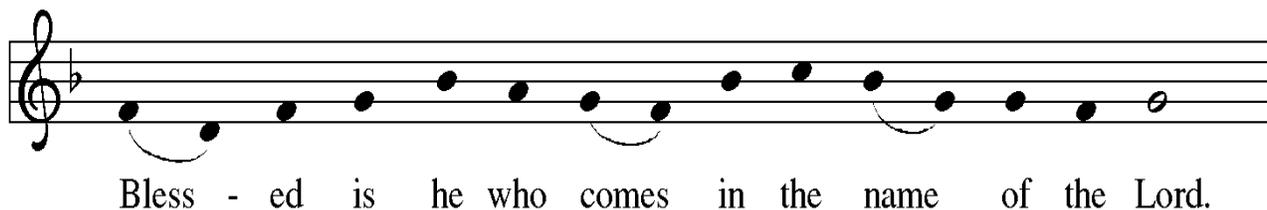
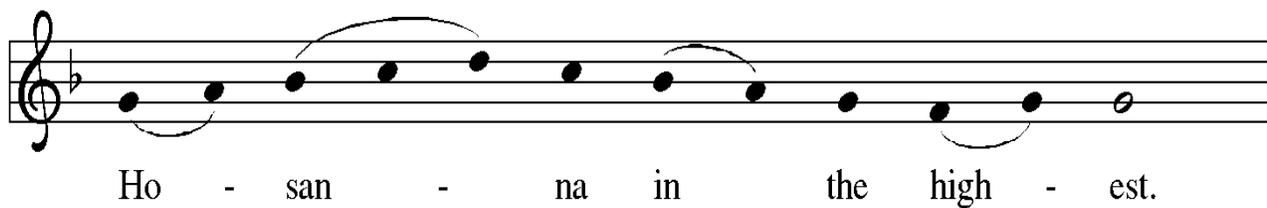
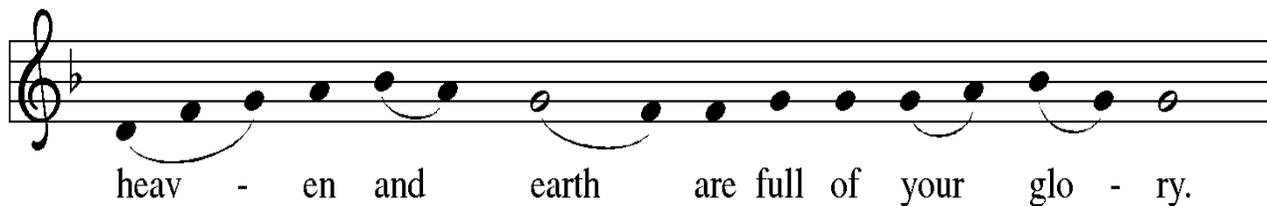
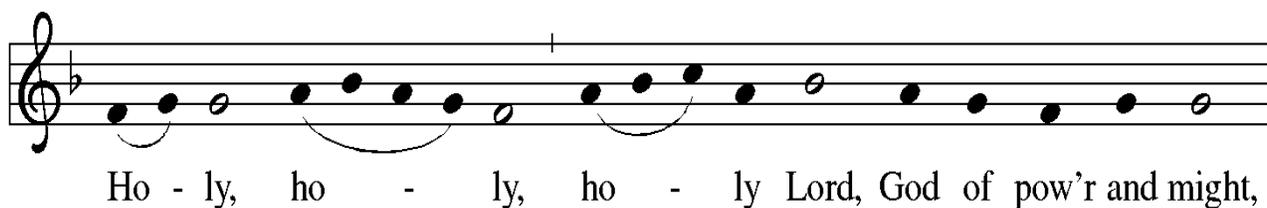


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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.

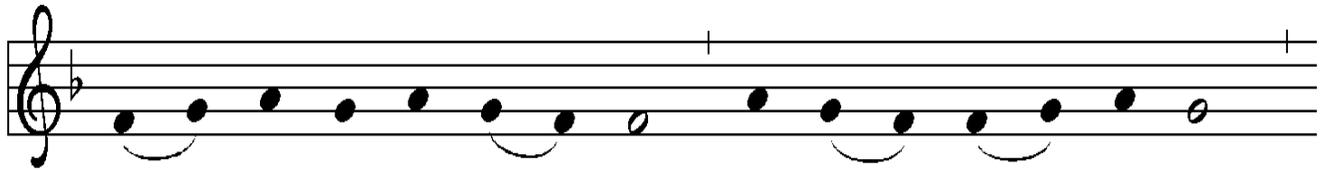
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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**



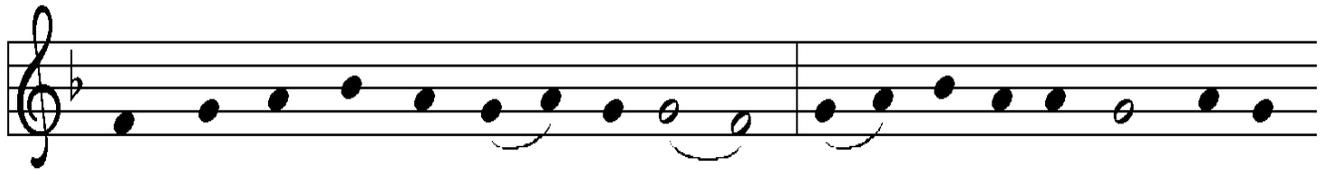
*LORD'S PRAYER



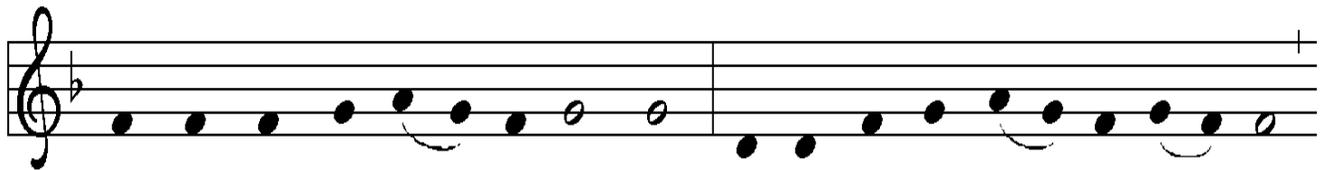
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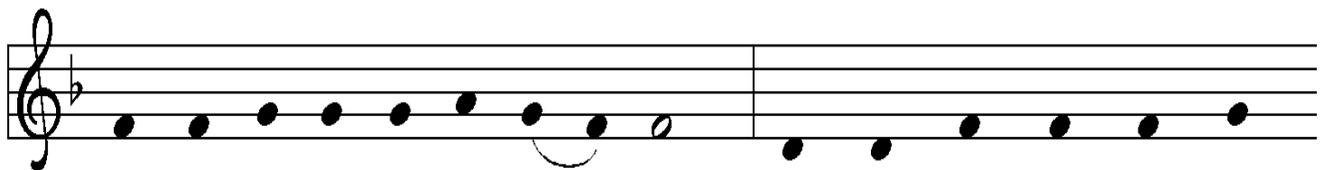
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



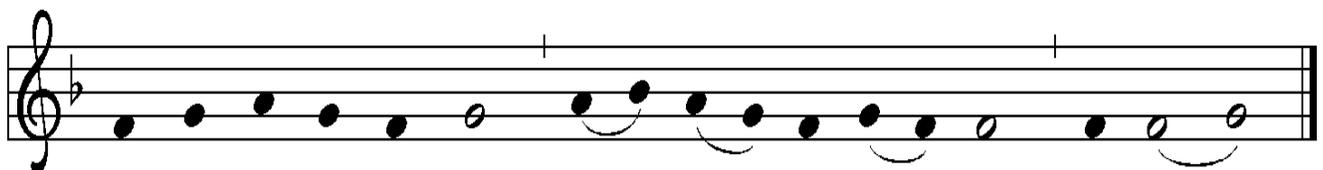
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



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

Wondrous Love

setting, Zach Unke

***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**

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802

*DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Jesu, meine Freude

Streicher



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Marnie Rourke

ASSISTING MINISTER

Carrie Watkiss

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Carrie Watkiss

LECTORS

Paul and Carrie Watkiss

GREETERS

Walter and Judith Cudecki

LIVE STREAM

Fred Kuzel

USHER

Walter Cudecki

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 Babiar, 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.

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of father, grandfather, and great-grandfather **+Karl Kostelny+** on the 31st anniversary of his passing today by remembering son John and his family. *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 **Rev. Marnie Rourke** 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 church office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, March 25th and 26th.
–Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

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 in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). **The final day to order is this 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!

Voices of Hope Community Chorus
presents

“RESPECT”

Celebrating Women in Song

Saturday, April 11 - 7:30 p.m.
Glenview Community Church
1000 Elm Street, Glenview

Sunday, April 12 - 4 p.m.
Pilgrim Congregational Church
450 Lake Street, Oak Park

Tickets: \$25.00
Seniors and Students: \$20.00
Group Tickets: \$22.00
Tickets at the Door: \$30.00
Breast Cancer Survivors: \$20.00

Accompanist, David Richards

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



On Easter Sunday please bring a few flowers either from your garden or the florist to place on the processional cross which will be presented at worship and then displayed on the front lawn. The cross will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary before worship.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

*Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758
Sunday, March 22, 2026*

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

*Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of San Salvador, martyr, died 1980
Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

*Annunciation of Our Lord
Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering March 15th, 2026

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i> | \$1,827.00 |
| <i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i> | \$ 870.00 |
| <i>Shortage:</i> | \$ 957.00 |

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.

