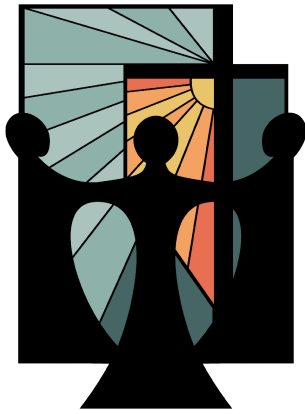




**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

250 Woodside Road
Riverside, Illinois 60546
Telephone: (708) 442-5250

Web page: www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Rev. Ken Johnson
Interim Pastor
773-947-4488

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12th, 2026 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155

***GATHERING**

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

***WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

God our Father, our Creator,
who made the heavens and earth
We are Your children,
and we are in awe of all you have made.

Christ the Son, our Redeemer and Savior,
You lived and died for us all
You live again,
and have prepared the way for us.

Holy Spirit, the Sustainer,
You move in us and among us
We follow Your wisdom
and feel Your presence.

Holy God, Triune, Three-in-one,
help us to know You more fully.
Guide us in this time of worship. Amen

—by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Used by permission.

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

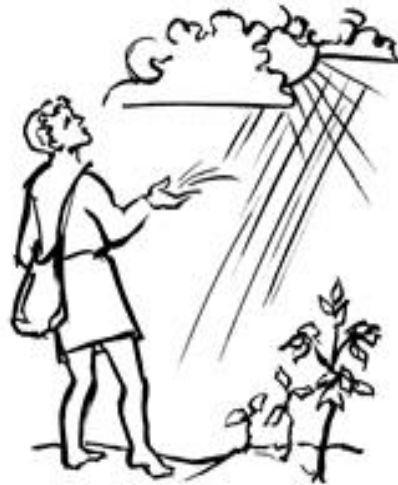
FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

Liz Durec

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

Jocelyn Drahos

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

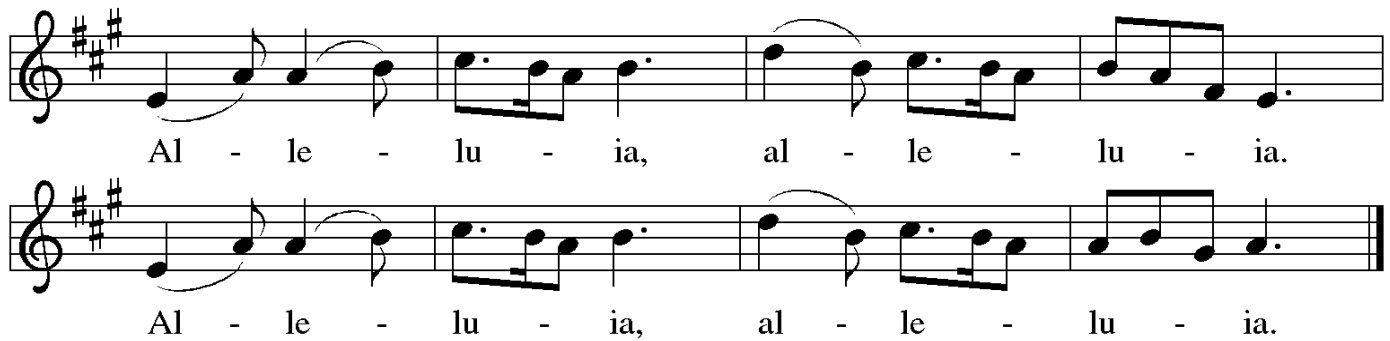
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

*GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

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

SERMON

Rev. Chris Honig

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

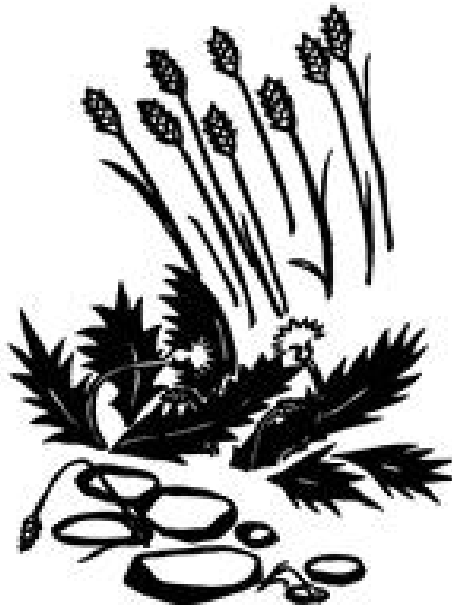
- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.



***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**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns, especially... . God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered in speech and silence.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith especially..., and Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

setting by Joel Raney

He's Got the Whole World *with* This Is My Father's World

(Sung by Choir Members from Sts. Peter and Paul and Ascension Lutheran)

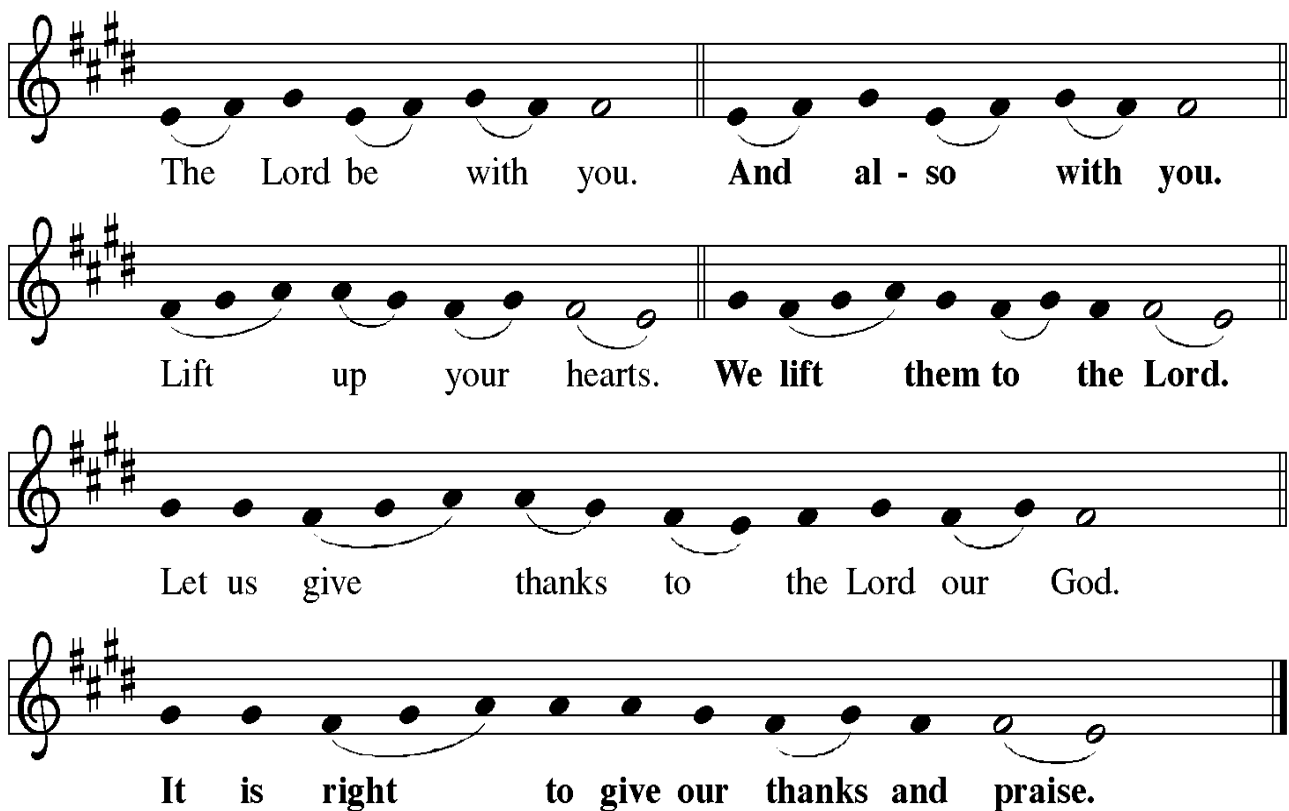
OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

*DIALOGUE



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

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

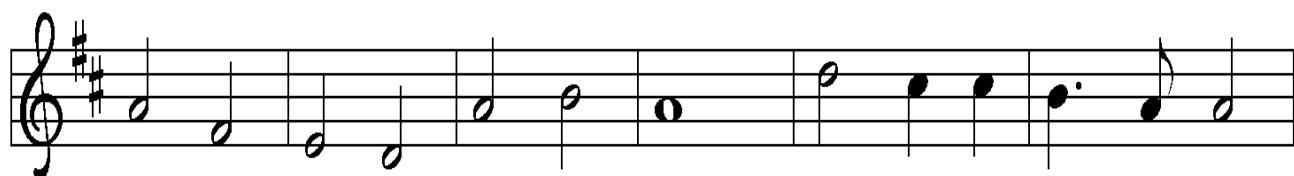
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:

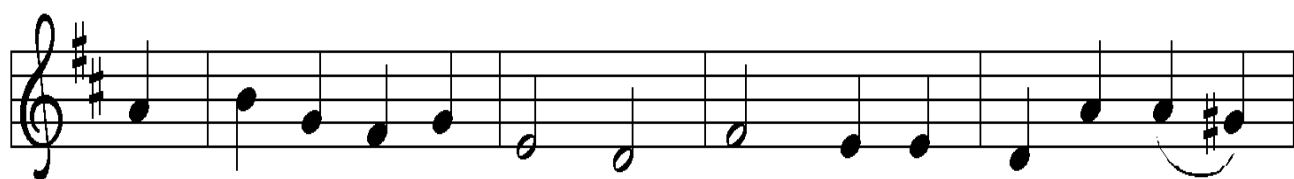
*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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**

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION

America the Beautiful

Rhett Barnwell

***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. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✙ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

Amen.



- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

***DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTERS

Rev. Ken Johnson
and Rev. Chris Honig

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Sarah Lofgren and Charles Matthies

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

HARPIST

Beverly Tarbox

SERVICE LEADER

Kristine Boike

LECTORS

Liz Durec and Jocelyn Drahos

COMMUNION MINISTER

Sarah Lofgren

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

IN THE PRAYERS...

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

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 the month. In the event of a pastoral emergency Pastor Johnson can be reached via e-mail at Ken6168@sbcglobal.net or his mobile phone 773-947-4488.

Today we welcome members of **Ascension Lutheran Church** to our outdoor worship service. Thank you to the members of their choir for joining their voices with us. Our thanks also to **Rev. Chris Honig** for his assistance in leading this morning's service. We invite everyone after service to the dining hall for an ice cream social and fellowship.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

Sunday, July 12, 2026

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566

Friday, July 17, 2026

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering July 5th, 2026

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2026:</i>	\$1,827.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$1,885.00
<i>Surplus:</i>	\$ 58.00

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.