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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Following up on last's weeks post regarding the percentage of Episcopalians who engage with Scripture on a daily basis, I offer the following short advice, pray with Scripture.

Praying with Scripture is an easy way to both engage with the Word of God and be formed by it. We are already used to doing this in our worship, so it is quite easy to do in your devotional life.

Here is an outline I have found helpful:

1. Choose a short text. This can be from the Lectionary for Sunday, Daily Office Lectionary, or other regular pattern of reading.
2. Say a brief prayer before reading asking for God's presence and enlightenment in the Word.
3. Read the passage slowly making note of a word, phrase, or verse that "leaps out at you".
4. After reading the whole passage, spend a few moments praying that word, phrase, or verse.
5. When you have moments of quiet in your day, return to your word, phrase, or verse. Make it your prayer for the day, and end your day slowly repeating it.

This is a simple and effective way of adding Scripture to your day.

The Good News

March 16, 2018



Adult Formation meets this week 3/21 at 5:30 for supper and study at 6. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets this week.

For Lent we will try something just a little bit different. We will study Hymns and Prayer. Each night we will discuss a couple of hymns from our Hymnal, different types of prayer, and spend time singing together and in quiet practicing prayer.

Parish Mission Council Survey

The Parish Mission Council has been tasked with conducting a survey of who do we think we are aimed at helping with the task of defining St. Matthew's and discerning God's mission for us.

The surveys were passed out last Sunday and will be available this Sunday. If you wish to print a copy, it can be downloaded [here](#).

Breakfast Fellowships

Men's Breakfast meets at 8:00 on 3/17.

Holy Week

Services will be held to honor the Triduum on Maundy Thursday at 5:30 pm, Good Friday at Noon (spoken) and 5:30 pm, and Easter Vigil at 7PM.

Easter Sunday will follow our regular schedule with a potluck brunch between the services.

Outreach Opportunities

Pray for me, as I pray for you during this Lenten Season,

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

Very Special Project

Outreach committee has decided to raise money for Mr. Advent Chakupewa. He is the son of Bishop Elias Chakupewa of Tabora, Tanzania. He is attending Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. The total cost per year is \$4000, upkeep included. He has wanted to do this for several years and plans to return to Tabora to practice medicine. Checks can be made out to the church with note in the memo that it is for *Outreach-Education*.

Outreach Opportunities For The Months of March and April 2018

Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter, **Neville House**, provides safe harbor, assists and provides families in crisis situations with individual and group counseling for adults and children, and serves as a community resource providing awareness, advocacy, and education on the issue of domestic violence.

Neville House personnel have suggested the following necessary supplies for the shelter and its residents: women, children and occasionally men.

Personal hygiene items: full size shampoos, conditioners and body wash for men, women and children, along with bath soaps and lotions, towels and washcloths;

Clothing: women's underwear in various sizes, along with brassieres (C-cups plus); men's clothing and underwear in sizes M/L;

Shoes and/or sneakers: in a variety of sizes for men, women and children;

Laundry and Cleaning supplies: Laundry detergent, bath and kitchen cleaning products, paper towels and toilet paper;

Kitchen supplies: non-perishable items, canned soups and meats, and boxed meals for the pantry;

Gift cards and/or monetary gifts*: grocery, and other gift cards help provide fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items for the kitchen, or other resident needs. Monetary and gas cards assist in transporting residents to doctor appointments, job interviews, and/or their children to school/daycare.

Please place supplies in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank each and every one of you for your continued generosity to those in need in our community.

The Outreach Committee

**Please don't leave money or gift cards in the baskets. These should be clearly noted for OUTREACH and placed in the offering plates.*

Chrism Mass

Each year the clergy of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to celebrate a "Mass of Chrism". This special Mass is centered around the renewal of ordination vows for each clerical order, and the blessing of the oils used for anointing of the sick and baptism. In many ways this is the ancient picture of the Church, Bishop surrounded by clergy and laity.

Yet, it is a service that is usually poorly attended as in most places it takes

place on a week day in Holy Week. In our Diocese the service has been moved to the Saturday before Palm Sunday in the hope that the laity of the Diocese will be interested in attending.

St. Matthew's will be setting up a carpool for anyone interested in attending the service. After the Mass we will head to a local restaurant for a meal and fellowship.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

Date: 24 March 2018

Place: St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield

Time: 11 AM (Leave St. Matthew's at 9AM).

Return: ????

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

18-March

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Debbie Leighton & Patty Pitts

25-March Palm Sunday

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Sarah Halt

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis for Roy

Coffee Hour: K. Smith/R. Levine/D. Wunderle

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of March 18th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

Monday-7:00 p.m.-MLT meeting
Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters
Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Simple Supper
Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist and breakfast
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Friday-3:00 to 5:00 p.m.-Confession
Friday-5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for March 18, 2018

Hymns: #439, #337, #757 (WLP)

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 119:9-16

In quo corrigit?

9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? *

By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; *

let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, *

that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; *

instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite *

all the judgments of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *

than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments *
and give attention to your ways.
16 My delight is in your statutes; *
I will not forget your word.

The Epistle

Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Gospel

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Anniversaries
Roger & Martha Hollis

Birthdays
Ruth Stock
Daniel Teas

Collect for March 18th

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

