

Parish Notes



Church of the Holy Cross + Episcopal +

Newsletter

April 2011

The Road to Easter Paved with Questions

Three years ago on Easter Sunday Sarah Averhoff handed me a note. It said: "Does Jesus really come back to life on Easter?" With her permission I read my response to her in the sermon the following week. It started out:

"The simple answer is "yes." But it's more complicated than that. Jesus was resurrected, not revived. He didn't come back to live, he moved on to the next life – the one that comes after this one. If he just "came back to life" it would be like when your Mom is able to start one of her patient's hearts that had stopped, and they live again. It's like the story of Lazarus, the friend of Jesus who died and who Jesus brought back to life after he had been dead four days. A pet, who is revived, or Lazarus, who was dead, are just given a little more time to enjoy life. In the case of Jesus, he was resurrected – he will never have to die again. And it only happened once – about 2,000 years ago. It doesn't happen every Easter – just the first one. That's what we celebrate each year – the resurrection on that first Easter Sunday."

This April 24 we will again celebrate that first Easter morning. I invite you to ask the questions as we walk the road during Holy Week: with soup and bread Wednesday, to the Last Supper Maundy Thursday, to the cross on Good Friday, and to the mystery of the empty tomb Easter Sunday. It will be worth the journey.

Fr. Raymond+

MusicNotes

Wind Quintet Covers the World

New Mexico Winds, the Artist Faculty Woodwind Quintet-in-Residence at the University of New Mexico, will be our guests on Sunday April 10. Wine and Cheese will be tasted starting at 2:30 p.m. and the program at 3:00.

The ensemble, Valerie Potter – flute, Kevin Vigneau – oboe, Keith Lemmons – clarinet, Denise Reig Turner – bassoon, and J.D. Shaw – horn, will play selections ranging from Afro-Cuban to Hindemith. The five will be joined by guest artist Eric Lau on saxophone for a Latin American suite and a taste of Bernstein.

Worship Band Plays Palm Sunday

The Worship Band from Good Shepherd Lutheran church will return to play for us again on Palm Sunday. The festivities begin at 2:30 p.m. The band was enthusiastically received by the audience last year. Please plan to share in the feast April 17.

Lilies for the Easter Altar

During Lent we will not have flowers. Donations made during Lent will be used for the purchase of Easter Lilies. Please fill out the Lilies donation form so we can list the one who you wish to honor.

Also, if you wish to donate Lilies for Easter, please fill out the yellow form available at the entrance, and note who you wish to honor with your donation.



Our Road to Easter

+ begin with self reflection:

Take time to reflect on your regrets in the days before Holy Week. Use sheets of paper to write down the matters, events, people, grudges, regrets, sins, that you do not wish to carry further in your life. Put the paper in the box on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary. And we will burn them in the first fire of Easter at the Sunrise service. We are

all forgiven. We are all unburdened. We will all move on into a brighter future.

Palm Sunday

+ walk the triumphal entry:

On Sunday April 17, we will experience the high of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession into the church. And then we will read the Passion of our Lord according to Matthew, and experience the depths of despair that foreshadows what will come on Good Friday.

+ gather to share Last Supper:

On Maundy Thursday, April 21, we will gather upstairs at 6 p.m. for an Agape Meal of wine, dried fruit, bread and nuts to listen to the "Farewell" of Jesus to his disciples. Then at 7 p.m. we will gather for the celebration of that last night before his arrest as Jesus instituted the Eucharist and washed the feet of his disciples.

At the end of the service, we will strip the altar, and darken the church, and begin the all-night vigil.



+ wait with me just one hour:

The all-night vigil moves the focus from the church to the Garden in the library, where we each take a turn sitting vigil with Jesus. The vigil will continue from 8 p.m. until noon on Friday. There is a sign up sheet on the door in the hall.

+ journey the way to the Cross:

The vigil will end at noon, at which time we will walk the journey by observing the Stations of the Cross. The walk takes about half an hour, and will end with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

+ experience the Passion:

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John will be the Gospel lesson at the Good Friday service at 7 p.m. April 22. In this story of

the arrest, trial and death of Jesus on the Cross we begin to understand the cost of Salvation. The service weaves the textures of Scripture into the burial shroud that will cover the body of Jesus as he is laid in the tomb. We cannot truly appreciate the gift of Easter unless we comprehend the cost.

+ waiting thru Holy Saturday:

Many of us will gather at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, to arrange chairs, clean and decorate the church for Easter morning. We will say the lessons and prayers of Holy Saturday when we complete our tasks.

+ greeting the Easter sunrise:

The first rays of the sun and the first flames of the Easter fire will warm those gathered at 6:30 a.m. Easter morning. The fire will consume the regrets and carry to God the prayers to leave our burdens behind. The first will light the Paschal Candle and we will carry the Light of Christ to brighten the darkness as we first declare: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is Risen."

+ celebrating Easter morning:

All that passes before us begins to make sense as we declare: "The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia! We will celebrate the Resurrection at the two morning Eucharists at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Easter Sunday. The earlier service will be spoken. The later Eucharist will be sung, and celebrated with gusto.



+ hunting for the Easter eggs:

Following the 10 a.m. service, at approximately 11:30, we will watch as the children search for the candy-filled eggs around the church playground.

Volunteers Needed to Bake Hot Cross Buns for Easter

The treat of treats for Easter will be Hot Cross Buns. We'll need volunteers to bake the buns based on a recipe left to us by Constance Roy before she returned to her native Canada. The recipes will be posted on the door just outside the sanctuary.