

Rector's Ramblings

Continuing with the theme from last week, I share with you the "oratory" (private chapel) in my study. If I am not praying the Daily Offices at St. Matthew's I am praying them in this space.



I did not take a picture of the contents of the bookshelf, but if you are interested the books are primarily the ones I am using for doctoral research.

On the top of the book case there are:

1. A smaller version of the icon of Our Lady of Vladimir that I mentioned last week.
2. The second is Christ Pantocrator (Ruler Over All).



Shelter in Place Continues (ShIP)

Week two, or is it week three, and our ShIP is maintaining its way. Currently, it seems the headwinds are continuing to buffet the sails, but I pray we will have fair winds and a following sea. Ok, enough naval gazing.

Thank you to all who have continued to stream the services offered each day and week. At a time when there are so many "online" opportunities (and many places with the technology for higher "production value"), it is incredibly encouraging to your fellow parishioners, and secondarily your clergy, to "see" each other and maintain connection with the local Body of Christ. I pray that each of you feels the same.

This week all of our services will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live. I have investigated other options, but currently this platform seems to be the most open and secure from "bombing". Although, I did delete one service due to comments, well emojis, left by a radical.

Now we move on to the Holy Week Schedule. The Bishop has authorized a small team to lead worship and with his permission we will offer Holy Week services as follows.

Palm Sunday

Will be streamed on Facebook at 10AM. For those who wish to gather, we will meet in our vehicles at Oakland School for the Liturgy of the Palms and process to St.

This is a copy of a 15th century fresco from Pec, Serbia. I particularly like this one due to the sense of movement, as if Christ is moving towards us with the Word of Life (Gospel) in his left hand and blessing in his right hand.

3. A framed pen and ink rendition of a Celtic High Cross.

On the wall in the center and going top to bottom are:

1. An icon of St. George from New Skete Monastery on Mt. Athos.

2. Icon of St. Alexander Nevsky. Nevsky was Prince of Novgorod and ultimately Grand Prince of Vladimir. He is famous for leading the Novgorodian (Russian) forces against the Teutonic Knights and Estonians during the battle of Lake Pepius (The Battle of the Ice, 5 April 1242). I recommend Sergei Eisenstein's movie "Alexander Nevsky".

3. A modern Celtic variation on the Cross of St. John.

On either side of the icons are framed awards from my time with the Ohio Army National Guard as a member of the Unit Ministry Team (UMT). I admit to a personal quirk in preferring the State awards to the Federal.

Matthew's. You may park at St. Matthew's for the remainder of the service and use mobile devices to stream it. This allows us to be as present as possible. However, please do not roll your windows down except to receive a palm. Palms will be distributed by the clergy wearing gloves for that portion of the service.

As per last week, if you wish to commune on Sunday, and are not live streaming in the parking lot, 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.

Monday & Tuesday

Morning Prayer at 8AM.

Holy Eucharist at noon. Streamed from the Rectory.

Evening Prayer at 5:30. Streamed from my oratory.

Wednesday

Morning Prayer at 8AM.

Holy Eucharist at noon.

Adult Study 6PM [Handout](#)

Tenebrae at 7PM. Streamed from the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday

Service at 7PM. This will include an hour "watch" and stripping of the altar. Streamed from the Sanctuary.

Good Friday

Service at Noon. No Holy Communion is offered on Good Friday this year. Streamed from the Sanctuary.

Holy Saturday

Great Sabbath prayers at 9AM.

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

Left side as viewed:

1. Ohio Commendation Medal awarded 15 March 2002 for service with Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry.

2. Army Achievement Medal awarded 7 August 1999 (HHT 2/107th Cavalry).

Right side as viewed:

1. Ohio Commendation Medal awarded 31 August 2007 for service with Headquarters Headquarters Detachment 155th Chemical Battalion.

2. Army Achievement Medal awarded 31 July 2006 (HHD 155th Chemical Battalion).

At the top:

Well, no self-respecting former cavalry trooper would not have:

1. His saber hung for display. (Here a replica of the M1860 Light Cavalry Saber).

2. His Stetson. 'Nough said.

3. His spurs. These are awarded to troopers who are nominated and then complete a "spur ride" (conditions vary by unit). Upon award the wearing of "Prince of Wales" spurs was authorized in our unit. Single troopers wear the rowels up, and married troopers wear them with the rowels down.

service offered on Easter Sunday. If you can't join "live" feel free to stream it later in the day.

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+

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.

Palm Sunday, April 5 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.

Outline

Full Service

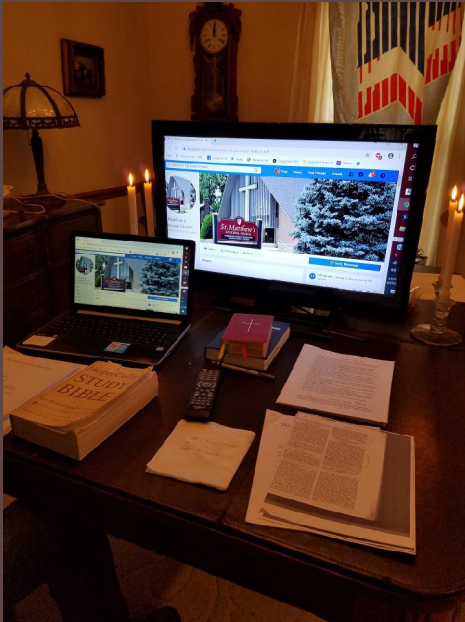
From the Jr. Warden

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

I hope this gives a bit of insight into where I am spending time in prayer.

If you have oratory pictures you would like to share, please send them to me and I will include them in this column.

I do have this one from Roy and Pam.



May you have a blessed Holy Week!

Scouts Out! (*I couldn't resist*).

Dave+
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

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

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

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](#)

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 April 5, 2020

Hymns:

The Liturgy of the Palms

The Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Psalm 118:19-29

Confitemini Domino

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *

he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *

has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, *

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.
26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.
28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

The Liturgy of the Word
Old Testament
Isaiah 45:21-25

Thus says the LORD,
Declare and present your case;
 let them take counsel together!
Who told this long ago?
 Who declared it of old?
Was it not I, the LORD?
 There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
 there is no one besides me.
Turn to me and be saved,
 all the ends of the earth!
 For I am God, and there is no other.
By myself I have sworn,
 from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness
 a word that shall not return:
"To me every knee shall bow,
 every tongue shall swear."
Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
 are righteousness and strength;
all who were incensed against him
 shall come to him and be ashamed.
In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
 shall triumph and glory.

Psalm 22:1-11
Deus, Deus meus

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

2

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

3

Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4

Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.

5

They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

6

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.

7

All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8

"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

9

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

10

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

11

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

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

Matthew 26:36-75 - 27:1-54

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus

and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also

one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money."

After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah."

At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Birthdays & Anniversaries April 5 - 11

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Martha Carroll

Ann Sokan

Debbie Thomas

Dedications for this week:

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5th

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

