



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
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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. 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.

PALM SUNDAY
March 29th, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

HOLY COMMUNION
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

***GATHERING**

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

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

***ENTRANCE GOSPEL**

John 12:12-16

The Entrance Gospel according to St. John in the Twelfth Chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord —
the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him... **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***BLESSING OF PALMS**

The congregation may raise their palm branches as the prayer is spoken.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen

The congregation follows the ministers in procession through the sanctuary.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

Refrain

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One.**

Refrain

**The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply.**

Refrain

**The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.**

Refrain

**To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

Refrain

**Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king.**

Refrain

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

***INTRODUCTION**

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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

Isaiah 50:4–9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The congregation remains seated for the presentation of the Passion Reading.

PASSION READING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

David H. Kehret

Based upon the Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The congregation is invited to sing the stanzas of the following hymn, “My Song is Love Unknown,” as it is introduced throughout the reading.

*HYMN

My Song is Love Unknown

LBW 94

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior’s love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

- 2 He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend;
who at my need his life did spend!**

- 3 Sometimes they strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise;
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

5 They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free;
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing--
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.



*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

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

O God, you announce words of grace and truth. Give wisdom to all preachers in your church both globally and locally. Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life you offer in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to your saving love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day, especially... . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

O God, your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to you for Hans Nielsen Hauge and all the faithful departed who rest in your mercy, especially... . Deliver us all from death's power and raise us 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 ANTHEM

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

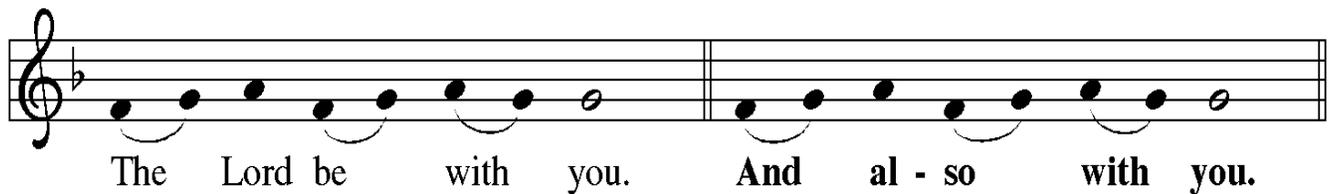
Mason/Leavitt

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

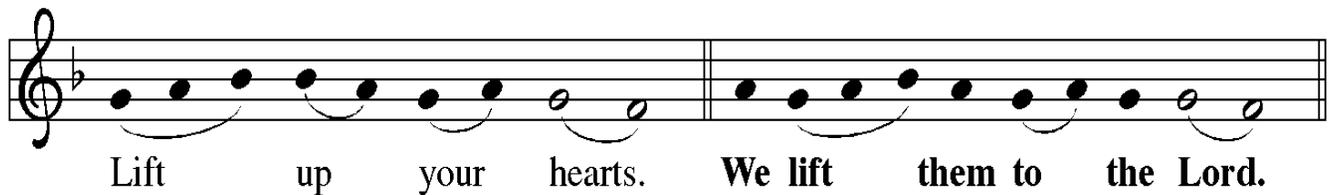
Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We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

Amen.

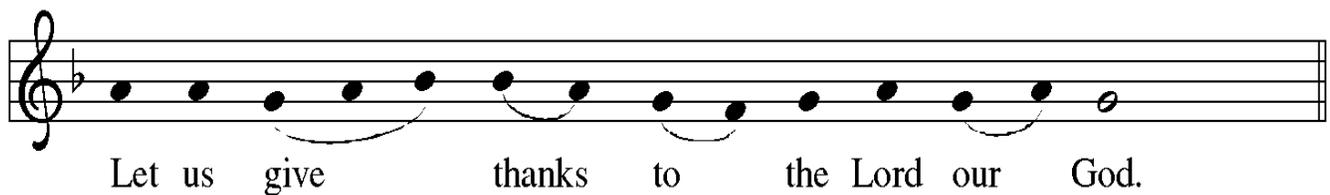
*DIALOGUE



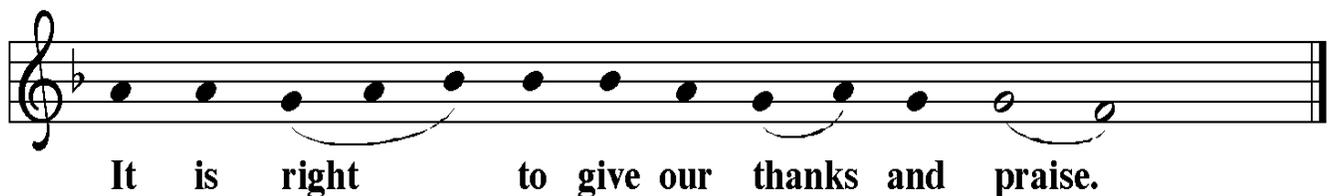
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

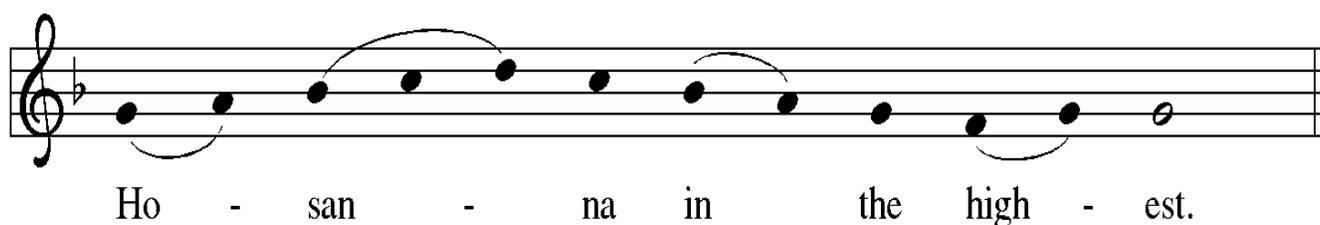
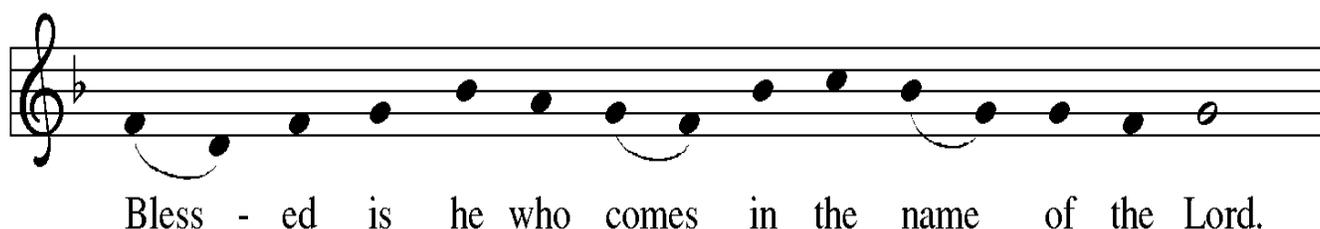
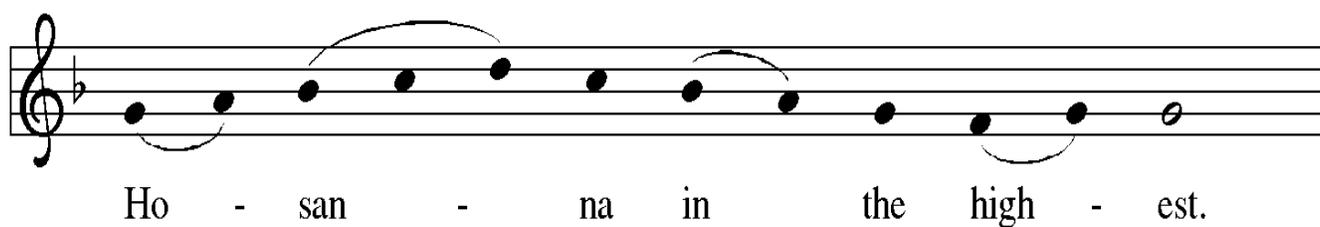
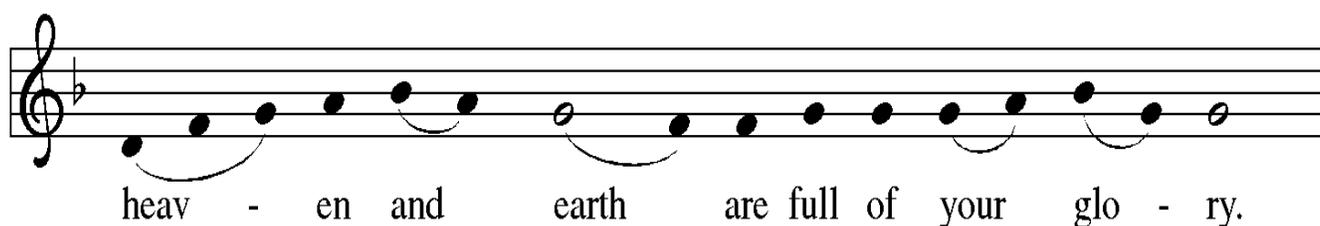
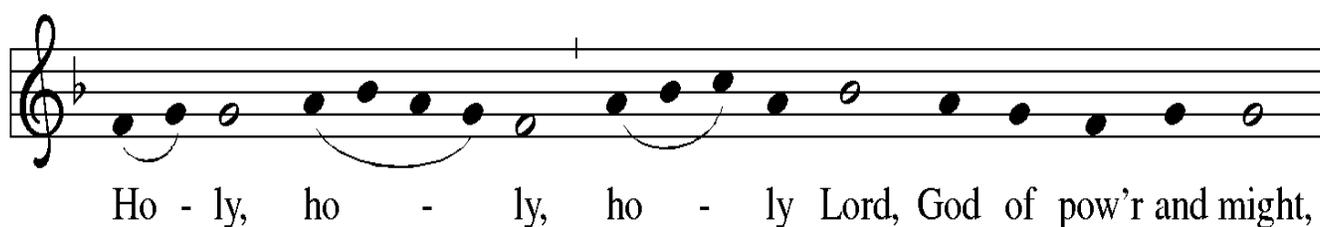


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE FOR THE PASSION

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; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. 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

Almighty God, merciful Father:
You are indeed holy,
enthroned on the praises of your people.

With Israel we bring our praises before you,
as we behold the wonder of your goodness
and your redemptive love for us.
In that love you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who was acclaimed King and Lord
as he entered Jerusalem in triumph.

By that same love,
he was handed over by an act of betrayal and consigned to death,
thereby taking every human struggle
and the suffering of every age to the cross.
By his holy wounds we have been healed.

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 of this cup,
We proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

We rejoice, Almighty Father,
in our Lord's life and holy passion,
his resurrection and his ascent into glory;
and we trust in his promise to come again,
when we, with all your people,
shall sing our hosannas to him at our joyful resurrection.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, O God,
your holy and life giving Spirit upon us
and upon this bread of beaven
and this cup of blessing,
that in receiving Christ's most precious body and blood
we may be united in the forgiveness of sins
and in that final hope of glory and praise with your Son.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather the Church from every time and every place
into the everlasting peace and freedom won by Christ, as we acclaim:
**Through him, with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**



*LORD'S PRAYER



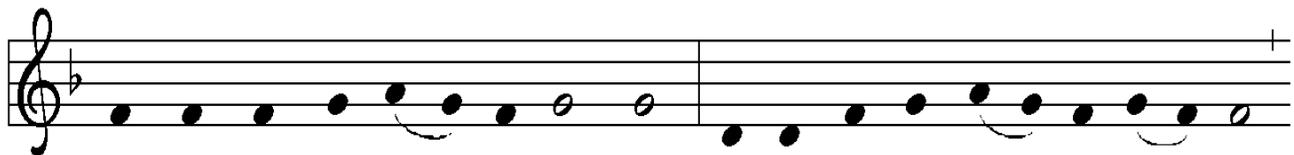
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



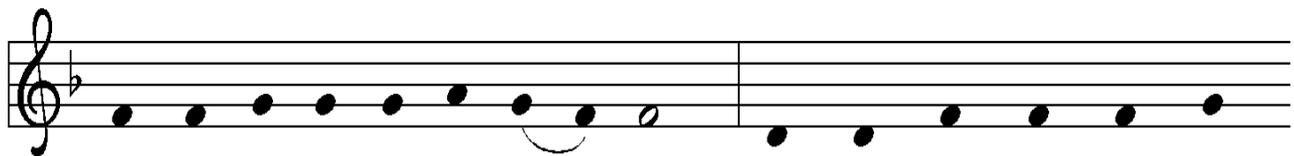
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



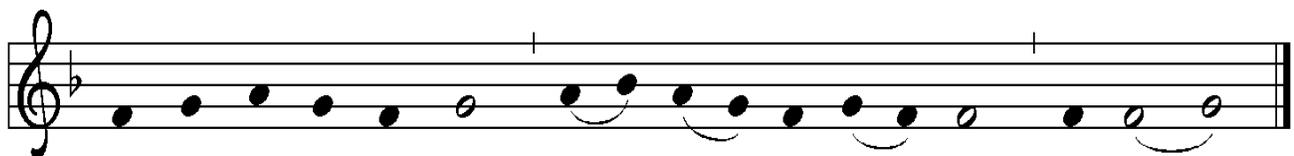
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



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

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

DISTRIBUTION

Sunrise Quartet

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. Merciful and 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.

*BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

*SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

2nd Word

Dubois



SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Rev. Philip Lund

ASSISTING MINISTER

Beverly Tarbox

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTOR

Kristine Boike

PASSION READERS

Beverly Tarbox, Paul and Carrie Watkiss,
Philip Painter, Tom Myers, and Charles Matthies

CRUCIFER

Aidan Altavilla

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

USHER

Fred Kuzel

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTANS

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.

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.

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 pm
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

Thank you to everyone who brought food to share and helped organize the Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch following the liturgy today. Please join us for this festive pre-Easter gathering in the dining hall located on the lower level.

The Triduum (the Liturgy of the Three Days) is *a single liturgy in three acts* which begins this Maundy Thursday evening and continues thru Easter evening. Please set aside these days to be gathered with the congregation and the Western Church throughout the world during the commemoration of these central events of the Christian year.

Holy Week 2026

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

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

March 22nd, 2026

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i>	\$1,827.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,656.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 171.00

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.

