



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 17, No. 3 March, 2009

Rector's Reflections

As many of you know, I love to travel, be it within this country or overseas. I find that I am enriched and enlivened by my experiences outside of my usual places, be it Myanmar, Scotland or Tennessee to name some travels during the past year.

So join me in another point of travel, a journey with our Lord. Come join me as we walk with Jesus through the final days and nights of his earthly ministry. This is truly much richer than travel where you need to show your passport and go through airport security.

We will start with Palm Sunday, the gateway to Holy Week and Easter. As I mentioned at our hymn picking meeting, this is really a schizophrenic Sunday. We start with a rousing hymn of "All Glory Laud and Honor" (this year with soloists from our Sunday School!) and then move into a reading of the Passion Narrative

from St. Mark by your youth group and leaders. We come into the church to cheers and we often leave in tears. Palm Sunday is for me as in the movie theatres, a "trailer," or preview of coming attractions. Today we look at what we have ahead of us in our journey with Jesus.

On Holy Tuesday we will have Morning Prayer. I invite you to take the time this week to join us for this reflective brief prayer office of the church.

On Holy Wednesday, at WOW, we will retrace the steps of Jesus leading to his crucifixion, we will do the Stations of the Cross. This is an ancient practice of the church to recall vividly the way of the cross for Jesus. We will use the "Women of the Passion" narrative which brings a powerful poignancy to the way of the cross through the words of the women who knew Jesus.

Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday will begin with Morning

Prayer at 7 a.m. Please come to this quiet service as a beginning for your experience of the great days of Holy Week.

At 7 p.m. we will gather with San Esteban for the Maundy Thursday liturgy as we remember the institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and we recall our own vows of service to others through the washing of the feet. This will be a bilingual service which I feel adds to the richness of its meaning. This is the night we recall why we do Eucharist every Sunday. This is the night we recall why we are called to serve others as Christ serves us. This is the night so much of our theology and liturgy come together. This is one of my favorite liturgies of the church because it is so layered in symbol and meaning.

Following the liturgy we will quietly strip the altar and clear out the chancel in preparation for Good Friday. This is a solemn and powerful moment in the life of the church and the community gathered.

The Altar of Repose will follow. We read how Jesus and his disciples retired to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed. The disciples fell asleep. For the Altar of Repose you are invited to sign up for an hour – or more – to come to the church and sit our with Lord: sit and pray, meditate, read

Scripture, be present with our Lord on this momentous night. The church will be darkened. Candles will be lit. Quiet will abound. All for you to sit with our Lord for part of the evening. That chapel will be decked out as a garden (with thanks to Leah Sanford) and you will be free to just "be" with Jesus. What a gift in this rushed world of ours, to just have time to "be" with Jesus.

We will have security in the church. The doors will be locked. We will have folks here spending the night to open the door for you as you enter. Come, spend an hour with Jesus.

On Good Friday the church is quiet. At noon we will have the Stations of the Cross again to recount the steps of Jesus to the cross. At 7 p.m. we will have the Good Friday liturgy as we recall the events of this day, the day Jesus died.

On Holy Saturday we will prepare for the Easter Feast. I invite you to come and help us clean the church sanctuary and set up the Gathering Space for the Great Vigil of Easter. I will also do a walk through of the liturgy of the Vigil for those taking part. There will also be a meeting of those being baptized to walk through the service. These times will be posted later. Holy Saturday is a time of quiet

preparation.

The Great Vigil of Easter. This is the foundational liturgy of the church. This is what we are about as Christians. If one were to come to only one service in the year, this should be that service. This is what our faith is about. We will gather at 6 a.m. in the pre-dawn light to light the new fire of Easter and then our new Paschal Candle. We will sit in candle light as we hear the story of our faith from the Old and New Testaments. We will remember God's love and grace towards us through the centuries.

This is powerful stuff. This is our story as a people.

Then we will proclaim: "Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed." We will process into the lighted church to celebrate the first Mass of Easter. This year we will have several baptisms as we welcome young and older into the family of faith, the household of God. This is a time of great rejoicing as we celebrate the Eucharist as the sun rises over the Wasatch Mountains and we proclaim Christ risen from the tomb.

This is by far my favorite service of the year. I love the Vigil and all that it is for it encompasses all that I am as a Christian. Please come to rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and welcome the newly baptized

into our community.

Following the Vigil we will have Champagne Brunch and fellowship in the parish hall. The celebration will continue from Altar to table as we live into who we are as an "Easter People."

At 11 a.m. we will have our Festive Holy Eucharist for Easter. This is a Feast of our Lord and the "Queen of Festivals" in the church. On Easter Sunday all of our theology, liturgy, story comes together in the proclamation of our Risen Lord.

Following the service there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children and festive coffee hour.

This has been a longer reflection than normal. I hope you have a sense of how deeply I feel about these Holy Days and Nights as we come together at Holy Week and Easter.

I invite each of you to come to our services during this week. Come to our services. As you experience these various liturgies, the message and hope of the Easter proclamation will ring all the louder for you: "Alleluia Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia."

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 5, 11 a.m. – Blessing and Procession of the Palms. Holy Eucharist Rite II. Passion reading by our youth group and special presentation by our Sunday School.

Holy Tuesday, April 7, 7 a.m., Morning Prayer in the Chapel

Holy Wednesday, April 8, 6 p.m., WoW! Dinner.
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross, "The Women of the Passion."

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Chapel.
7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy, washing of feet and Holy Eucharist with San Esteban (bilingual service). Stripping of the Altar.

Altar of Repose in the Chapel until 8 a.m. Good Friday.

Good Friday, April 10, noon, Stations of the Cross.

7 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy.

Holy Saturday, April 11, preparations for Easter, cleaning and set up. Rehearsal for lay assistants and baptismal candidates. Times to be announced.

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 12, 6 a.m. Gather in the courtyard for the lighting of the New Fire of Easter. Liturgy of the Word in the Gathering Space. Baptisms and Holy Eucharist in the Church. Champagne Brunch to follow in the Parish Hall.

Festive Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Resurrection, April 12, 11 a.m. Full festive service with choir and incense. Festive coffee hour to follow. Easter Egg hunt for the children following the service.

A Season of Thanksgiving

Thank you for all who have worked to make this Easter Season such a full and beautiful time for the parish and broader community.

This includes a special thank you to the parish for contributing to our new Paschal Candle. It will be lit and used for the first time at the Great Vigil of Easter.

We give thanks for those we will welcome into the Christian Faith through baptism: Tonya Evans, Gwyneth Evans, Chip Evans and Alyssa Potter.

Thank you for ALL our musicians and choir for their extra effort and sharing of gifts during Eastertide.

Thank you for our Altar Guild for their behind the scenes work for our services.

Thank you to all of our lay assistants for leading our community in worship during this holy season.

Thank you to Martha and Jim Rice and the others in our Sunday School in preparing our children to take part in our services.

Thanks to Becky Ball, George Johnson and Brian Bach of our SWAPS (youth group) for doing the Palm Sunday Passion Reading and coordinating the Easter Egg Hunt for our children.

Thank you for David Evans and Sandy Garrard for Benedictine Compline following WoW! during Lent.

Thank you for Barbara Burton and Martin Willcocks for their work to produce the extra bulletins during this season.

Thank you for the god parents/sponsors of those to be baptized to be part of their new life in the Christian faith.

Thank you for Isabel Sullivan, Judy Carter and Leslie Williams (and Adam and Robert) for coordinating our WoW! dinners, not just during Lent and Holy Week, but throughout the year. And thank you for all who bring their gifts of food to share. Thank you also for Barbara Varner and others who help clean up after WoW!.

Thank you to all who have made pledges and are keeping them current so we can continue to offer the liturgies and ministries of St. Stephen's for us and the broader community.

Thank you for all who gave money for our Easter flowers to beautify our church during this Holy Season.

Thank you for all who help set up and decorate on Holy Saturday for the coming celebrations on Easter Sunday.

Thank you to Jeff Burton and his crew for keeping our church clean throughout this busy time of year.

Points to Ponder

Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee,
I crucified thee.



Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy pity, and thy love unswerving,
not on my deserving

– Johann Herrmann (1585-1647),
tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930); Hymnal 158

Calendar

9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children
10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour
10:00 a.m. SWAPS for 6th-12th grades
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I / II
12:00 noon Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments.

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS: Worship on Wednesday (WoW!)

6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist
7:30 p.m. Program

FRIDAYS:

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

SATURDAYS:

5:30 p.m. Santa Misa - Rite II
6:30 p.m. San Esteban Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

2nd. Sunday Hymn Selection Meeting *(see below)
3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings

SPECIAL DATES

Apr. 5 11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy
Apr. 7 7:00 a.m. Holy Tuesday Morning Prayer
Apr. 8 7:00 pm. Holy Wednesday WoW! Stations of the Cross
Apr. 9 7:00 a.m. Holy Thursday Morning Prayer
Apr. 9 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday bilingual service.
Apr. 9 9:00 p.m - 8:00 a.m. Vigil at the Altar of Repose
Apr. 10 12 noon Stations of the Cross
Apr. 10 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (San Esteban 8 p.m.)
Apr. 12 6:00 a.m. Easter Vigil, Holy Baptism, followed by Brunch
Apr. 12 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II
Apr. 19 12:30 p.m. Hymn Selection Committee (deferred from Easter Sun.)

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, April 13, 2009.

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