

## Contents

This Week's Readings

## Rector's Ramblings

And now for something completely different.

Amy has graciously allowed me to "invade" her prayer corner for the daily Eucharist, and I thought it a change of pace to explain what everyone is seeing.



Starting on the "left" side:

1. The Archangel Gabriel--an icon produced by Bro. Charles at St. Meinrad Archabbey.

2. The Synaxis (Gathering) of the Holy Archangels and Bodiless Powers--this is a copy of an icon from The Monastery of St. John the Theologian on the Isle of Patmos. The icon features the Holy Archangels and Bodiless

## The Good News

March 27, 2020



### Shelter in Place Continues (ShIP)

As our ShIP continues on its course, I encourage you to take advantage of the online opportunities to worship over the week ahead. Our Sunday 10AM will live-stream on our Facebook page. This week we will try to add music.

Thank you all for the positive feedback from last week, and for understanding this is a work in progress. Hopefully, by the time we have it all figured out we will no longer need it.

I have investigated the idea of a "drive-in" service, but we do not have the technology to do one adequately, nor is our parking lot conducive to that type of an event. As the weather improves, and restrictions are eased, I do have hope that outdoor services will begin to be allowed by authorities, providing social distancing is followed. Thank you for your continued support and flexibility.

As per last week, if you wish to commune on Sunday, please let me know. We are taking great care to be able to distribute in an hygienic manner as possible and taking our cues from how our local restaurants work.

As always, you remain in our prayers, and I ask that you let us know if you need anything at this time. St. Matthew's stands ready to help as we can.

Dave+

Powers surrounding the figure of Christ enthroned above the Cherubim (Cf. Isaiah 37:16).

3. Panagia Glukophilousa-- Virgin of Sweetness (Tenderness). Hand rendered copy of a 16th century icon, now in the collection of the Benaki Museum, Athens.



On the "right" side:

1. The Romanov Passion Bearers--going back to our days leading pilgrimages to St. Petersburg and Sablino in the years following their canonization by the Russian Orthodox Church. It is a reminder for us to remember our Russian friends in prayer.

2. The Hospitality of Abraham--copy of Andrei Rublev's famous icon. Note--this is often referred to as "Rublev's Trinity", but that is a misnomer. The central figure is most often understood as Our Lord, since he is clothed in red (representing divinity) and

PS. I am trying to upload the Masses to YouTube for later viewing. Right now they will be on my "personal" channel: Fr. Dave Halt.

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29 Order of Service**

There are two different documents available: the first is outline with hymns and the second is the longer Complete Service (no BCP or hymnal needed). These are in Acrobat Reader form (.pdf) and can be downloaded for free, if you have the Reader on your phone/pad/computer. You can use either copy directly from a separate screen from your live-streaming Facebook source or print it out for participation during 10AM Mass.

[March 29 Outline](#)

[March 29 Complete Service](#)

### **Service Times (Updated)**

**All services are live-streamed.**

Morning Prayer is said daily. Times vary, but usually between 8 and 9.

Daily Mass at Noon (Monday-Saturday)

Evening Prayer at 5:30PM Sunday-Wednesday. (Weekdays may or may not be live-streamed based on clergy schedule).

Great Litany at 5:30 Thursday Evening

Sunday Mass at 10 AM.

Great Litany and Supplication on Thursday at 5:30PM.

Stations of the Cross at 5:30PM on Friday.

[Stations of the Cross booklet](#)

### **From the Jr. Warden**

The work of the church goes on through plagues, pestilence,

blue (representing humanity). However, the other two figures are most definitely not "The Father" the "Holy Spirit" as these are never to be represented in human form according to iconography. They are most likely angels, as the account in Genesis claims.

3. The Dormition of The Theotokos. This is also known as the Assumption in Roman Catholic tradition. This is also represented in the windows at St. Matthew's.



In the "center":

1. Mary the Mother of Christ--from Bro. Charles.
2. Christ the Saviour--copied from a monastery on Mt. Athos.
3. St. John the Baptist--from Bro. Charles.
4. Our Lady of Vladimir-- a copy of the 12th century icon installed first in Kiev and then transferred to Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir. Currently in St. Nicholas Church, Tolmachi.
5. Diptych Icon of St. Andrew

and disasters. Those of you who are practicing social distancing and staying home can still contribute your tithing to keep St. Matthew's providing worship and other services to the parish. Weekday morning Mass at 7:30 a.m., Evening Offices at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. are being streamed on St. Matthew's Facebook page. You can contact your bank to have a direct check mailed at whatever interval you choose. You can mail in checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Ave, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Please remember that Outreach is not able to hold the book sale this spring and will not have money to support Advent Chakupewa's medical education expenses or any of their other causes. Donations to them can also be made, be sure to note those special funds in the memo line of your check.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Ploense  
Jr. Warden

### **Lenten Series**

We will meet this week on Zoom. Documents will be posted to our website on Wednesday morning. All are invited.

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Zoom meeting ID is: 644 536 014

If you do not have Zoom it can be found at zoom.us

If you need assistance to use Zoom, please call the office.

### **A Couple of Links**

[St. Bede's Breviary](#) (Daily Offices)

[Book of Common Prayer](#)

[Spiritual Communion \(Update\)](#) (An Anglican Rite).

[Prayer of Elder Paisios for the World](#) (I have found this quite helpful at the current time).

(my patron Saint) and a photo of his relics in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Patras, Greece.



Finally, off to the right and maybe seen on camera:

1. St. Nektarios of Aegina--St. Nektarios is a modern wonderworking saint revered on the Island of Aegina. Our experience at his shrine has made him a very important saint for us. He is most associated with healings.

2. St. George--a modern Russian version of St. George. Any cavalryman worth his salt has a St. George somewhere.

3. St. Meinrad--from Bro. Charles. A representation of the patron saint of one of our spiritual homes.

I hope this gives a bit of healthy insight into both our lives and where we are praying at this time.

## **Outreach Opportunities**

### **ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

Thanks so much for your generous outpouring of items for Heartland Head Start in January and February. Much appreciated by staff and parents

In March and April the Outreach Committee is asking for personal care items for the Salvation Army. For adult men and women we need shampoo, body wash, shaving cream, feminine products. There's always a need for baby diapers, too. Thank you.

### **Advent Time**

Advent is enrolled in year 3 of a 5 year course to become a doctor. He is the son of Bishop Elias in Tanzania. In US dollars, his tuition would be \$2,273 per year. Room & Board is an additional \$1826 annually. Anyone wishing to help Advent with his education can make checks to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church; putting Outreach-Education in the memo line. God Bless, and we thank you

### **Confessions**

There is an old saying about Episcopalians and confession, "All may, some should, none must".

For those desiring to make a confession during Lent, please call Fr. Dave.

### **Meals**

Thank you for the generous outpouring of support for this ministry. The freezer is quite full at this time.

We also have packages of Tender Mercies meals from Midwest Food Bank.

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a meal at this time please let us know, or stop by the office when it is open.

### **The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Dave+  
309-660-8515

## Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of  
Springfield

[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmatbsblm

Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

## Worship Serving Schedule

Thank you to all of you who faithfully serve in the ministry of the Altar. At this time we are suspending the scheduling of servers to keep you safe and to reflect the changing circumstances we face.

A service will always be held on Sunday, but the numbers allowed to be present will necessarily be limited. If you wish to serve at any service where you will be present, you are invited to do so.

We will resume scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

## St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of March 29

*Coffee Hour fellowship is suspended temporarily.*

***These services are streamed for your participation.***

Sunday-10:00 a.m.-Holy Eucharist

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-noon-Daily Mass for healing

5:30 p.m.-Evening Prayer

Tuesday-noon-Daily Mass for healing

5:30 p.m.-Evening Prayer

Wednesday-noon-Daily Mass for healing

5:30 p.m.-Evening Prayer

6:00 p.m.-Adult Study via Zoom

Thursday noon.-Daily Mass for healing

5:30 p.m.-Great Litany

Friday-noon-Daily Mass for healing

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

Saturday-

***Please be flexible and observant of possible changes to events during this period of concern.***

*Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Office phone is staffed, as possible*

*but the office is closed per government mandate*

*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 29, 2020

Hymns:

Old Testament

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Psalm 130

*De profundis*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice; \*

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### The Epistle

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### The Gospel

John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light

of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away



the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries March 29 - April 4**

#### *Anniversaries*

Julie & Chris Bennett

#### *Birthdays*

Patty Pitts

### **Dedications for this week:**

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29th**

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

