

## Contents

This Week's Readings

### Rector's Ramblings

Christian devotional manuals write frequently about "watchfulness". Usually, this is a cultivated "behavior" of paying close attention to our appetites, attitudes, feelings, and hopefully through close attention to God's presence.

Another word for this "watchfulness" is "vigilance" as translated in 1 Peter 5.8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:".

Each of us is called to cultivate this "behavior" in our daily lives, including the need to be vigilant in patience and waiting. At specific moments the Church helps us enter into the spirit of this watchfulness through the offering of Vigils.

One of these is known as "The Watch" and is a vigil that follows Maundy Thursday. Those who take a watch spend time in prayer, reading, and reflection before the reserved Sacrament at the Altar of Repose. It is an intentional slowing down and seeking to answer Jesus' question in the Garden of Gethsemane,

## The Good News

March 22, 2019



### **Lenten Formation**

Adult Study in Lent will focus on the Psalms as prayer. Please send your favorite, or least favorite, Psalms to Fr. Dave for inclusion in discussion.

### **Fellowship Breakfasts**

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, the 16th, at 8:00 a.m.

All members and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend and enjoy the fellowship at these casual and friendly events.

### **The Watch**

From today's Rector's Ramblings, you learn of The Watch. If you choose to participate here at St. Matthew's, please sign up for an hour between 9 PM Thursday and Noon on Good Friday. The sign up sheet is posted on the Schedule Bulletin Board (left of the hall clock).

### **Special Evensong for the Eve of the Annunciation**

On March 24th, Fr. Ben Hankinson from Trinity, Mt. Vernon will be our officiant and will lead Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

If you have never participated in this Eucharistic Devotion it is a wonderful time of prayer and meditation. All are welcome.

### **Chrism Mass**

"Could you not stay awake one hour?"

The other is perhaps more well-known and that is the Easter Vigil. This, according to Christian Tradition and the Prayer Book, IS the Easter Service of the Church. All other celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and all other Sundays throughout the year are derived from this celebration.

It is a time of watchful waiting where we hear of God's saving acts through the history of a people called into Covenant, of God's faithfulness and deliverance, and our own need of redemption. And we watch and wait for the glorious moment when the triumphant shout of Resurrection is given and we enter with joy into the festive celebration of Easter.

Let us be watchful and prepare ourselves for that day.

Blessings,

Dave+  
309-660-8515

The annual Chrism Mass and the renewal of ordination vows will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral at 10AM on April 13th. The oils used at Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick for the next year are also blessed at this service. This is an important moment in our mutual life as a Diocese, and all are invited to attend. If you would like to attend please let one of the clergy know and we will arrange carpooling.

### **Youth Group**

Will meet following Evensong on April 7th. All youth and friends are invited to join us.

### **Eucharistic Minister Training**

We have been notified that our current licenses for those serving as Eucharistic Ministers are due to be renewed.

If you are a currently a Eucharistic Minister, or believe you are called to assist with the Chalice at the Holy Eucharist, we will have a brief training after both services on April 7.

If you are not available for either training, but still wish to serve, please notify Fr. Halt and he will schedule a time to meet.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

It is never too early to announce and plan for Holy Week.

Our schedule will be as follows:

Palm/Passion Sunday (4/14)--Regular Sunday Schedule

Maundy Thursday (4/18)--7PM Mass w/ The Watch to follow.

Good Friday (4/19)--Noon (spoken service) & 7PM (sung service)

Holy Saturday (4/20)--9AM Holy Saturday Office

Easter Sunday--6AM The Great Vigil of Easter

8:30 (ish) Easter Brunch

10AM Rite II Holy Eucharist

For Easter Week there will be a noon Mass Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thursday Mass will be at 7:30AM.



### **Ministry Links**



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

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **Items of the Month**

March and April focus is on Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter: Neville House. 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 requests the following for women, children and occasionally men: personal hygiene items, clothing, shoes/sneakers and socks, laundry & cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, and gift cards. Specific items requested are listed on the displays with Outreach baskets, which are located in the narthex and hallway near the fireplace.

### **Book/DVD/Bake Sale**

The Outreach Committee will hold its spring Book/DVD/Bake Sale on Saturday, March 30, 8 AM to 1 PM. Please bring any donations to the parish hall and place them near the bookshelves. Call Debbie Leighton with any questions at 662-7478.

Please bring baked goods to the church during office hours, set-up times on Thursday, March 28 and Friday March 29, 3-5 PM or Saturday morning during the sale. We need help in setting up and welcome as much or as little as you can give.

### **Outreach-Education**

Advent Chakupewa, son of Bishop Elias, is continuing school to become a doctor. His tuition is annually \$2273 + \$1836 for room & board, but this is far more than his family and community can provide. St. Matthew's hopes to continue his support in this valuable ministry. If you wish to participate, please make funds available to St. Matthew's with the notation: Outreach-Education.

### **Community Action Poverty Simulation Volunteers Needed**

CAPS promotes a great understanding of poverty. They need volunteers to help staff the event on March 19th, Tuesday, from 8 AM to noon. The simulation will be held at ISU where as an agency volunteer, you would play a school teacher, police officer, social service worker, banker or other job but you do not need experience in any of these roles. Please speak with Robin Levine if you have questions or want to sign up.

### **Job Opening (Tentative)**

The MLT has authorized the creation of a job description for a

Sexton to care for basic cleaning and maintenance of our facilities. The position is part-time and would not increase our bottom line expenses for cleaning and maintenance. That is, if we can find someone who is interested and meets our requirements.

The primary qualities we are looking for in a potential hire are positive attitude, genuine care for a job well done and helping our facility continue to be a welcoming space. If you know of someone who has these qualities, is physically capable of light lifting (40lbs), and is available to work regular part-time hours, please have them contact us for an application.

### **Birthday Announcement**

The family of Daniel Teas wants his friends and church family to know that Daniel will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 23. If you would like to send a card:

Daniel Teas  
MHC 5241  
2025 E Lincoln  
Bloomington, IL 61701

### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

### **Worship Serving Schedule**

24-March 2019

7:30

Greeter: Dede & Doug Dyson

Lector: Liz Gordon

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: John Stoffer

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Susan & Jeff Clark

31-March 2019

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

E.M.:

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Shelley Carter

Coffee Hour: Karyn Smith & Robin Levine

### **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of March 24**

*Coffee hour follows 10AM worship in Parish Hall*

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

9:15 a.m.-Sunday School for Children

10:00 a.m.-Rite I

1:00 p.m.-Green Scouts

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-5:00 p.m.-WMFY classes

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

10:00 a.m.--Quilters

6:00 p.m.-Zumba

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

2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

5:30 p.m.-Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Holy Eucharist & breakfast

2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

3:00 p.m.-Book Sale set-up

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

3:00 p.m.-Book Sale set-up

5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Book/DVD/Bake sale

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 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 24, 2019**

Hymns: #152, #470, #268

Old Testament

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.

Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations."

Psalm 63:1-8

*Deus, Deus meus*

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.  
3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.  
4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.  
5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

### The Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

### The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure

on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

**Birthdays & Anniversaries March 24 - 30**

Anniversaries

Roger & Martha Hollis

Birthdays

Gus Mather

Pam Laws

**Dedications for this week:**

**Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent, March 24th**

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through 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

