



Sunday Readings

March 25, 2018

Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

April 1, 2018

Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Day

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

I Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

The Olive Branch

March 21, 2018

Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

What (Who) is important?

I remember a situation early in my career, walking briskly through the hall on my way somewhere. The custodian was doing the same in the opposite direction. He looked up and said “Look, Dave! We both think we’re important!” I hadn’t even noticed him. It had not occurred to me to think about what my pace and determination looked like, and I was in my own world.

I think of that little memory fairly often – along with the question, “What is important?”

For one thing, I try not to exude an aura (pace,) that says “I’m too important to interact with unimportant people.” Those we encounter are important, and I want to have all the time in the world for them, anytime! I’m never THAT important to not have time for anyone who wants (needs?) to stop and chat. It saddens me how difficult that can be.

I think about this when it comes to Holy Week. Are we too “important” to stop at the foot of the cross with Mary and realize what went on there, for what, and for whom?

Sometimes I think we are challenged by Holy Week to put our immediate lives on hold, to stop and think about what is it that is really most important – even more important than our schedules and tasks at hand?

One colleague loved to “catch” me at church on a day off and ask: “What are you doing here?” I’d answer “I really had to... (fill in the blank). He’d respond by asking, “What would happen if you didn’t do that today?” Of course it was rhetorical. Nothing was so important that it couldn’t wait a day or two. I should take the day off – it had a purpose I was not honoring. “No one is going to send you home,” he said, “it’s all up to you to decide a healthier set of priorities for your time.”

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Here's the challenge: take this approaching Holy Week and spend the time here, or anywhere for that matter, to kneel at the foot of the cross. The times we've set aside to be here aren't for convenience, they are for priorities. No one is tracking yours - only you. Even if you can't take the week off from work (I certainly can't do that!) can you at least re-direct some predominant thoughts? Set some particular times to remove yourself from the normal things to stop and think/pray? Or find the sacred in everything you do?

Try the entire journey. The entry into Jerusalem ("Hosanna" means "God save us"), three days of 10-minute prayer at noon here (Monday-Wednesday), then the Three Days Liturgy, the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (Noon and 7 are very different services - try doing both), the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. Then on Sunday, come back for the celebratory Eucharists! The choir gets up after singing at the Vigil and sings in both services on Easter Sunday. We call it our "happy tired!" And it's true!

Try it. The entire week. What will that redirected focus do? How does it reshape what is truly important for us? What if it was Jesus waking in the same hall as us going the other direction? (It most likely IS).

- Cantor David Cherwien

Norwegian Women's Choir Concert

Saturday, March 24, 4:00 pm

The Women's Choral Society of the University of Oslo (Norway) will present a concert at Mount Olive this Saturday, March 24, at 4:00 pm.

This choir is the official women's choir at the University of Oslo, and was founded in 1895. It is the oldest academic women's choir in the world. Their repertoire includes Norwegian folk music in new as well as traditional arrangements, and newly-written music, with great harmonies and exciting dissonances.

Volunteers are needed to help with set up and clean up for the reception. If you can help, please contact Cantor Cherwien.

All are invited! Bring a friend!

Book Discussion

For their April 14 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will discuss two books: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud. For the May 12 meeting, *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area.

All readers welcome!

Paschal Garden

Volunteers will be on hand for one last Sunday, March 25, before, between, and following the liturgies to receive your donations to purchase Easter flowers for this year's Paschal Garden.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild will host a chancel-cleaning event this Saturday, March 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Please join our crew - for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede at bethgaede@comcast.com.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 21

9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal / Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, March 22

10:30 am *Funeral Eucharist: Helen Bender*

Saturday, March 24

9:00 am Chancel Cleaning
9:30 am Confirmation
4:00 pm MFA Event: Norwegian Women's Choir Concert

Sunday, March 25 – Sunday of the Pasion/Palm Sunday

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
No Education hour this week

10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, March 26 – Monday in Holy Week

Noon *Daily Prayer*

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 27 – Tuesday in Holy Week

Noon *Daily Prayer*, followed by Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Sunday Adult Forum

- This Sunday, March 25, Palm/Passion Sunday: *No forum*
- Next Sunday, April 1, Easter Day: *No forum*

Regular Adult Forums resume on Sunday, April 8

Wednesdays in Lent

✦ **Holy Eucharist at Noon, followed by soup luncheon**

✦ **Evening Prayer at 7 pm, preceded by soup supper at 6 pm.**

Easter Carry-In Brunch

There will be a Carry-In (potluck) Brunch on Easter morning, April 1, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Bring a favorite brunch item to share between the liturgies.

New Members to be Received April 8

New members will be received at the second liturgy on Sunday, April 8.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining Mount Olive, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor Crippen.

News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry

Invitation to March for our Lives - March 24, 11:00 am

There is a group of Mount Olive folks planning to participate in the upcoming "March for Our Lives" at the State Capitol, joining students and allies as they fight for an America that is free from gun violence. If you are interested in joining at the capitol, please contact Anna Scott at: neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org or call 612-827-5919 to get connected with more information to coordinate rides and a meeting location. More information about the march can be found on: marchforourlivesmsp.weebly.com/

Needs of the Neighborhood

Very frequently in my conversations with neighbors, they express something specific that they need that would be helpful in their lives. Knowing that we are all connected, I'll be putting those needs here and on the kiosk to see if anyone can help with these needs. Because I'd like to avoid becoming a full donation center, please try to respond to the specific items on the list or check with me before bringing in items not on the list. All donated items can be put in my office (ask staff) or marked and put in the bins by the upstairs kitchen. Any gift cards or financial donations can go to the office directly (to Anna's mailbox) or put in the offering in an envelope marked "needs of the neighborhood." Thank you. Gracias. Mahadsanid.

Baby items: There is a mother who is due with her 3rd child - a daughter - soon and needs help with baby items. They are currently homeless and working towards housing. Or if anyone is able to watch two children ages 2 and 5 when the baby arrives she would sure be grateful!

For baby & mom: Simple clothing items (girl), bottles & drying rack (any size), baby hygiene (diaper cream, shampoo, lotion, brush), swaddles and blankets, snack and a water bottle for mom, dish soap & laundry detergent, gift cards for other needs (Target, Cub, Walmart).

For a neighbor: There is a young woman who is hoping to get a small, portable, battery operated radio she can carry with her. If you have on you are willing to part with please let me know. She would be delighted!

For a neighbor: There is a woman who is having trouble walking and is looking for a walker. If someone has one they no longer need, she would be glad to put it to use!

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

One Last Sunday!

Donate to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign for Community Emergency Service (CES)

Throughout the month of March, Mount Olive will collect food, hygiene items, and monetary gifts to help our neighbors who face hunger. Boxes will be out in the main assembly areas from March 5 - March 26. **Monetary donations are especially helpful!**

* Please don't give expired items or use this opportunity to clean out your cupboards :)

Can you help bring our collected items to Community Emergency Services? Please contact Anna Scott to help haul over our stash and get a tour of CES!

Church Library News

Over the years, I have written dozens of articles for *The Olive Branch*, many of which informed you of new books, special themed displays from our collection, the various kinds of reference materials one could find in our Mount Olive church library, and certainly the acquisition of other media, such as our periodicals, CDs, and both children's and adult's DVDs. We have tried to help you stay informed about other special events being planned here in the congregation and how that emphasis is carried out using our church library resources and beyond that, because of our obvious interest in literacy or other library-themed events nationally, such as National Library Week, Children's Book Week, and even the Little Free Library program, which is so popular all around our fair cities and across the nation, to be as supportive as possible to the public and county library systems that currently serve your own neighborhoods as well.

One of my favorite Bible verses (Jeremiah 29:11) says "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." It is a long story but many years ago, I was led into working with the early ministry of the national Lutheran Church Library Association, which eventually led me into helping organize a new church library ministry for Mount Olive Lutheran Church of Minneapolis. Have you heard the story? When I came to Mount Olive as a new bride, Pastor Wedel asked me how I would like to become involved here and when I mentioned that I missed the church library at Mount Olivet Lutheran (my former church) – he challenged me immediately to "do something about that here then!" The first beginning meeting of 3-4 women with Pastor Wedel in about 1965 included none other than Muriel Jaster, the late Marie Kiebach and myself. To fast forward to these last twenty years or so, always I have felt the main purpose of our church library has been to help members of our congregation find ways through the ministry of Christian books and other media to grow in their spiritual life and service. Always it has been about service to young and old, to families who need help raising readers in their little ones, to those who have served well in their vocations but who are now retired and nevertheless, are still determined to live a life filled with devotion and joy. Always I have hoped to help "make a difference in your lives" and the words of Nelson Mandela have helped impress that importance – "We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make that difference." I also liked the words of a speaker I heard numerous years ago who admonished us to "Take time to do what makes your soul happy!" Serving as your volunteer church librarian for so many years has been an honor, a privilege and yes, a joy, since this specialized ministry has indeed been a very real blessing in my life as well.

This article, however, is going to be different as it brings the news I wish to share with you and that is that I have recently informed Pastor Crippen and members of the Mount Olive Vestry of my intention to retire as your long-time church librarian this coming June. Mostly because of my age, I have made this decision so someone new can come aboard; someone with new ideas, new energy and an inspiration for this church library ministry. We are looking for a person (or maybe several persons?) from the congregation who might be interested in learning the basics of library training and guidelines and if you volunteer early enough, there might be time for a month or two of "apprenticeship" with me before the actual vacancy. It might also be a good time for the leaders of this congregation to consider numerous questions about the library, one of which could be as to how the library ministry will function and its mission going forward in this digital age, etc? I am hoping this transition to a new librarian can be made quietly and without much problem at all. If there are other questions I can answer for you, and/or if you have some possible interest or ideas to share, please let me know sometime this Spring.

In the meantime, I have lots to do in the church library before June and you will no doubt be hearing from me again periodically as well. With all good wishes and – "To God be the Glory!"

- Leanna Kloempken

Caring for Creation **Sunday, April 15, 5-7 pm** *Mount Olivet Lutheran* *Church, 5025 Knox Ave. S.,* *Minneapolis*

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church invites the community to attend this dinner event with Paul Douglas, well-known and respected meteorologist with more than 35 years of TV and radio experience in the Twin Cities area. Paul will discuss *Caring for Creation*, a book he co-authored with Pastor Mitch Hescoc.

Connecting the dots between science and faith, Paul will show how Christians can take the lead in caring for God's creation in ways that reflect our beliefs. He will also share ways to nurture and wisely steward the resources God has given us.

Cost: \$10. To register, visit www.mtolivet.org.

Holy Week at Mount Olive

Sunday, March 25: *Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday*
+ Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:45 am

Mon.-Wed., March 26-28: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week*
+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

Thursday, March 29: *Maundy Thursday*
+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 30: *Good Friday*
+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, March 31: *Holy Saturday*
+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 1: *The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day*
+ Festival Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:45 am
+ Easter Carry-in brunch at 9:30 am

Information Meeting--Trip to Bethania--April 22

Calling all those interested in learning more about traveling to India in 2019 to visit Bethania Kids. Grab a cup of coffee and come to the undercroft for preliminary discussion after second liturgy on Sunday, April 22. Bring your questions, suggestions, concerns, hopes. Would you like more information? Would you like to learn if this trip is for you? Would you like to understand what financial help is available? Would you like input in picking dates? Would you like to understand how both you and Bethania Kids will be changed by such a trip?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, come! We'll plan on meeting for no more than one hour. Feel free to send questions ahead of time to missions@mountolivechurch.org or call Judy Hinck, 612-812-7342.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

Healthcare Directives Refresher Course Rescheduled

- Date: Saturday, April 14
- Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Place: Mount Olive Lutheran Church
- Presenters: Heather Joy Halen, Kathy Thurston

Topics to be addressed will include review of preparation of Health Care Directives, what POLST is, how to choose a health care agent, how to have the conversation of end-of-life issues with family/friends, and other questions/concerns raised by attendees.

All are welcome and while registration is not necessary, it will be helpful to know in advance how many will be in attendance so enough handouts can be prepared. Let Marilyn Gebauer know your plans. Phone: 612-306-8872, or by email:

gebauevm@bitstream.net.