

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

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West Valley City, Utah

Rector's Reflections

We are entering into that unique time of the church year, Holy Week, when we recall in vivid detail the life, death and resurrection of our Lord. I hope each of you will avail yourself of all or some of the services offered by St. Stephen's during this holy time.

Next week, Palm Sunday, we will rehearse the story of the Passion. It is like a preview of coming attractions for the coming week. Palm Sunday is built around two processions. One with power as we sing, "All glory laud and honor" to welcome Christ in triumph. The other a silent walk of grief to the cross after we who have sung this very hymn cry out "crucify him." This is the prelude to the story of our week together, Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion.

Tuesday and Thursday we will move into Holy Week through Morning Prayer at 7 a.m., quietly preparing ourselves for the events yet to come.

On Wednesday at WOW, we will hear Jesus' words of warning and prophecy about his coming death.

Maundy Thursday, "Maundy" from the Latin, "mandatum" or commandment, referring to the new commandment to love. The first of the three great days of the "Triduum." We will gather with San Esteban for this bilingual service for the retelling of the story in the upper room. We will remember the setting for the First Supper of the new age, the Holy Eucharist. We will wash each other's feet as a sign of Christ's service to us and of his call to us to serve others in his name. Then we will strip the altar. We will empty the church in silence to prepare for the dreadful day to come.

The Altar of Repose will be set up in the chapel as the Garden of Gethsemane and you are invited to sign up for an hour or two during the night to come and sit with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We may hear him say to us, "Can you not stay awake with me even for an

hour?" This is a very special evening of your time with Christ in the Garden; your time with your Savior on this last night of his mortal life.

Good Friday. God's Friday. The day of the Crucifixion. We will have the Stations of the Cross at noon and we will hear the story of Jesus told in the voices of the people around him in "The Women of the Passion." In the evening we will have the liturgy of Good Friday. Quiet and solemn, as we gather as a community to reflect on the death of the Son of God. Jesus is dead. The awe-filled silence of heaven.

Holy Saturday: The final day of the Triduum. Jesus is dead. The church is dark. We are still. San Esteban will hold their Great Vigil of Easter at 8 p.m.

The Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter. We will begin with our Great Vigil of Easter at 6 a.m., a sunrise service for the Son to Rise as we light the New Fire of Easter. This is the foundational liturgy of the church. This is where and when we tell our story as at no other time. This is what it is all about to be a Christian, this service, this

story, this intersection between heaven and earth, this intersection between God and us in the cross.

We will also have an Easter Sunday brunch following the Vigil to continue our table fellowship from this Table to other tables.

At 10:30 will be our Easter Sunday service, the Queen of Festivals, when we unpack our alleluias that have been hidden away, when we ring in the resurrection with hymns of praise and songs of joy. In our mission statement we say we have "joyful worship." Well, it doesn't get much more joyful than Easter Sunday.

Such is the week we have beginning next Sunday. It is by far my favorite time of the year. This is what it means to be a Christian. This is what it means to be who we are called to be: Holy Week, the church's invitation for you to enter into the story of Jesus. Come join me in the story, the story of Jesus and of you.

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Prayer Book/Hymnal Combinations

If you would like a Prayer Book/Hymnal combination, please sign the sign up sheet. The cost is \$74 (incl. S&H) regularly \$96 for leatherbound book with marker ribbons in your choice of black or red. Orders must be placed and paid for by Sunday, May 21.

Vestry

Since the Annual Parish Meeting, Matthew Toone resigned as Junior Warden, and Glenn Hollander was elected to the position. Matthew also stepped down from the vestry and the remainder of his term for this year has been filled by Fran Crookston. The two new members elected by San Esteban are Gregoria Meza and Geronimo Olmedo.

Worship Committee

At the last Worship Committee meeting, on March 26th, the services for Holy Week and Easter were discussed. A Calendar for these is elsewhere in the Servant. We will continue to use a simpler bulletin after Easter Sunday, relying on the Prayer Book and Hymnal for most of the services. We will return to Rite II on Palm Sunday. For the first time, we will use torches in our Easter Vigil at 6:00a.m. on Easter Day.

If you have a personal Book of Common Prayer, you may wish to bring it with you on Sundays for your use. If not, you may find the special offer on the previous page helpful!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is still in need of a few people. Please see Dona Pederson if you are interested.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group SWAP has a meeting scheduled for April 8 at 5:30 p.m. A parishioner has donated tickets for the Salt Lake Real Soccer game on Saturday, April 29. You must RSVP for this event.

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

The Lenten Soup and Bread Supper format has been highly successful through Lent, and some delicious soups have been provided by our parishioners.

Our regular kitchen team is available for setting up, assisting with preparation and service, and clean up following. Please continue to sign up to bring food for WoW! and continue our successful fellowship and worship each Wednesday.

Adult Sunday School

We have had a continuing video program, with two episodes of Via Media to allow for those who did not make it to our first meeting to review the materials. We hope to keep it educational and inspirational, with a repeat of the video miniseries “Peter and Paul” starring Anthony Hopkins during Easter.

We thank **Dave Barber** for building the expanded votive stand in the chapel. This larger stand will help meet the increased desire by both congregations to light votives in the chapel. The lighting of a votive candle and offering a prayer is an ancient tradition in the church. Thank you Dave!

Articles – The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant

A Pastoral Letter from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church
Episcopal News Service Posted: Wednesday, March 22, 2006

We, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, acknowledged the painful reality of the consequences of racism in the 1994 pastoral letter “The Sin of Racism.” In that letter, we stated “the essence of racism is prejudice coupled with power. It is rooted in the sin of pride and exclusivity which assumes ‘that I and my kind are superior to others and therefore deserve special privileges.’” We issue this new pastoral on the pervasive sin that continues to plague our common life in the church and in our culture. We acknowledge our participation in this sin and we lament its corrosive effects on our lives. We repent of this sin, and ask God’s grace and forgiveness.

When Jesus entered the synagogue in his first public act of ministry (Luke 4), he read from the prophet Isaiah. The vision proclaimed is known as the desire of God, the peaceable kingdom, a society of justice and shalom, or the city set on a hill. It is an icon of what God intends for all creation — that human beings live in justice and peace with one another, that the poor are fed and housed and clothed, the ill are healed, prisoners set free, and that the whole created order is restored to right relationship. That vision is our goal and vocation as Christians.

The fundamental truth undergirding this vision is that all are made in the image of God. It is in our diversity that we discover the fullness of that image. If we judge one class or race or gender better than another, we violate that desire and intent of God. And when our social and cultural systems exacerbate or codify such judgments, we do violence to that which God has made. Racism is a radical affront to the good gift of God, both in the creation described in Genesis, and in the reality of the Incarnation. Jesus came among us to bring an end to that which divides us, as Paul so clearly identifies in Galatians 3:28, “in Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female.”

Whenever individual or community behaviors work against God’s vision, we have promised to respond in ways that will serve to heal: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God’s help (BCP p 305).” God has created us with skins of many colors, God has created us in thousands of tribes and languages, and none is adjudged more godly than another. It is our behavior that gives evidence of godliness, not the color of our skin.

The world has witnessed the evil of institutionalized racism and classism in the United States in the aftermath of the hurricanes of 2005. The poor and persons of color were often served last — or not at all — while wealthy and privileged residents had greater resources to escape the immediate danger of the hurricanes and begin the process of rebuilding. We are all shamed by the sin of racism in the reality of inequity in housing, employment, educational and healthcare opportunities, and the disaster response.

This House of Bishops, meeting in Hendersonville, North Carolina on 21 March 2006, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, commit ourselves as bishops to discern and confess our own prejudice and complicity in the pervasive sin of racism, to confront it, and make amends for it in intentional ways every time we gather as a House. We ask the Holy Spirit to empower the House to fully live into this covenant, and we invite the members of this Church to covenant with us, in the following actions personally, corporately, and globally. With God's help, we will:

- renew our commitment to the 1994 pastoral letter, "The Sin of Racism"; take responsibility to expose, dismantle and heal those situations of injustice based on racism;
- seek forgiveness for our lack of charity and consciousness in recognizing those situations which degrade the image of God in our neighbors;
- make amends for our undeserved position and benefit as a result of unjust situations both now and in the past;
- empower all members of God's human family, that they may live into the fullness of what God intends;
- encourage the larger church to continue and expand its work of education, spiritual formation, and anti-racism training, that all might discover the riches of God's diverse creation, especially in those who differ from us;
- advocate for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, our respective dioceses, the parishes which comprise them, and our governments, as well as our own households, that God's desire may become increasingly evident for all of humanity;
- recruit and empower people of all races and ethnic origins as leaders in our church, and as members of all boards, agencies, commissions, and committees;
- dedicate equitable resources for all races and national origins in the funding of theological education for all ministries, lay and ordained;
- advocate for continued response to the sinful legacy of slavery; expose situations of environmental racism and classism which poison and threaten the poorest among us, and seek justice for those communities; and
- advocate for compassionate care of the stranger in our midst, and demand just immigration policies.

Having entered into covenant with each other to root out the sin of racism in very specific personal and corporate ways, we, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, invite all members of our Church to join us in this mission of justice, reconciliation, and unity. This is an expression of our commitment to the fundamental covenant each of us entered into at the moment of our baptism. May God give us the will to do this reconciling work, and the power and grace to accomplish it.

Special Events

WENDOVER ON THE BUS:

We had so much fun on our last trip to Wendover, we're going again! On Saturday, May 13, we'll leave the parking lot of St. Stephen's at 8:30 a.m. We'll return to the parking lot about 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person, and covers the bus trip, buffet, cash back, drinks, and bingo prizes. Invite your family and friends to join us. Hint: this might make a good, early Mother's Day gift! Sign up soon, and pay by May 1. For more information, talk to Fran Crookston, Betsy Herron, or Judy Carter.

St. Stephen's Cookbook:

Many recipes have been received, as of March 31. Our hope is to have this published and ready for sale by June. - *Isabel Sullivan*

Revamped St. Stephen's Web Site:

Take a look at the new St. Stephen's Web Site at www.ststephenswvc.org which has been redesigned by David Evans our Webmaster. Use it for Lee's sermons, upcoming calendar events, adding names to the prayer list, etc.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, Rite II, April 9, 10:30 a.m. with blessing and procession of palms.

Holy Tuesday, April 11, 7 a.m., Morning Prayer

Holy Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m., Holy Eucharist, WoW!

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 a.m., Morning Prayer

7 p.m., Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Foot Washing, Bilingual Service with San Esteban

Altar of Repose in the Chapel throughout the night.

Good Friday, April 14, 12 noon, Stations of the Cross

6:30 p.m. English, 7:30 p.m. Spanish Good Friday Liturgy.

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession) by appointment throughout the day.

Holy Saturday, April 15, Easter Vigil, San Esteban, 8 p.m. (Spanish)

Easter Sunday, April 16, 6 a.m. Sunrise Service Easter Vigil, Easter Brunch

10:30 a.m. Festive Holy Eucharist; Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Brunch.

STOP PRESS: Road Widening

You may have noticed some signs recently along 47th South about a diversion for northbound 3200 West. Apparently, over the next several weeks, the road will be widened by about ten feet on the east side of the street, and northbound access will be restricted. At present there is a sign just north of the church and another a little south of the 41st South signal, stating "Road Closed: Local Traffic Only." As the road work progresses, if you come from the west, you can go north on 3600 West, or from the east, use 2700 West, and access the church by driving south from 41st South.

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Missa (except Easter Day)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Education (except Easter Day & Low Sunday)
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour (except Easter Day)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments
- 3:00 p.m. Bible Study - See Pat Pitcher for details

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

WEDNESDAYS:

- 6:00 p.m. WoW! Dinner - come, eat and enjoy, you don't have to bring food.
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist - Rite II
- 7:30 p.m. 1 Hour scheduled program or discussion

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 p.m. Granger A.A. Group

SATURDAYS:

- 5:30 p.m. Santa Eucarista - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. Latino Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

- 2nd. Tuesday Hymn Selection Meeting
- 3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings
- 2nd. Saturday SWAP - Youth Group Meeting

SPECIAL DATES

- April 8 9:00 a.m. Via Media final program and lunch.
- April 9 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy Rite II
- April 13 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy (bilingual, foot washing)
- April 14 12:00 noon Stations of the Cross.
- April 14 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (English)
- April 14 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (Spanish)
- April 15 8:00 p.m. San Esteban Easter Vigil (Spanish)
- April 16 6:00 a.m. Easter Vigil (English) followed by Easter Brunch
- April 16 10:30 a.m. Easter Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II
- April 16 11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Brunch continues.
- April 29 Youth Group Soccer event, Salt Lake Real.
- May 13 Wendover on the Bus

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, 1 May, 2006.

Editor: Martin Willcocks. See directory or bulletin for phone/email.

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