

Seedlings Finale 🌱 🌱 🌱

**God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new time with excitement and even some
anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have
blessed us.**

**We thank you for the experiences that have
brought us to this moment.**

**We thank you for the ministry of others that gives breadth and
depth to our own ministry.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting
one another.**



**Farewell and Godspeed to the Lauritsen's
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
between the Ascension of Our Lord and Pentecost Day
June 1st, 2025**



Liturgy of Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.
Bishop Wilma S. Kucharek, presiding and preaching.
Visiting clergy who are able to attend the Liturgy are invited to vest (white).

The Liturgy will be followed by a celebratory luncheon.
Main course provided.
Please bring side dishes to share!

Regrets not expected or necessary.



Christmas 2024



Easter 2025

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ
you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock.
You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them,
and you call them to various avenues of service.
We give you thanks for the ministry of **Dennis** among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:
bless this time of ending and beginning.
You surround your people in every time and place:
keep us close in your love.
You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:
prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;
heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.
Help **Dennis and Jane and their** family and all of us
to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us,
so now send them forth to be a blessing to others;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**



Early Spring, Soldier River Valley, Monona County, Iowa

"O God, Beyond All Praising"

Words by Michael Perry

*O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,*

*at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.*

*The flower of earthly splendor
in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender
to you the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature
the eternal seed is sown -
though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ the Man from heaven
from death has set us free,
and we through him are given
the final victory!*

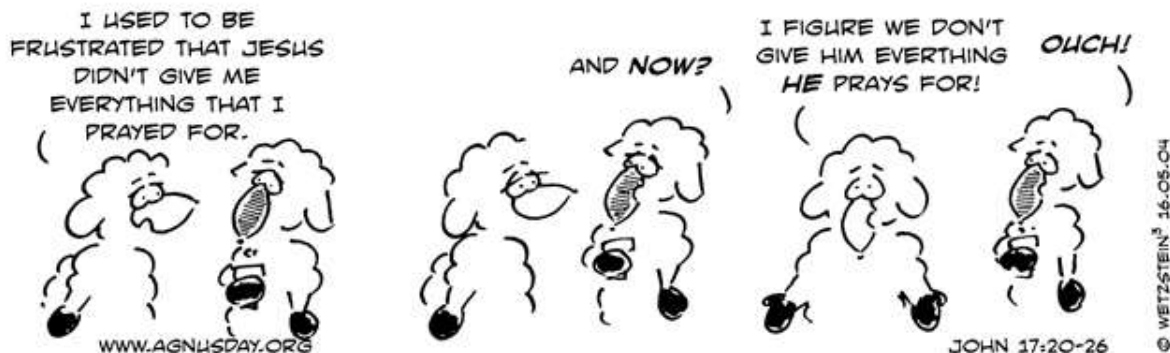
*Then hear, O gracious Savior,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.*

* The second verse may be omitted.

For your information and review:



Exit Checklist for Clergy ECUSA.pdf



“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Gospel Reading for the Seventh Sunday Of Easter, June 1st.

**Were You Raised in a Church That
Fears the World
or Loves Its Neighbors?**



"Buddy" and the geese at sunrise in early May near Galesburg.


**Slow me down, Lord!
Ease the pounding of my heart
By the quieting of my mind.
Steady my harried pace
With a vision of the eternal reach of time.
Give me,
Amidst the confusions of my day,
The calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions of my nerves
With the soothing music
Of the singing streams**

That live in my memory.
Help me to know
The magical power of sleep,
Teach me the art
Of taking minute vacations
Of slowing down
To look at a flower;
To chat with an old friend
Or make a new one;
To pet a dog;
To watch a spider build a web;
To smile at a child;
Or to read a few lines from a good book.
Remind me each day
That the race is not always won by the swift;
That there is more to life
Than increasing its speed.
Let me look upward
Into the branches of the towering oak
And know that it grew great and strong
Because it grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord,
And inspire me to send my roots deep
Into the soil of life's enduring values
That I may grow toward the stars
Of our greater destiny.


---by Orin L. Crain



Experience "Gospel Extravaganza" from Home



Elmhurst Choral Union & Orchestra
Scott Uddenberg, Artistic Director & Conductor




MUSIC TO LIGHT THE DARKNESS:
A Candlelight Experience

REQUIEM, FAURE • K LUMINARE, HASSENBERG • DARK & LUMINOUS NIGHT, GUEILO
KRISTIN IELM, SOPRANO • DOUG PETERS, BARITONE

Sunday, May 18, 2025, 7:00 pm
Hammerschmidt Chapel, Elmhurst University

Tickets available at: elmhurstchoralunion.org
or at the door by cash, check, or credit card
\$25 Adults | \$15 Youth (up to 18 yrs)

Concert Sponsor
Dr. & Mrs. William C. Mahle • Gary Wilhelm



Elmhurst University
Hammerschmidt Chapel
Elmhurst, IL 60120

*Member of the Congregation Brandon Michaels
sings with the Elmhurst Choral Union*

*Photo Credits: Daryle Lauritsen, Rafael Martinez and
Carolyn Lauritsen Sward*



This is the final issue of the "Seedlings" e-newsletter which was conceived in the aftermath of the years-long pandemic. During this time "Seedlings" has emerged into a kind of sequel to the series entitled "Bread for the Journey" which was used to reach out to the congregation and friends in isolation with morsels of hope from the Scriptures, readings and poetry as well as the beauty of sacred song, visual arts and videography—all in an effort to maintain the unity and well being of the church of God during unprecedented, difficult, painful and uncertain times. Following the pandemic, it seemed natural to direct our vision toward "seedlings of hope" arising from the ashes left by the fires of a virus which had ravaged the earth. I hope that in some way these offerings have helped provide you with the peace, hope, joy, light and love of our Lord's cross and resurrection. "Soli Deo Gloria!" To God alone be glory! ---djl

***Please forward this message to
others
who may be interested.
The Seedlings Newsletter
is posted at the congregational
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**
