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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Rogation Days

The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day are known as Rogation Days. The custom of Rogation Days began in 470AD in Vienne, France, after a series of natural disasters caused great suffering. Archbishop Mamertus called for a fast and for prayers and litanies asking for God's blessing to be said while people processed around the boundaries of their fields. Hence the name Rogation, from rogare (to ask).

Eventually this came to be a festival that included picnics and revelry. It was also a time to set out, remember, and pray for blessings at the boundaries of the Parish, which would be marked with a small cross and reading of the Gospel (especially John 16:23).

As the Church has taken on a more urban expression and the population is not as tied to the land in toil for daily bread, Rogation Days have fallen into disuse. However, there is a move to recover this tradition, and we will participate in a short procession on Sunday to commemorate these days and ask God's blessing on

The Good News

May 24, 2019



The Old House Society

St. Matthew's has been asked to participate in the Old House Society Tour on 8 June. The Society is interested in the architecture and history of the Nave.

We have gladly accepted the request to have our doors open from 10-4 that day, and we need willing volunteers present to greet visitors on the tour. Shifts would be two-hours and we would like to have two people for each shift.

This is a wonderful opportunity to open our doors to the community, exhibit our beautiful space, and show how warm and welcoming St. Matthew's is.

If you are interested in volunteering, please see Gary Ploense.

Ascension Service

The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated on 30 May at 7:30AM.

Rogation Day

The Blessing of Waters for Rogation Days and a Rogation Day procession will take place at the 10AM Eucharist on 26 May.

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. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board or [here](#).

our labor and for the fruits of the earth.

Water will be blessed at the altar and you are invited to bring a small vessel to take home and pray for your own gardens and boundaries.

Dave+
309-660-8515



Ministry Links



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

Travel Plans

Fr. Halt and Amy will participate in a Pilgrimage and Theological Conference in Greece from 30 May to 14 June.

Morning Prayer will be celebrated on 2 June and Fr. David Wells will celebrate on 9 June.

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.

Outreach Opportunities

Items of the Month

During the months of May and June the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for St. Vincent dePaul food pantry. St. Vincent's provides assistance to the homeless and working poor of our communities. We at St. Matthew's can actively help by contributing items like those listed here:

- canned vegetables
- peanut butter
- tuna fish, and other canned meats
- rice and cereals, especially cereals individually wrapped in packets
- beans, both dry and canned
- water and fruit juice
- baby diapers and baby wipes

Contributions may be placed in baskets in the narthex or the hall.

Thank you from volunteers at the pantry, as they are very grateful.

Junior Warden's Corner

For your information we have changed cleaning services for St. Matthew's effective 1 June. We have contracted with Kia Griffin to provide these services for our Church from that date. If you have any questions, or concerns, please direct them to me.

Gary Ploense, Jr. Warden.

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

Worship Serving Schedule

26-May 2019

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Mona Johnstone

10:00

Acolyte: Jack Pitts

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Cris Embree

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff & Shelley Carter

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense

Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion, Janet Hoffman, Martha Carroll

2-June 2019 Morning Prayer

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Chris Bennett

10:00

Lector: Valarie Jones

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Char Wald & Carole Cox

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of May 26

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 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-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Ascension Day Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons

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

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Zumba

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Monday the office will be closed for Memorial Day

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email

Readings for May 26, 2019

Hymns: #208, #390, #440, #325, #718

The First Lesson

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm 67

Deus misereatur

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Epistle

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the

Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Gospel

John 5:1-9

After Jesus healed the son of the official in Capernaum, there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids-- blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Birthdays & Anniversaries May 26 - June 1

Anniversaries

Kim & Harry Bray
Heather & Gus Mather

Birthdays

Stephanie Davingman
Penny Smith
Nathaniel Jones

Dedications for this week:

Collect for 6th Sunday of Easter, May 26th

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

