

LENT, EASTER, & PENTECOST — 2025 —



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



KEEPING
COMMUNITY

Lent Reflection

Fr. Jared Grant, Associate Rector

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty. He shall say to the Lord, ‘You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust.’”

Psalm 91:1-2

Lent is a season of penitence. Somewhere along the way, we’ve equated the idea of penitence with darkness and despair, which doesn’t sit quite right in my book. Penitence comes from a Latin word meaning “the feeling of regret.” To have a sense of regret implies that a different way exists. When we’ve hurt, or been hurt, the compounding nature of sin can make us believe that we’re forced into one way of being; that we have no choice but to continue on in our hurt. Rather than wallowing in the stagnant brokenness of a choiceless world, a season of penitence shows us that a different way is there waiting for us.

Lent offers us a way to reestablish ourselves within God’s ever present grace. Lent allows us to dwell in the shelter of the Most High; to abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Rather than a season to despair in the darkness around us, it’s a season that focuses us, with great expectation, on the goodness of God in the midst of darkness. We know the world is broken. We know that we, ourselves, are broken. Even in the midst of that brokenness, God has prepared a place for us. God has made space for us to dwell within the goodness that is love.

May this season help you focus on the goodness of God in your life. May you wear the moniker of a penitent well, acknowledging that God’s grace has freed you to act in new and wonderful ways. May your journey to a new way of being lead you into the dwelling place God has prepared for us all.

The Jewish People at the Time of Jesus of Nazareth

with Rabbi Michael Panitz, Sundays in Lent, 9:15 a.m.

We all know Jesus was Jewish, but what did the Judaism of his day look like? Join us for a five-part exploration of the religious and historical context of the New Testament with our beloved Rabbi-in-Residence, Dr. Michael Panitz.

- March 9** Introduction: Two Snapshots: 539 BCE and 6 CE: What has changed?
- March 16** Political Realities: From Persian to Hellenistic to Roman domination
- March 23** Changes in religion: From prophecy to canon; the growth of Oral Tradition
- March 30** Changes in society: A sectarian era; An aristocracy of Romanizing accommodationists and a growing number of those desperate for deliverance
- April 6** The Growth of Messianism and the Great Crossroads, leading to Christianity or to Rabbinic Judaism

Rabbi Panitz will also be preaching at our morning services on April 6. His subject will be Psalm 126. His sermon will be titled, "The Eternally Returning People." You won't want to miss it!

March Events

- Sunday, March 9** The First Sunday in Lent
Rabbi Panitz Series Begins
- Friday, March 14** 12:00 p.m. Midday Music Concert
- Sunday, March 23** 5:30 p.m. Treblefest at Bruton Parish Church
- Friday - Sunday, March 28-30** Youth Retreat at Chanco



Holy Week Reflection

Kathy Hanna, Director of Children, Youth, & Families

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

I think this quote is also true of good liturgy. If it makes you feel something, you will remember it. When I was about 14 and home from boarding school for break, my mother dragged me to Holy Week services. Tenebrae, Good Friday services; liturgies that can be dark and long and sad. On Holy Saturday, in that thin space between Good Friday and Easter, I had a moment to reflect. I went for a walk. I had an epiphany. When I came back, I wrote a poem. I don't recall exactly what I wrote, but I do remember how I felt. Writing this poem helped me express how the feelings of the darkness and sadness experienced during the Holy Week liturgies emphasized and elucidated for me the joy and hope of the Resurrection. This particular Holy Week was a turning point in my spiritual life when I realized you can't experience Jesus' resurrection without first walking to the cross with him. In some ways, it seems a basic and simple concept but when you **feel** it, the heart opens and sings.

One of the many gifts of my ministry here is the opportunity to create liturgies for families with children that are meaningful and accessible. The Family Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services are designed so children and youth, along with the whole community, can truly experience all the feels of those liturgies. Holy Week is not just for adults. Children have a remarkable capacity for joy and they have the ability to process sadness that adults often underestimate. Bring your children, bring yourselves, and come lean into the feels of Holy Week.

Holy Week Service Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms and the Reading of the Passion. Rite I

10:15 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms and the Reading of the Passion. Rite II

Holy Monday- Wednesday, April 14-16

5:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 17

5:00 p.m.

Family Service for Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Solemn Liturgy for Maundy Thursday, including footwashing and the stripping of the altar

Good Friday, April 18

11:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross (Stockley Gardens)

12:00 p.m.

Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday, including the chanting of the Passion and the veneration of the Cross

4:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross for Families

Holy Saturday, April 19

10:00 a.m.

Liturgy for Holy Saturday

4:00 p.m.

Family Easter Vigil with baptisms

5:00 p.m.

New! Easter Egg Hunt (Lychgate Garden)

7:00 p.m.*

The Great Vigil of Easter with baptisms

Easter Day, April 20

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*

Festal Eucharist with brass

**incense will be used at these services*



Easter
EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19, 5:00 p.m.

Save the date and get excited:
The Easter Egg Hunt
returns to Christ & St. Luke's this year!

Following the Great Vigil of Easter for Families,
we will gather in the beautiful Lychgate Garden to
search for eggs placed among the foliage, flowers, and
those who have gone home to God.

Contact Kathy Hanna with any questions:
kathy.hanna@christandtlukes.org

Easter Reflection

Fr. Noah Van Niel, Rector

One of the things I have appreciated most about having *The Saint John's Bible* in residence with us these past few months is the way in which the artistic renderings, and the gorgeous handcrafted calligraphy, has brought a fresh, new feeling to the stories and characters in these texts. Take for example this image of Mary meeting the resurrected Jesus in the garden from the Gospel of John.



Resurrection (detail), Donald Jackson, © 2002 The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

This is usually the Gospel passage for Easter Day and so, although a beautiful story full of action and interesting details, its familiarity can sometimes blunt its impact. But this image shocks your senses awake. It fills your vision with brilliant sweeps of azure and vermillion. Mary is standing tall, reaching out to touch Jesus, when in my own imaginings of this scene I always thought of her bowing, or looking down to the ground, near his feet not his face. But here she is almost an equal to the form of the risen Lord. And as we look at her looking at him with a face that beautifully mixes surprise, care, and confusion their colors come together to form a deep purple, which makes me think about the ways in which the risen Christ is commingled with our own selves. This image makes this story, this moment, my whole conceptual frame for the Resurrection, feel full of new life, new colors, new questions and ultimately new understandings.

I hope that as we journey through this season, the colorful radiance of Resurrection will swirl around you, bringing new light, new life, new color, new insights so that you can see the world and each person in it infused with the heavenly hues of eternity.

The “Acts” of the Apostles: Redeveloping our Theology of Mission

Sundays, beginning April 27, 9:15 a.m.

The word "mission" has many different meanings, both secular and religious. Depending on the religious context, "mission" takes on a whole range of meaning. For some, it might specifically relate to evangelistic practices. For some, it might imply work done out in the world. For some still, it's a more general term for the work of the Church as a whole.

Over 6 weeks in Eastertide, starting on April 27, we will spend time in our Adult Forum studying and defining what this complicated and necessary word means in our context. What might Christ & St. Luke's theology of mission look like, and what might that theology mean for our congregation? We'll look at some answers to this question and explore different expressions of "mission" that we're involved in.

This forum will be led by parish clergy along with guest speakers from different groups and organizations that highlight our missional identity.



April Events

Friday, April 4

12:00 p.m.

Midday Music Concert

Sunday, April 6

5:30 p.m.

Lenten Choral Evensong

Refer to pg. 5 for a detailed Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 13

8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Monday, April 14

5:30 p.m.

Holy Week Eucharist

Tuesday, April 15

5:30 p.m.

Holy Week Eucharist

Wednesday, April 16

5:30 p.m.

Holy Week Eucharist

Thursday, April 17

5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Services

Friday, April 18

*11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., &
7:00 p.m.*

Good Friday Services

Saturday, April 19

*10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., &
7:00 p.m.*

Holy Saturday Services

Saturday, April 19

5:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt in the Lychgate Garden

Sunday, April 20

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Day

Sunday, April 27

9:15 a.m.

Eastertide Adult Forum begins

Tuesday, April 29

7:30 p.m.

Tallis Scholars Concert

Pentecost Reflection

Kevin Kwan, Organist & Director of Music

The Feast of Pentecost (fifty days after Easter) is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the form of a flame and gave them the ability to speak in multiple languages. We celebrate this feast by wearing red, attempting to speak in various languages, baptizing, and often having birthday cake!

While this Sunday usually marks the end of our program year, we have a fuller-than-usual summer ahead of us. That same afternoon (June 8, 4:00 p.m.), our Choir will present Mozart's Requiem, a timeless masterpiece featured in movies and among the most popular in the repertoire. This year, we will be joined by a period orchestra; that is, musicians who play instruments that either date back to Mozart's time, or built in the style of them. These instruments are usually softer than modern instruments, as the concert hall had not been invented yet. The instruments also play with a similar breathing and phrasing structure as to mirror the human voice. I am immensely looking forward to this collaboration with our "period band" who will be coming from all across the country.

A few weeks later, 70 singers, pilgrims, and family members will be traveling on our long-anticipated Choir Tour and Pilgrimage to England. Our first stop will be Canterbury Cathedral, where we will sing a full week of services (July 21-27), followed by a week at St. Paul's Cathedral, London (July 28-August 3). This huge undertaking is the culmination of years worth of preparation, planning, rehearsals, services, and study. No doubt we will have "Holy Spirit" moments, like when we release the final chord of an anthem, and the echo rings for 10 seconds in those vast buildings! Or when we gather in small groups post-Evensong to discuss the day and enjoy each other's company. Or when tourists visiting the Cathedral that day tell us how much our music meant to them.

Come, Holy Spirit, our souls inspire!

May & June Events

Sunday, May 4

10:15 a.m.

Liturgical Ministry Recognition
Sunday

Sunday, May 4

5:30 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, May 11

4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital by Alcee Chriss III

Friday, May 23

12:00 p.m.

Midday Music Concert

Sunday, May 25

3:00 p.m.

West Point Cemetery Service

Thursday, May 29

7:00 p.m.

Ascension Day Hymn Festival at St.
Andrew's Church

Sunday, June 1

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, June 1

12:00 p.m.

Newcomers Brunch

Sunday, June 1

5:00 p.m.

Youth BBQ

Sunday, June 8

8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

The Day of Pentecost

Sunday, June 8

4:00 p.m.

Spring Concert: Mozart's Requiem





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Worship Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist, Rite I: 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II: 10:15 a.m.

This service includes childcare, Children's Chapel, and choir.

This service is live streamed at christandstlukes.org/live.

Thursdays

Holy Eucharist, Rite II: 7:30 a.m.

Get in Touch

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