

Seedlings🌵🌵🌵: "We must admit there will be music despite everything."



***We must risk delight. We can do without
pleasure,
but not delight. Not enjoyment. We must have
the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the
ruthless
furnace of this world. To make injustice the only
measure of our attention is to praise the Devil.
If the locomotive of the Lord runs us down,
we should give thanks that the end had
magnitude.
We must admit there will be music despite
everything.***

---by poet Jack Gilbert



"Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing"?

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).

*Sweetest music, softly stealing
Through the silence of the night;
To the shepherds, now revealing,
Christ is born the Son of light.*

*Glory unto God, the Father
who has sent His only Son.
That He may all the nations gather
round His feet and make them one.*

*Shepherds, to the stable hasten,
There your Savior Christ is born,
Son of Mary lowly maiden,
On this first glad Christmas morn!*

*He from highest Heaven descending
Comes on earth your woes to heal,
That your every want attending,
Love of God He may reveal.*

---Text by G. W. Brindley



**Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival (Zephaniah 3).**



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December
22nd**

**10:15 a.m., Liturgy of Holy
Communion
with Children's Presentation**



Christmas Eve
7:15 p.m., Liturgy of Holy
Communion
with String Ensemble, Handbells and
Candlelight



Christmas Day
at Ascension Lutheran Church
400 Nuttall Road in Riverside
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion
No liturgy here on Christmas Day.



If you would like to order a poinsettia(s) to help decorate the chancel of the sanctuary for the Christmas liturgies, a sign-up page is available on the bulletin board at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or you may contact the church office to place your order at 1.708.442.5250 or office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org . The cost per plant is \$17 and the deadline for payment and sign-up is Wednesday, December 18th. Church office hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon.



Thank you so very much to those who offered food, decorations, and service for the reception here on Sunday evening, December 8th, following the concert performance as well as those who were able to receive this gift of the season! Thanks also to everyone who helped to decorate the church facility for the Christmas season and set up the outdoor creche.



Final Holiday Concert
this Saturday, December 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Pilgrim Congregational in Oak Park.
For more concert information and ticket
purchases,
click on the image above or [HERE](#) .
Brandon Michaels and Pastor Dennis of our
congregation perform with
[Lux Cantorum](#)



John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at

the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



["The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"](#)

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).

[Will There Really Be a Morning? ...Redue](#)

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).



All real living is meeting.

— Martin Buber

Sharing coffee with a friend or playing a game of golf with him provides a little relaxation, a little fun, and a chance to catch up on each other's lives. Such things are the meetings of life. Holding a small child on one's lap, even walking the dog are meetings too. They are relationships with other lives based on sharing time with one another.

Meetings—this sharing of time—can be with the full range of our existence. A tree, a lake, a mountain, the stars meet with us in solitude and enlarge our lives. Meeting is more than driving by. We meet a neighbor on the street, a woman in the park, a driver in the next car. Each meeting inspires different responses in us. With some, we may be open and receiving; with others, fearful; and yet with others, we want to exploit and use. If all life is meeting, perhaps we do not wish to meet in the way we have been. The way we meet others changes us. Maybe we are missing something. We can have more life by making more contact.

God, please guide my awareness in this day to each meeting as it occurs so that I can make contact more fully.

Quoted from the app Touchstones.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.



Please note:

For urgent pastoral care and *important* administrative matters,
please contact Pastor Dennis at his mobile phone number.
The landline at the parsonage is no longer in service.☒
If you need this contact information, please reply to this message.

Photos: Olivia Lauritsen (New Mexico desert) and Rafael Martinez (choir concert on December 8th)

***Please forward this e-newsletter
to others who may be interested!
And previous issues of
"Seedling" E-News are posted at the
website.***



***For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water...
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).***

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
For continuing live streaming of the
liturgy
please click [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for
viewing at a later date.**



**www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -
Noon**
