

Contents

This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Holy Week Edition

On Wednesday we finished our Lenten Series on Hymnography with a capstone exercise in worship planning. Working together we explored the Propers (Collect, Preface, and Readings) for the Second Sunday of Easter and chose appropriate hymns for that day. I must confess that I was very pleased with the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness of all who participated. I look forward to sharing this work with all who worship that Sunday.

Speaking of worship, this week begins Holy Week. This Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday and will include both the celebration/commemoration of the Triumphal Entry and the reading of the Passion Gospel from Mark.

The Triduum of Holy Week begins on Thursday. The Triduum is the name given to the "Three Days" of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of the institution of the Holy Eucharist, Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, and the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Foot washing will be offered to all who wish to participate. After the service we will reserve the Holy Sacrament at the side altar and all are invited to spend an hour in prayer between 9PM and Noon on Good Friday. This traditional devotion is known as The Watch, and sign up sheets are available in the Narthex. I highly encourage this devotion.

On Good Friday we will have

The Good News

March 23, 2018



Adult Formation does not meet during Holy Week.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets this week.

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

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

services at noon and 5:30PM.
Both services include communion from the reserved Sacrament and the Passion from the Gospel of John.

Saturday Evening the traditional Easter Vigil will be celebrated at 7PM. We will light the new fire, bless the Paschal Candle, hear the history of salvation, renew our baptismal vows, and celebrate the first Eucharist of the Day of Resurrection.

I hope each of you will join your brothers and sisters in walking the Via Dolorosa this week with our Lord, preparing for the Resurrection, and our spiritual renewal.

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

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.*

The Outreach Committee will hold its spring Book/DVD/Bake Sale on Saturday, April 28, from 8 AM to 1 PM. Donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and other recordings are greatly appreciated. Please put donations in the parish hall near the bookcases. If you need help getting items to the church please call Debbie Leighton at 662-7478.

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

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

1-April EASTER

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

E.M.: Chris Bennett

[Fellowship Potluck Brunch between Services]

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt & Shelley Carter

Lector: Jim Cooper (REPLACEMENT NEEDED)

E.M.: Bob Kohlase

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: Sarah Halt

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: NONE

St. Matthew's Schedule beginning March 25th

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-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

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

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast

Thursday-5:30 p.m.-Maundy Thursday Service

Friday -noon-Good Friday (no music)

Friday-5:30 p.m.-Good Friday Service

Saturday-7:00 p.m.-Easter Vigil Service
Sunday-7:30 & 10:00 a.m.-Easter Services (with fellowship
potluck between)

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 25, 2018

Hymns: #154, #313, #168

Old Testament

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Psalm 31:9-16

In te, Domine, speravi

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.
15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

The Epistle

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel

Mark 14:1-15:47

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of
Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were
looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for
they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot
among the people."

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he
sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very

costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false

testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man

you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 25- 31

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jimmy Bray
Gus Mather
Pam Laws

Collect for Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

