

The Olive Branch

March 28, 2017

Accent on Worship

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's 2018 Easter Message

It all started with such promise – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the conviction of Mary that this child would be the embodiment of God's promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It was over. The world hadn't changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil

must have said, "You fool."

This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the wisdom of God. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

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Sunday Readings

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

April 8, 2018

**Second Sunday
of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1 – 2:2

John 20:19-31

Healthcare Directives Refresher Course

- 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.

Upcoming TRUST Activities

- **Life Enrichment Series:** Mondays, April 9-April 30, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis
- **Caritas Concert and Dinner:** Saturday, April 21, 5 pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church on Nicollet Ave., Mpls.
- **Tour of Rochester** (Mayowood & Trolley), Thursday, April 19.

For information about any of these events, call TRUST at 612-827-6159, or call Carol Austermann at 612-722-5123.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

This year, Easter falls on April 1. We shall have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We shall say, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.

- The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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!

Thursday Evening Study Returns Apr. 12

"Beloved, God's Chosen?" is the title of the Thursday evening Bible study that begins on Apr. 12. For six weeks Pr. Crippen will lead a study that hopes to look at Scripture with fresh eyes on the questions of salvation: what is God doing in salvation? What does it mean for us? What does God think about us? What happens at the cross? How and why and when does God forgive our sins? This Bible study meets in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings, for six weeks, and all are welcome.

As always, there will be a light supper preceding the study each week. If anyone is willing to provide the first night's meal, please contact Pr. Crippen.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 28 - Wednesday in Holy Week

9:00 am Staff Meeting

Noon *Daily Prayer*

7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, March 29 - Maundy Thursday

Noon *Maundy Thursday Eucharist*

7:00 pm *Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with Washing of Feet*

Friday, March 30 - Good Friday

Noon *Stations of the Cross*

7:00 pm *Adoration of the Cross*

Saturday, March 31 - Holy Saturday

9:00 am Trumpet rehearsal

10:00 am Easter Vigil rehearsal

8:30 pm *The Easter Vigil*

Sunday, April 1 - Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

8:00 am *Festival Eucharist*

9:30 am Carry-in Brunch

10:45 am *Festival Eucharist*

Monday, April 2

Church offices closed

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 3

Noon Bible Study

4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, April 1, Easter Day: *No forum*

Next Sunday, April 8: "Personal and Liturgical Prayer,"
presented by Brad Holt.

Liturgical prayer does not denigrate or exclude personal prayer. Both are healthy; both are spiritual practices that ideally strengthen each other in a dynamic process of Christian growth. The Psalms, for example, include both communal and personal prayer. The two need each other.

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.

Thanks to the Cleaning Crew!

Many thanks to Peggy Hoeft, Bonnie McLellan, JoEllen Kloehn, Katherine Hanson, and Beth Gaede, who cleaned our chancel and transepts, and polished the brass candelabra and fittings in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

This was a big undertaking, and the results are impressive.

News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry



The JRLC Day on the Hill event was on March 13 and filled the pews of Christ Presbyterian Church, right down the hill from the State Capitol. People of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths worshiped, walked, and worked together, talking with their representatives around the state to address issues such as affordable housing procedures, problematic driver's license suspensions and fees, and ways to improve access to childcare for homeless families. The keynote speaker, Rabbi Locketz asked us to consider "if not now, when?" as we

faithfully advocate and make our voices heard. For more details and information about how these issues are moving forward, you can visit jrlc.org, or Updates from the Capitol:

<https://mailchi.mp/4b081ec5629e/updates-from-the-capitol-and-how-you-can-participate>.



March for our Lives

On Saturday, over a dozen Mount Olive members joined 18,000 other Minnesotans at the State Capitol to call for solutions to gun violence. There, we listened to the stories of the student organizers of March For Our Lives, including a group of survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Following their leadership and inspiring witness, we are committed to keep fighting for their right to attend school in peace and safety.

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 – <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> FOOD COLLECTION 8 am – Festival Eucharist 9:30 – Carry-in Brunch 10:45 – Festival Eucharist</p>	<p>2 Church offices closed 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>3 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – Missions Committee mtng.</p>	<p>4 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting 7 pm – Loan Meeting NO choirs this evening 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 6 pm – N.A. social event</p>	<p>7 11am - Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.</p>
<p>8– <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 8 am –Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist, with Reception of New Members Noon – New Members Luncheon 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Meal</p>	<p>9 7 pm – Vestry meeting 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>10 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>11 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>12 6 pm – Bible Study</p>	<p>13 7 pm - Recovery/Wellness Support group</p>	<p>14 9am – Noon Healthcare Directives Workshop 9:30 am – Confirmation 10 am – Book Discussion</p>
<p>15 – <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 8 am –Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm – Reconciling Works committee meeting 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>17 Noon – Bible Study 1-3 pm – CoAM Advisory Comm.mtng. 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>18 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>19 6 pm – Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9:30 – Confirmation 11am-1 pm – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal</p>
<p>22 – <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 8 am – Holy Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Holy Eucharist 4 pm – MFA Event: Strikepoint Bell Choir</p>	<p>23 7 pm – Worship Committee 7 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>24 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – Internship Committee</p>	<p>25 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 8 pm – N.A.</p>	<p>26 6 pm – Bible Study</p>	<p>27 7 pm - Recovery/Wellness Support group</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 – <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – CONGREGATION MEETING</p>	<p>30 – 7 pm – N.A.</p>					

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 Hescox.

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, Triduum, and Easter **at Mount Olive**

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 for Bethania Trip to **be Held 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.

APPROACHING EASTER

Gertrude Mueller Nelson

From our celebration of Passion Sunday, when we carry home our palms, through the night of Easter's Vigil, our worship experience gives us a rich variety of tangible signs and sacred symbols: palm branches, water, fire, oil, candle, silence, music, bells, white robes, processions, bread, wine, incense, fasts, and feasts.

Beyond any heady explanation, these signs touch us by our ritual experience of them. Their meaning comes home to us in the very process of our collective worship.

We also know that we are more likely to be moved with a religious sensibility when we come prepared to a service—come as an active participant—and when, as a willing subject, we open ourselves to these simple signs which are both ancient and always new.

PALMS

On Passion Sunday, the Eucharistic feast is rent between the jubilation of Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the story of his passion. We are both the children of Jerusalem who hail the Anointed One and the people who have failed to know him in the faces of our sisters and brothers. Bring home your palms to place over your door, tuck behind a sacred image where you pray or slip it into a prayer book.

SILENCE

When all is talk and background noise, silence is a rare gift and an element difficult to guard in a busy world. On HOLY THURSDAY, after the community celebrations have been completed, after the altar has been stripped and the Eucharist has been carried to its place of repose (that "little Garden of Olives") we watch a while with Christ. Sit there in silence and simply BE. Allow silence to fill you with peace. Return home in silence. It is deeply moving to see a whole community leave the church and return home without talking. No need for idle chatter this night.

From GOOD FRIDAY to the VIGIL OF EASTER, put away all unnecessary clamor. Do without your radio, your CDs the TV, your cell where you can, certainly your iPod and other noisy distractions. Do without the car radio, and the movies. How automatically we fill our surroundings with chatter and background noise. How stunning to choose silence. Use the day to freshen the house and garden. Bake a traditional treat for Easter—a fruited bread perhaps. Make colored eggs with your children, grandchildren or neighbors.

EASTER OUTFIT

Prepare for yourself something to wear on Easter that is fresh and clean. Iron a fresh shirt. Sport a bright tie. Wear a joyful hat. Your Easter outfit doesn't need to be extravagant; you can just as well get yourself a new pair of shoe laces. But the Easter outfit is traditionally a reminder of our Baptismal garment. St. Paul says that we "put on the new person" in Baptism, that we "put on Christ." What we wear on Easter is traditionally some outward sign of the inner, transformed self that we strive for.

FIRE

At the beginning of the VIGIL celebration a large fire is struck and blessed. From that blessed fire we light the large Paschal candle. From this light, our own lights are lit and we follow the light of the Easter candle in to the church hearing then a magnificent chant sung to its honor: "Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God." Listen in this great chant for the thanks we give to the bees who have given us the wax for our candles! Promise to do everything you can to save our endangered bees who pollinate the fruits and vegetables we depend on.

At the end of the service, we are invited to bring home that flame. It's a fine challenge to get that flame home without having it blow out! (a short, fat candle in the bottom of a wide jar is a help.) At home, set a fire in your fireplace with this flame, or light a vigil light, or blow out all your pilot lights and renew them with this Easter fire. Then all your hot showers and your cooked food for the year will be blessed by that communal experience of our celebration of the Resurrection.

WATER

This is the night when WATER and FIRE meet and do not cancel each other out, but enhance and bless each other. The Paschal candle is plunged into the Baptismal waters, that womb of the Church from which each of us has been reborn. This water, so elemental, sometimes life-giving, sometimes terrifying in its destructive power, is something that we too often take for granted. Easter's blessing of water urges us to re-acquaint ourselves with its daily power as it re-affirms our own baptism. A handsome bottle carries a small sample of our common experience home with us. Use it to bless ever one and everything that needs blessing in the coming year. Splash the four corners of your house, room or apartment. Splash your bed, your car, your books. Sprinkle your computer, your cell phone, your tools of work. During the year, bless your Advent wreath, your Christmas tree, a sick member of the family, a person leaving on a trip or taking an exam. This is not magic water, but it is the water of mystery. Make a promise not to abuse or waste water, but to bless it and care for it. It is the water of our new life in the Lord's resurrection.

BELLS

Because of the stark silence of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the toned down music at worship and a whole Lenten season without an Alleluia, when the Easter Vigil comes, we can no longer contain ourselves. The lights come up and darkness is dispelled. Then the Gloria is intoned each person pulls out a bell, large or small, and rings it without stopping throughout the singing of the Gloria, and at the Alleluia before the Gospel is read and perhaps again at the final dismissal.

WHAT TO BRING

We suggest that you arrive at the Easter Vigil bearing a basket, or carrying in your backpack, some ways to literally carry home something of the experience so that these sacred signs become part of your daily experience. At the VIGIL OF EASTER, bring bells, a bottle with a cork or lid, and a candle inside a jar.

After our Vigil Celebration at church or at home, we break the special Paschal fast which we undertook from Holy Thursday until the end of Easter's Eucharistic feast. We Break-Fast with the traditional foods of Easter. It is a beautiful thing to see those baskets of eggs and breads on the Easter table. Sprinkle a blessing on these foods with the water you brought home.

Because Easter is the feast of the bodily Resurrection of Jesus, we learn once again, that the material body and all materiality is made holy. None of the elements we have celebrated in these days is too mundane to be holy: in fact, exactly what is mundane (of this earth) is made holy in the mystery of the Resurrection.

"Let us dance and let us sing. Let us look at everything. Everything we look upon is blessed!" (W.B. Yeats)

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

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.*

A Note About Communion Ministry at Mount Olive

We are looking to add some new Communion Ministers to our team.

As an extension of Pastor Crippen's ministry, each week Communion Ministers visit members of our Congregation who aren't able to attend a Sunday service because of a short-term recuperation or long term illness. During our visits, we share the Eucharist, creating a connection to our weekly worship.

Each year we make more than 200 visits, and want make sure we meet the needs of congregation members as they arise.

We typically ask Communion Ministers to visit 1-2 members one time per month, and while the visits are typically Sundays, they could be other days.

If you're interested in becoming a part of this rewarding experience or would like more information, please contact Tom Graves and Ginny Agresti at 651-895-0878, or by email at thgravesmn@msn.com.

Thank you,
Tom Graves and Ginny Agresti