



About a month back, I posted the above image on Facebook stating that I did not think I would ever need this again. At that time, it was preparatory, but this item has become useful again.

Some on Facebook recognized it, some asked about it, and one (looking at you Robin) suggested I write a newsletter article on it. So, here it is.

The item in question is a "Chaplain Kit, Combat, Catholic" and dates from the Vietnam era. They are designed for celebrating the Holy Eucharist in field conditions. These kits were issued as the personal property of the chaplain, and many retained them upon completion of their service. This was the type of Chaplain Kit with which I became familiar as a Unit Ministry Non Commissioned Officer in the 2/107th Cavalry. My boss at the time would also refer to me as, driver, bodyguard, secretary, batman, or "my corporal". When I was commissioned that boss, Chaplain (MAJ) Bill Pursley, presented this kit to me and I used it while assigned to the 155th Regional Training Institute and the 155th Chemical Battalion.



The kit, while well used, still contains all the necessary items to celebrate the Holy Communion while not in an official chapel.

1. Reversible Cross/Crucifix (in case you don't want to see Jesus).
2. Two candle holders with flame protectors.
3. Host Box (or Ciborium).
4. Sanctus Bell.
5. Book Stand with page weight to keep pages from blowing in the wind.
6. Chalice and Paten which are gold plated on the inside surfaces.

The unique part of this particular kit is the "Song and Service Book for Ship and Field". This was the "Prayer Book and Hymnal" of the Armed Forces of the United States during the Second World War and was originally published in 1941. While it does contain Jewish and Roman Catholic services, an Episcopalian would be very familiar with its structure and the "Protestant" service. This was the last official service book of the Armed Forces, as each individual denomination and faith group created their own resources in the years that followed.

One of my favorite features of the book is found in the front cover, "Washington's Prayer for the Nation" (Written at Newburg, June 8, 1783 and sent to the Governors of all the States):

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection, that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow cities of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Dave+
309-660-8515

PS I recognize the irony in the General of the Continental Army who led the military side of the revolution against King George III praying that people would be "subordinate" and "obedient" to government.

PSS Another name I was called by Chaplain Pursley was "Altar, Field, Man Portable" when I had to actually hold the Paten and Chalice while he celebrated the Eucharist, as we had no flat surface upon which to place them.



The Second Week of Easter...

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as "Low Sunday". Clergy often joke the name is due to the low attendance on this Sunday after the larger attendance at Easter services. I don't think that applies this year. Actually, the term "Low Sunday" most likely comes from a corruption of the term "Laudes" used in the Sarum Rite on this day. Sarum (the old name for Salisbury) was the liturgy that Archbishop Cranmer used as the basis for the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Here endeth the lesson...

Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).

Full Service is [here](#).

Both bulletins have the music included.

You are invited to stream the service from the comfort of your home prayer corner or the parking lot. For those who wish to receive, Holy Communion will continue to be offered after the Liturgy using the drive way for reception. It is distributed in as sanitary and safe method as receiving a meal from a "curbside" pickup restaurant (gloves, mask, etc.). Holy Communion will remain available for 45 minutes after the end of the service. If you do not wish to receive, I commend the practice of Spiritual Communion, which can be found in the links below.

Other streamed services this week.

**Tuesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer
Noon Holy Eucharist
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Wednesday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Thursday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer
Noon Holy Eucharist
5:30PM Evening Prayer**

**Friday: 8:30AM Morning Prayer
Noon Holy Eucharist
5:30 PM Evening Prayer**

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+

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.

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).

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 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

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

PS, 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.

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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries April 19 - 25 *Anniversaries*

Birthdays
Morgan Kimmerling
Gary Ploense
Susan Clark
Amy Halt

Dedications for this week:

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 19th

Almighty and everlasting God, in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen