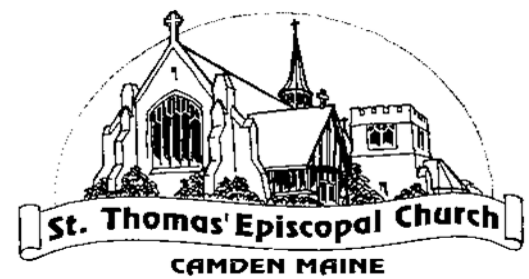


St. Thomas' Tidings

Sunday, April 14, 2019
Palm Sunday

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. Everyone is welcome! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar.



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Sermon comes before the Gospel this week. Why?

It started as an experiment at my last parish—we'd heard of a couple of churches who felt that 1) the Passion should be the focal point of Palm Sunday—making the homily redundant, and 2) the sermon could precede the Passion and point people toward what makes the version being used (Matthew, Mark, Luke) unique—what sets it apart. So we tried it.

Now I bring that experiment here, because I, too, feel that the Passion needs to take center stage on this one Sunday of the year. And so, this year, I do a bit of teaching about Luke's unique perspective, and then I get out of the way—so that all of us can bring the story of Jesus' final few days to life again. To remember, again. We then sit in silence for a time to reflect and pray. Let me know if this way of experiencing the Passion resonates with you. Lisa +

New Prayer in our service begins this week

Beginning this Sunday, we will be publicly sending out our Lay Eucharistic Visitors to take communion to our homebound parishioners from the altar. We will use a prayer that falls between the postcommunion prayer and the blessing. This prayer is in widespread use in the Episcopal Church as the clergy sends out the LEV's directly from the holy table to the parishioners who are not with us. If Abby is serving at the service she will do the sending in her role as deacon: the clergyperson who stands at the doorway and encourages our ministry in the world and brings the needs of the world to the congregation. If Abby is not there, Lisa will send them out. We hope to send LEV's out at least twice a month from now on.

Way of Love Series

Please join Lisa and Abby for the last two discussions on Bishop Michael Curry's

Holy Week Schedule

April 17

Holy Week Eucharist with Healing
9:30 am (Chapel)

April 18, Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm - Last Supper and stripping
of the Altar
(begins in Parish Hall)

April 19, Good Friday

**Noon Ecumenical Good Friday
service at Chestnut St. Baptist
Church.**

5:30 pm - Good Friday Service
(With Eucharist from the reserved
sacrament)

April 21, Easter

Services at 7:30 and 10:00 am

“Way of Love” at 9 am in the Conference Room this Sunday and Easter.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour this Sunday is hosted by the children of St Thomas. Please come along and enjoy some coffee and snacks. The children look forward to serving and chatting with you all. They have also prepared some questions on the Bible stories they have been reading in class and look forward to testing your knowledge in a fun, friendly way! –

Two services on Good Friday

There will be an ecumenical Good Friday service including the Methodist, Congregational, Baptist and Episcopal clergy at the Chestnut Street Baptist Church on Friday, April 19 at noon, and all are welcome. Our Good Friday service here at

St. Thomas' will begin at 5:30pm that same evening, and again, all are welcome.

Easter Saturday Vigil

The Easter Saturday Vigil will be offered by Nativity Lutheran Church in Rockport this year. This service of dark and light will begin with the lighting of the new fire at 7:30pm. Come and hear your faith story read again, and ring out the first bells of Easter.

Hocus Pocus in the Easter Eucharist?

Etymologists think 'hocus pocus' is a corruption of the Latin, "Hoc est Corpus", or "This is my Body" the words we remember Christ saying when we celebrate the Eucharist each week. For centuries the words were in Latin- a language most churchgoers didn't understand- and the Sanctus bells were used to alert the congregation that something important was about to happen. The superstition arose that something magical happened when the bread and wine became Christ's body and blood. Hence, Hoc est Corpus became *hocus pocus*: a magic word.

We may not believe in the clergy using magic any more, but we certainly believe something unexplained happens to us when we celebrate the Eucharist.

Come experience the power of the Eucharist on Easter morning. Experience the joy of Christ's resurrection, and begin feeling the power of a resurrected life, and greet each other with "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

Easter Flowers

You are invited to make a donation for Easter flowers in memory or in honor of someone important in your life. Please use one of the envelopes in the pew racks or call the Parish Office. All donations need to be received by Wednesday, April 17th. Thank you!

Today's Music

We enter worship on Palm Sunday celebrating Jesus' entry on a donkey by singing loud Hosannas and waving palms! We sing a few stanzas (the original had 38 stanzas!) of the medieval hymn, *All glory, laud, and honor*, written by Theodolph, Bishop of Orleans (France) who died in 821. The English translation is by John Mason Neale and we sing it to the tune composed by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635). Both text and tune have been sung by Christians for a very long time! *Sunset to sunrise, changes now* (Hymn 163) is one of the earliest Christian hymns written by Clement of Alexandria (circa 155-circa 213)...and yes, you read that right! We sing it to an early American folk tune, first published in Charleston, SC in 1799. Alec Wyton composed the spare accompaniment for this melody.

To me, the Passion is also exemplified in Bach's organ chorale prelude, *O man, bemoan your most grievous sins*, today's prelude. Here the melody is highly embellished and has extremely rich harmonies. Listen for the surprise harmony at the end along with one of the few times Bach actually wrote in instructions to play the final measures very slowly. Bach also used this for the final chorus of Part I in *The Saint Matthew Passion*. Throughout this chorus, Bach uses two flutes, two oboes and two violins playing in harmony of thirds and sixths to create a persistent "sighing" while the chorus sings the tune. It is gorgeous and worth hearing (or singing!) once in your lifetime: you will never forget it.

The Choir sings Christina Rossetti's poem, *Our church palms are budding willow twigs* which the Irish composer, Havelock Nelson (1917-1996) very fittingly paired with an Irish melody, *Pastheen*, and then built on that. It is achingly beautiful. *Ah, holy Jesus* (Hymn 158) and *O sacred head, sore wounded* (Hymn 168) are 17th century German hymns with Latin roots: they usher us into Holy Week with descriptive texts and rich chorales.

We sing a hymn cut from a totally different cloth: *My song is love unknown* (Hymn 458). This poem by Samuel Crossman (1624-1683) is based primarily on the story of the Passion from Matthew, Chapter 27. The story goes that John Ireland (1879-1962) wrote this tune in fifteen minutes when Geoffrey Shaw requested a musical setting for this poem(!) It is exquisite. May these profound tunes carry you through this Holy Week.

Jane Schroeder
Minister of Music

Prayer List

Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: Marya Allen, Ron, Andrew, Joanne Scott, Tiffany Andrews, Seana Roubinek, Pat Olds, Carolyn Morris, Janan Vaughn, Amy, Gordon Gushee, Susan, Martha, Jean Harper, Abby Neal, Jeremiah Swett, Dustin, Maxine, Jan, Joan Pottle, Arnie Joy, Paul Whittaker, Anne, Sandy Lyle, Jan Gilley, Kevin Jackson, Brian Fitzpatrick, Millie, Gerry Mille.

This Sunday April 14, 2019 Palm Sunday

7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** JoAnne Ryan; **Lectors:** JoAnne Ryan, Terry Mello; **Prayers of the People:** Edmund Hartt; **Usher:** Edmund Hartt
10:00 am: Celebrant and Preacher:
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer:** TBA; **Eucharistic Minister:** Roy Gilley; **Lectors:** Dean Jackson, Kate Jackson ; **Prayers of the People:** Br. Donovan Bowley; **Acolytes:** TBA; **Ushers:** Dean Jackson, Jim Ebbert

Next Sunday April 21, 2019 Easter

7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** JoAnne Ryan; **Lectors:** JoAnne Ryan, Terry Mello; **Prayers of the People:** Edmund Hartt; **Usher:** Edmund Hartt
10:00 am: Celebrant and Preacher:
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer:** TBA; **Eucharistic Minister:** Roy Gilley; **Lectors:** Dean Jackson, Kate Jackson; **Prayers of the People:** Br. Donovan Bowley; **Acolytes:** TBA; **Ushers:** Dean Jackson, Jim Ebbert

What's Where

Our Sunday School and Nursery rooms are located past the sun room. Turn right. The *Blue Room* is the Nursery & *Godly Play*; the *Yellow Room* is the *God, the Bible and Me* classroom. Restrooms are located down the right aisle, past the Chapel, at the end of the corridor on the left side. Additional rest rooms are located in the basement (down the same corridor, via the stairway on your left). The Conference Room is past the sunroom, take the right corridor to the end and turn left.

Meetings and Events are subject to change. St. Thomas' welcomes the use of its facilities for meetings and events. Please contact the Parish Office before scheduling any event.

Calendar

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

7:30 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am – Christian Education Classes

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

5:15 pm – Centering Prayer – Chapel

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

Monday, April 15

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Parish Hall

Tuesday, April 16

9:00 am – Xi-Gong Dance Class

2:00 pm – Staff Meeting

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

Wednesday, April 17

9:30 am – Holy Week Eucharist with Healing

10:15 am – Coffee and Conversation – Conference Room

11:00 am – Bible Study – Conference Room

4:00 pm – EfM – Conference Room

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

7:00 pm – VoXX

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm – Last Supper and Stripping of the Altar *(begins in Parish Hall)*

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

Friday, April 19

Good Friday

12:00 pm – Ecumenical Good Friday service at the Chestnut Street Baptist Church

5:30 pm – Good Friday Service

(With Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament)

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

Saturday, April 20

Easter Saturday

7:30 pm - Easter Saturday Vigil at

Nativity Lutheran Church, Rockport

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday

7:30 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 am – Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am – Christian Education Classes

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

(Coffee Hour follows)

6:30 pm – AA meeting – Basement