



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

250 Woodside Road

Riverside, Illinois 60546

Telephone: (708) 442-5250

Parsonage: (708) 442-0238

Fax: (708) 442-5264

Web page: [www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)

**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**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.*

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4, PAGES 147-155**

**GATHERING**

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

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

“Prelude in E” from *WTC*

J. S. Bach

**\*EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise be to God,  
**who rescues us from the power of darkness;  
who redeems us, and sets us free!**

Praise be to Jesus Christ, the first born of all creation,  
**through whom all things were made,  
in heaven and on the earth.**

Praise be to the Spirit of God,  
**whose presence sustains us,  
and whose breath renews all creation.**

Behold! I am making all things new!  
**Come, O God, and make your home among us.  
Pour out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

—*from New Heaven, New Earth,  
an Easter and Earth Day worship resource (Canadian Foodgrains Bank)*

\*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts 9:1-6

*Each of us has a story of meeting God's grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:11-14

*The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

ELW 364

(Verse 1 and Refrain)

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

*The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.*

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

SERMON

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

ELW 847

\*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

Holy Spirit, shine the bright light of Jesus Christ upon us, like it happened to Saul on the road to Damascus, and let our new family name forever be known as “Christian.” Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus Christ, give us the vision and faith of the Psalmists who know whom to thank for healing. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lamb of God, as on the cross you sacrificed yourself for us, so receive our gifts of prayer and praise as offerings of love for all that you have done for us. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Lord Jesus Christ, when you returned to the shore of the sea where you first called Peter, you re-commissioned him to follow you. Revisit us with the same love that first won our hearts that we may hear your commission to follow you all the days of our lives. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Jesus Christ, you ask us to love you above all else, all others, even above our very selves. Help us commit our bodies and souls into your love and care. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

For those among us experiencing the frailty of this world's physical body, prolong, restore and heal, as you will, those who are ill, especially... . Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

*Other prayers may be added here in speech and in silence..*

Clothe us with joy so that our mourning turns into dancing and our sorrow turns into rejoicing. Bless all who mourn and grant us courage and faith to see life even in the midst of death. Come into our hearts, Lord Jesus: **Come into our hearts to stay.**

Christ lives with us. **Amen**

## \*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

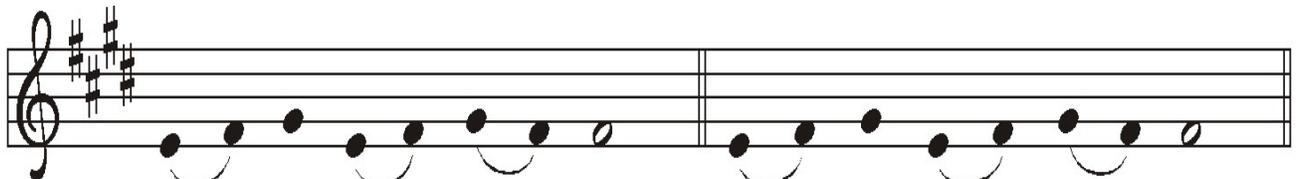
# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

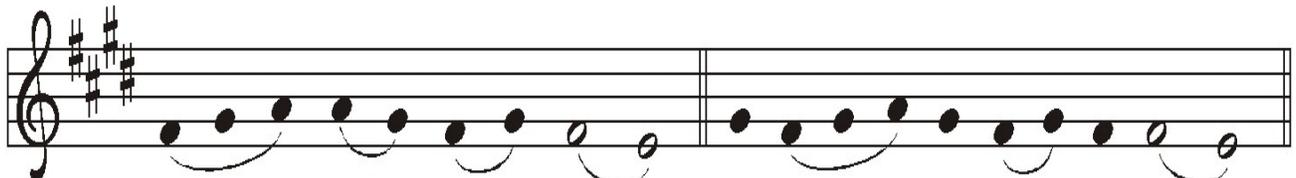
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## \*DIALOGUE



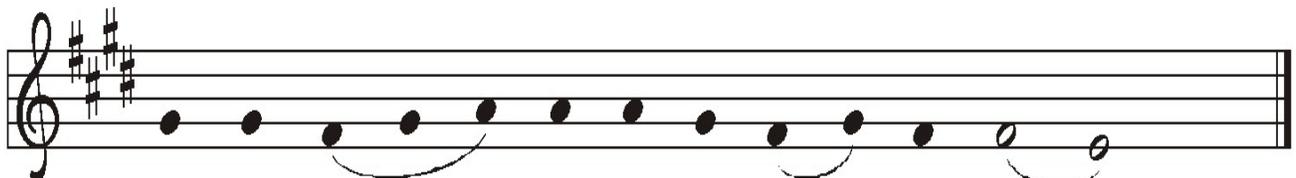
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

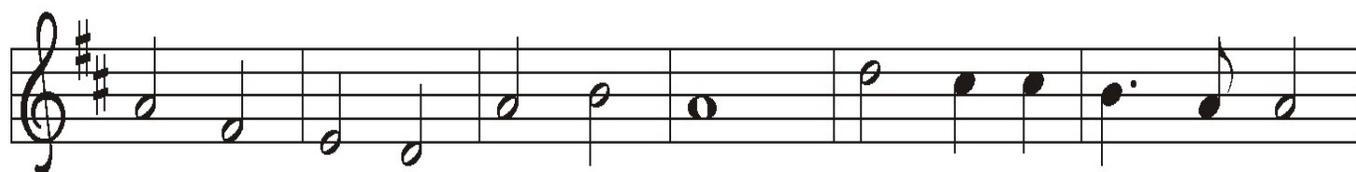


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

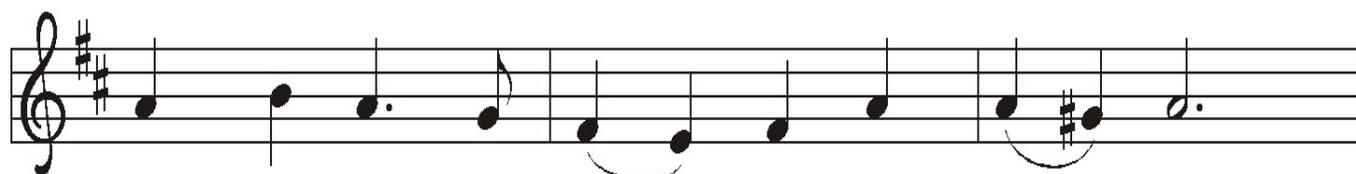
## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

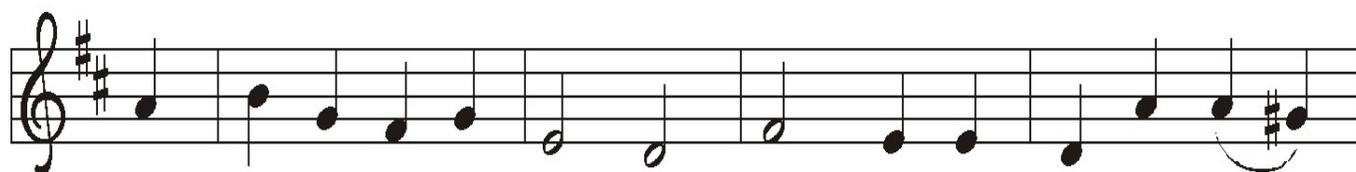
## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



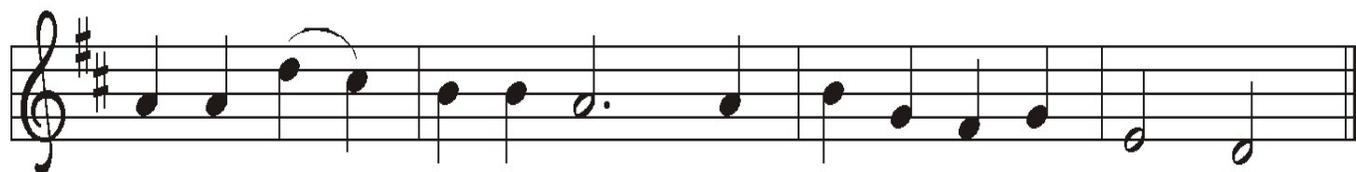
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
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**

#### \*EASTER INVITATION TO COMMUNION

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

**\*BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

ELW 729

**\*DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Academic Festival*

Brahms

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Tom Myers

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Brandon Michaels

LECTORS

Gary and Jocelyn Drahos

GREETERS

Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik

USHER

Janet Broussard

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Jane Lauritsen and Carole Pollitz



### IN THE PRAYERS...

**Members of the Congregation:** Heather Greer, Shirley Kostelny, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lois Mika, Mary Sasuta, Edward Sefara and Gregg Valek. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Wally Bisping, Rich Caliendo, Dan Costello, Eric Dennison, Becky Dice, Barbara Dykes, Melissa Foe, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Drew Janos, Ron Kelly, Michael Kerney, Nicole Kisiel, Jeff Kubik, Lenyce Lawrenson, Darlene Loughlin, Artem Molovkina, Donald Neal, Gail Purcell, Tim Richard, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Thomas Sicaras, Gus Sicaras, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Marta Vrtichova and Tom Zajac.

The **church office will be closed** through Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the office on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

—Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant

*Please note:* Easter lilies may be taken home today following service. Thank you!

Lux Cantorum Chicago  
presents:

LUX CANTORUM

# GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA!

*Celebrating the rich heritage of Gospel Music.*

*Experience a wide range of gospel music styles with universal themes of love, hope, and perseverance!*

May 2, 2025 7:30 pm

Buchanan Chapel of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

May 4, 2025 4:00 pm

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL

May 10, 2025 7:30 pm

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Oak Park IL

May 14 - 24, 2025

Streamed Live Performance Recording

Info Detail at: [www.LuxCantorum.org](http://www.LuxCantorum.org)

Wilbert O. Watkins Conductor & Artistic Director

Philip Kendall: Assistant Conductor

Kyle Stephens Accompanist

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

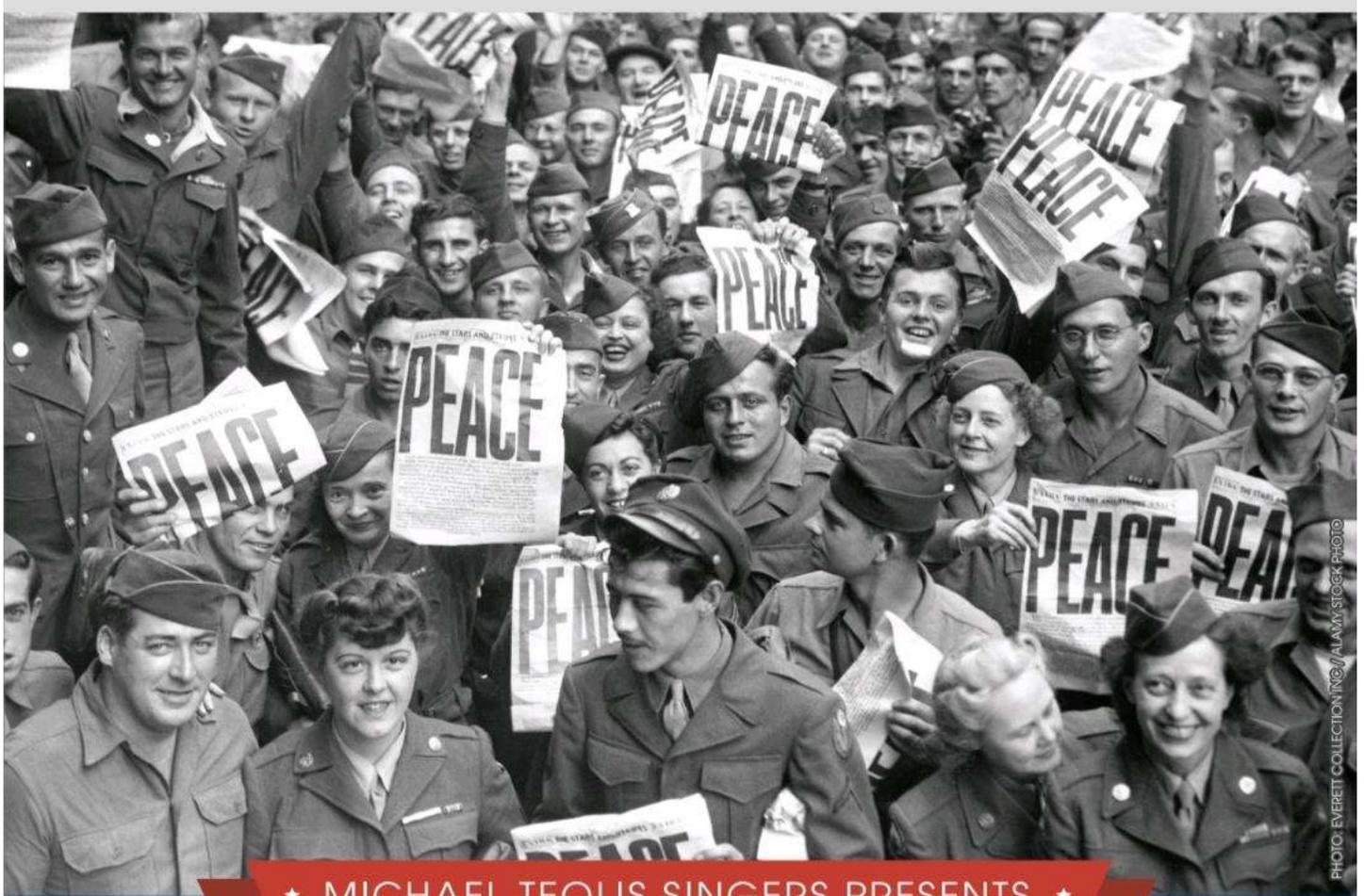


PHOTO: EVERETT COLLECTION INC./ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

★ MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS PRESENTS ★

# Peace Triumphant: ★ ★ 1945 ★ ★

Saturday • May 10, 2025 • 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church • 324 N. Oak Park Avenue • Oak Park, IL 60302 • Handicap Accessible

Online tickets at  
[www.MTSingers.org](http://www.MTSingers.org)  
 • \$25 Adult  
 • \$20 Seniors / Students  
 All tickets at the door  
 • \$30



THE MICHAEL TEOLIS SINGERS IS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE OAK PARK AREA ARTS COUNCIL, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

*Beverly Tarbox and David Richards of our congregation perform with the Michael Teolis Singers.*

## COMMEMORATIONS

*Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387*

*Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>*

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

*Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416*

*Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>*

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

*Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)*

*Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>*

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

*Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760*

*Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.

### **Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering**

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2025:</i>	\$2,615.00
<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$2,274.00
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$ 341.00

Donations are welcome via Zelle at [donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org](mailto:donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org).

## DO YOU LOVE ME? FOLLOW ME

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in a blinding light on the road, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things—bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness—to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process—a change that comes again and again, like Jesus’ question to Peter: “Do you love me?” Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. For Saul, the journey doesn’t end with the blinding light on the road. For Peter, the journey doesn’t end with breakfast on the beach. Conversion sets each of them, and each of us, on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth—and leads into life eternal.

