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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

One of the changes in the "new" Prayer Book of 1979 was the inclusion of "Proper Liturgies for Special Days" in the Church year, such as Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The intention was to create a fulsome expression of the meaning of each day on its own merit and weight. As Episcopalians, who understand that praying shapes believing, the Church is instructing us with the why, how, and what for all of these days.

If read carefully, it is noticed that these proper liturgies all center upon the preparation for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. They are designed to draw us more fully into this time. It is also observed that they are building to a celebration that is the chief of feasts: The Easter Vigil.

The Vigil is the Great Feast and it is within the Vigil that the first Eucharist of Easter is properly celebrated. Vigil is the Feast of Feasts, the fountain from which all other liturgies flow, and thus should have the most "bells and whistles" given to it.

The Good News

March 29, 2019



BOOK SALE TOMORROW!

8am-1pm. Don't Forget.

All funds raised are used to support outreach ministries locally and globally.

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.

The Watch

From Rector's Ramblings, you learned about 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).

Chrism Mass

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

The Book of Common Prayer does not make the Vigil an option among many, but the required and proper celebration of Easter. In fact, the Easter Vigil, historically and in the mind of The Episcopal Church, is minimally the main Easter service and preferably the only one.

Interestingly, unlike the other "Proper Liturgies" there is no 'day' associated with Vigil. It could be held any time after sundown on Saturday until sunrise on Sunday. Some places go all night and party at the end, this year we will begin near sunrise at 6AM and party (break the Lenten Fast) immediately following.

I invite you to fully participate in the liturgies of Holy Week and make the Vigil your Easter service this year.

Dave+
309-660-8515



Ministry Links



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

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.

Special Event at U of I, Champaign

We received this via email from Mo. Beth Maynard, Rector of Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign.

Fr. Halt plans on attending and would be willing to organize a carpool for anyone else interested.

A distinguished Episcopalian, Dr. Ian Hutchinson, will be in town on Thursday April 11th to give a free 7pm lecture on "Can A Scientist Believe in Miracles" in 141 Wolhers Hall on campus. He is Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and along with authoring 200 research articles and a textbook about plasma physics, he has written and spoken widely on the relationship between science and Christianity. He has just published a book addressing more than 200 questions he has received in the course of his career as a scientist who is also a Christian.

Here's the description:

<http://www.veritas.org/location/university-illinois-urbana-champaign/>

Here is a 10 min video profile of him, featuring his research, his faith story, and interviews with his priests and

parish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWRvd5hA9Z8>

And here's the questions book: <https://www.amazon.com/Can-Scientist-Believe-Miracles-Professor/dp/083084547X>

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.

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.

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.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

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

7-April 2019

7:30

Greeter: Dede & Doug Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt
Crucifer: Christian Pitts
Lector: Brad Bauman
E.M.: Jack Pitts
Monday Counter: Roy Laws
Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of March 31

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-2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

5:30 p.m.-Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m.-Adult Bible Study

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

2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes

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

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

6:00 p.m.-Girl Scouts

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Bag Sale of Book/DVD

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 31, 2019

Hymns: #447

Old Testament

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna;

they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble; *

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should
go; *

I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no
understanding;*

who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 31 - April 6

Anniversaries

Julie & Chris Bennett

Birthdays

Patty Pitts

Martha Carroll

Ann Soka

Debbie Thomas

Dedications for this week:

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31st

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

