

The Olive Branch

April 17, 2019



Accent on Worship

Rob Ruff

The Lenten journey that we and Christians around the world have been making since Ash Wednesday now turns toward Holy Week and the Triduum, the great three days of our faith tradition.

The journey will bring us to Maundy Thursday, the night Jesus was betrayed by one of his own, when he commanded us to love one another, then showed us what love looks like by kneeling in the dust to wash the feet of his friends. This night ends in darkness as Jesus is arrested and the altar is stripped to the haunting words of Psalm 22 - "My God, my God why have you abandoned me?"

The journey continues to Good Friday when we hear the story of Jesus' trial and execution on a lonely hill outside the city. We honor the cross this night, seeing with the eyes of faith that this instrument of death becomes the tree of life.

The journey continues, further into the darkness of night and death, arriving on Saturday at the Vigil of Easter where we meet the dawn of a new day. As the Paschal Candle is carried into the church, rolling back the darkness, we hear and see the light of Christ. To this, mindful of the entire journey: ashes, fasting, betrayal, love, darkness, death and finally new life, we reply, Thanks be to God!

And finally, on the day of resurrection, we give thanks and sing at the good news that Christ is risen.

May this holy journey, undertaken again this year, form us in to people whose faces reflect the light of Easter in all we say and do.

Sunday Readings

April 21, 2019

Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

April 28, 2019

Second Sunday of Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 114

I Corinthians 5:6b-8

Luke 24:13-49

Holy Week at Mount Olive

Mon.-Wed., April 15-17: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week*

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,
near the columbarium

Thursday, April 18: *Maundy Thursday*

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Footwashing, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 19: *Good Friday*

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 20: *Holy Saturday*

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception in the Undercroft.

Sunday, April 21: *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

Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday, April 21: Easter Day – *No forum this day*

Sunday, April 28: “The Great German Hymn Translators: Massie and Winkworth,” presented by Victor Gebauer

Easter Parking

Just a reminder to members that there is another parking option available on Sundays in addition to the church lot across 31st St. Lots of spaces are available in the lot behind the Workforce Center on the southwest corner of Lake and Chicago. Several of us already park there, and it’s very convenient. Please think about this option, especially for the upcoming Sundays around Easter, when we will have lots of guests at Mount Olive. The Workforce Center lot is available for public parking on Saturdays, Sundays and any legal holiday.

Easter Carry-In Brunch

There will be a Carry-In (potluck) Brunch on Easter morning, April 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bring a favorite brunch item to share between the liturgies!

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the West Assembly Area. All readers welcome!

For the May 11 meeting they will read, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce.

Pick Up Your Statements

Contribution statements for the first quarter of 2018 are printed and ready to be picked up at church (near the coatroom). Please pick yours up soon!

Statements not picked up by May 5 will be mailed.

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Calendar

Wednesday, April 17 - Wednesday in Holy Week

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Daily Prayer*
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, April 18 - Maundy Thursday

- Noon *Maundy Thursday Eucharist*
7:00 pm *Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with Footwashing*

Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

- Noon *Stations of the Cross*
7:00 pm *Adoration of the Cross*

Saturday, April 20

- 10:00 am Easter Vigil rehearsal
8:30 pm Easter Vigil, followed by a festive reception in the Undercroft

Sunday, April 21 - Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

- 8:00 am *Festival Holy Eucharist*
9:30 am Easter Carry-in Brunch
No Adult Forum this week
10:45 am *Festival Holy Eucharist*
6:45 pm Mount Olive serves Our Saviour's meal

Monday, April 22

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 23

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, April 24

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
NO Cantorei rehearsal this evening
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on Sunday, April 28, following the second liturgy (approximately Noon). The purpose of this meeting is to elect new members to the Mount Olive Vestry for 2019-2020. At this meeting, we will also hear about Godly Play (Sunday Church School) and its importance to our church community.

Test Your Climate Knowledge

The Missions Committee would like to challenge you on your understanding and knowledge of our beautiful Earth. NASA Global Climate Change web site offers quizzes to help us learn about vital signs of the planet. One quiz each week will be offered here until Earth Day to assist you in growing your stewardship of the Earth and all living things. Click the following link to take this week's quiz, "Warm up" - <https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/global-temp-quiz/>

Property Committee Work Day: Saturday, April 27

Due to recent inclement weather, the Property Committee work day has been rescheduled for **April 27, the Saturday after Easter.**

Can you help? If so, send a quick email to property@mountolivechurch.org, or call the church office.

Thanks to the Cleaning Crew!

Many thanks to Bob Christenson, Beth Gaede, Beth Hering, Peggy Hoeft, Gene Janssen, Tim Lindholm, Bonnie McLellan, Steve Pranschke, Joy Osasumwen, Cynthia Prosek, and Timm Schnabel, who cleaned our chancel, transepts, and narthex, and polished the brass candelabra and fittings in preparation for our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. With such a huge crew of workers, we were able to take care of several extra tasks, and the sanctuary glows!

What Better Way to Celebrate Earth Day

Here is a great recommendation from Interfaith Power and Light, and a follow-up to the petition many of you signed last spring. "As you may know, the MN House and Senate will soon be voting on the Climate and Energy Omnibus Bills. One of the key elements of these bills is a requirement that Minnesota transition to 100% carbon-free energy by 2045, which is really exciting! However, it will be hard to get enough support for these bills in the Senate. That's why it's critical that we take advantage of this legislative recess to meet with Sen. Torres Ray and make sure she is a strong supporter of 100% clean energy. The meeting with the Senator is scheduled at 6pm at the community room of Peace Coffee (3262 Minnehaha Ave) on Monday, April 22. We'll meet an hour ahead of time, at 5pm, to plan for the meeting and make sure we feel confident going into it. Would you be able to meet at 5pm on Monday, April 22?"

Senator Torres Ray is the the senator for District 63, encompassing much of southeast Minneapolis. From Judy Hinck, "I live in this district, and I'm going to go to the meeting. Would you like to join me? Would you like to carpool? Call (612-824-4918) or email me (judyhinck@gmail.com)."

Celebrate Earth Day by taking action.

Join Together to Help

In the last weeks we have all been overwhelmed with pictures and stories of those suffering from floods in our own country--Nebraska, Iowa, Alabama -- and in far off places -- Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Iran. Your Missions Committee has committed \$1,000 of its budget to help with flood relief: \$500 to the ELCA Disaster Relief fund to assist with national flood relief and \$500 to the Lutheran World Relief to assist those in other countries. Won't you join in this effort? You may place your donations in a blue mission envelop and mark it clearly for ELCA Disaster Relief or LWR, clearly mark your donation in the memo line of your check, or place your contribution in a marked envelope. Together we can make a difference.

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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, you could consider bringing 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.

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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!

Kingman Family Fire Relief

As most of you know, Anna Scott's parents and sister experience a devastating house fire a couple of weeks ago. They have lost everything in the house, but has asked that until insurance coverage is sorted out and they know what their future living arrangements are, we should hold off on any specific donation of items that they could use. Therefore, they are asking people to give through an online fund that has been set up in their name. To donate, go to www.gofundme.com, search for Scott and Heidi Kingman's page, and make your donation through the website. If you prefer, leave a donation marked "Kingman family" in the church office, and we'll see that it gets to the right place. If and when the Kingmans identify other needs, the congregation will be informed.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Sunday Eucharist:
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.**

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Coordinator of Neighborhood
Outreach and Ministry – *Jim
Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in
Christ congregation.*

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