



Christ of St. John of the Cross by Salvador Dali.

"The Crucifixion of Christ, as well as His whole incarnation, is called the kenosis, the self-emptying of the Son and Word of God. But this kenosis is identical with fulfillment, since the humbled Son and Word of God deified man. And therefore the Cross is a sign of triumph and glory.

The crucified Christ also showed the way in which He freed the human race from servitude to the devil and death, but also the manner in which He ruled over men....

Since the crucified one is the King of Glory, it also means that the Cross is the throne of the King of Glory. Just as the kings of old had their thrones, from which they governed their subjects, so too the Cross is the throne of Christ. And indeed the kingly death on the Cross points to the strange way of Christ's governing and kingship....

Christ did not stay where He was, nor did He send the angels to call upon men and save them, but "He Himself went about seeking them," He Himself was a helper and servant. He went down into the prison and released man, paying with His precious Blood. This shows his Humility.

He showed His great love, for He was not satisfied just to teach the people, He did not hold them by fear, as the world's ruler would do, nor did He subjugate them with money, but having authority as God, He united with Himself those He ruled. He Himself became a friend to man, a father, a heart. He guide them "more rejoicingly than friends, more exactly than tyrants, more affectionately than a father, more naturally than members, more necessarily than a heart." Christ governs His own people with love. He Himself has authority, He does not draw it from anyone else, but at the same time He does not rule through fear and hate, because such actions do not constitute true authority.

Freedom too is connected with humility and love. Although He loves men, He does not direct them without their own freedom. He was Lord and Master not only of their bodies, but also of their souls and wishes. He guides His own people, just as the soul guides the body and the head the limbs.

The crucified Lord shows the way of true authority. He governs truly who is distinguished by humility, love and respect for freedom. In this way Christ "rule His pure and true Kingdom."

--Metropolitan of Nafpatkos Hierotheos (Vlachos) , "The Feasts of the Lord", 219-220.

Dave+  
309-660-8515



**Holy Week Continues...**

**Good Friday**

**Service at Noon. No Holy Communion is offered on Good Friday this year. Streamed from the Sanctuary. Bulletin for those who wish to stream the service is [here](#).**

**Holy Saturday**

**Great Sabbath prayers at 9AM. The liturgy for this service is found on page 283 in the BCP.**

**Easter Sunday**

**The Great Vigil of Easter begins at 6AM. Weather permitting we will gather in the parking lot, in our vehicles, and celebrate the Vigil with the New Fire and Paschal Candle. Call it a "Son Rise" service. This will be the only service offered on Easter Sunday. If you can't join "live" feel free to stream it later in the day.**

**Easter Vigil Outline is [here](#).**

**Full Easter Vigil Service is [here](#).**

**Both bulletins have the music included.**

**For the longer services it is acceptable to "cut in" and "out" as needs require. I remember this happening quite a bit during my visits to churches in Russia and Greece.**

NB--As the governmental authorities continue to update policies, all plans are subject to change.

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+

**From the Jr. Warden**

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

**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).

**Outreach Opportunities  
ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

**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

*P.S. With Shelter-in-place restrictions, Outreach has extended their collection of support for Advent's Education to the end of next month. Your Office Staff*

**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.

**Theology Uncorked.**

Since we cannot meet in person, we will meet at 6PM on April 26th via Zoom. Please email Fr. Dave if you wish to have the Zoom invitation.

**The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#)

**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.

**Readings for Easter 2020**

All hymns and scripture readings are found in the pages (full version) of the downloadable services which are underlined above.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries April 12 - 18**

*Anniversaries*

*Birthdays*  
Cris Embree  
Roger Hollis  
Sue Jones

**Dedications for this week:**

*The Memorial Candle is lit in loving memory of  
**Phyllis Feaster and her son Marc**  
by son and brother, Morris*

**Easter Sunday, April 12th**

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection has delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son 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