

## Contents

This Week's Readings

### Rector's Ramblings

Holy Week

This will be the last full version of the newsletter before Easter.

Next week short special editions will be sent on each day of Holy Week containing a brief meditation/quote and the Collect for the Day.

For this week I would draw your attention to a short quote from a sermon by St. Ephraim of Edessa (Syria).

"This is the Son of the carpenter, Who skillfully made His cross a bridge over Sheol\* that swallows up all, and brought over mankind into the dwelling of life. And because it was through the tree that mankind had fallen into Sheol, so upon the tree they passed over into the dwelling of life. Through the tree then wherein bitterness was tasted, through it also sweetness was tasted; that we might learn of Him that amongst the creatures nothing resists Him. Glory be to Thee, Who didst lay Thy cross as a bridge over death, that souls might pass over upon it from the dwelling of the dead to the dwelling of life." *On our Lord*, (3).

## The Good News

April 12, 2019



### Holy Week Schedule

Our schedule is as follows:

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

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday--Noon

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 (Potluck)

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.

### The Watch

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

\*St. Ephraim is known for word play. Here Sheol is both death itself and the dwelling place of the dead, which is contrasted with the dwelling of life. Note also the use of the words "pass over" as a play on Passover.

May Christ be with you this Holy Week,

Dave+  
309-660-8515

### Ministry Links

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

### **Brunch for Easter**

**The Easter Brunch, or the Easter Party!!!, will follow the Easter Vigil on Easter Day (21 April). Since the Vigil is a bit longer than a regular service, we expect to be partying by 8:30 AM. Easter Ham and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.**

### **Chrism Mass**

The annual Chrism Mass and the renewal of ordination vows will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral at 11AM 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.

### **Theology Uncorked**

Meets at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 14th. The topic will be Iconography.

### **Women's Breakfast**

Usual Day, second Saturday, April 13th, and usual time, beginning at 8:30 AM, for the usual folks (which are all women of St. Matthew's). What is UN-usual is the place. Women's Breakfast for April will be held in the home of Rose Adams; 2614 Crooked Creek Rd, Bloomington.

### **Save these Summer Dates**

**More information will follow.**

### **Church Camp**

Episcopal Church Camp dates for 2019: June 30-July 6 at East Bay, Lake Bloomington. Camp sessions are available for children finishing 1st grade through those finishing 11th grade. We will post a link to registration information when it goes live.

### **St. Michael's Conference**

A youth conference for those between the ages of 13 to 19. The dates this year are June 16-22. Registration information is in development.

### **Eucharistic Minister Training**

**Due to complications last week, the training did not occur. The last opportunity for training this spring will be on April 28.**

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

### **Musical Note**

Please keep Fr. Joe in your prayers as he has to take an unplanned hiatus from the organ bench due to an emerging medical condition.

Heidi Brooks will serve in Fr. Joe's place during this time. However, due to previous plans she is unable to play at the 10AM Easter Sunday Mass. We are currently looking for a substitute for that Mass.

### **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.

#### **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**

14-April 2019 Palm/Passion Sunday

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: DiAnne Wunderle & Matt Matsuda

18-April Maundy Thursday

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

19-April Good Friday

Acolyte: Liam Halt

21-April 2019 EASTER

6:00 Great Vigil of EASTER

Lector:

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Thurifer: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

10:00

Acolyte: Shelley Carter

Lector:

E.M.: Robin Levine

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

### **St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of April 14**

*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  
6:00 p.m.-Theology Uncorked  
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  
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & breakfast  
2:00 p.m.-Piano Classes  
7:00 p.m.-Maundy Thursday Service  
9:00 p.m.-The Watch (hourly until noon of Good Friday)  
Friday-noon.-Good Friday (spoken service)  
7:00 p.m.-Good Friday (sung service)  
Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Zumba  
9:00 a.m.-Holy Saturday Office

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 April 14, 2019**

Hymns: #164

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
-so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals-  
so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.



Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.  
Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;  
because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

Luke 22:14-23:56

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man

also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one



who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with

me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries April 14 - 20**

### Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Cris Embree

Roger Hollis

Sue Jones

Morgan Kimmerling

## **Dedications for this week:**

### **Collect for Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14th**

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

