

THE CHRONICLE

Grace and Saint Peter's Church
Baltimore's Traditional Anglo-Catholic Parish

April 2009

From the Rector

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
Into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

St. John of Damascus, 8th Century

Dear Friends in Christ,

The above hymn was written for Low Sunday Morning Prayer in the Greek rite. Be reminded by it that the Paschal mystery is the story of the Triumph of Christ over the powers of darkness. We are the new Israel. Easter, "the queen of seasons," is our Passover from the world of sin and death to the kingdom of risen life in Christ. The liturgies of Holy Week and the Easter or Paschal Triduum are the means by which we participate in salvation history. The Paschal mystery is at the very heart of the liturgy. The liturgical year is based on the Paschal liturgy which "exemplifies and prescribes the law that must govern our lives: the law of death, and the law of life coming through death and by means of death."

We walk in the Way of the Cross during Holy Week so that we can recall the saving events of the Cross and Passion. We do this not simply to remember them but, by participating in them liturgically, to render present the efficacy of the events themselves.

The Sunday of the Passion includes the Palm liturgy. We go to Jerusalem with Jesus. We greet Him with the crowds. We process and carry palms in His honor. Then we hear the solemn chanting of the Passion according to St. Mark. We must understand the crowd now demands death, and we are left with a sense of our own faithlessness. Joy and sorrow, despair and hope mingle as we begin our walk to the Cross.

Holy or Maundy Thursday takes us to the upper room with Jesus and his disciples. The Mass of the Lord's Supper, the beginning of the Paschal Triduum, invites us to share in the Eucharistic banquet with Jesus, to walk with Him in the garden and to watch and

wait. The altar is stripped as a reminder of the desolation of the disciples after the arrest of Jesus. Hope comes to us in the reception of the Eucharist. The watch before the Altar of Repose in the Resurrection Chapel begins after the Mass. Please be present for at least some time at the Altar of Repose on Thursday evening or Friday before the Liturgy. Our Lord asks each of us “Could ye not watch with me one hour?”

Eight children will make their First Holy Communion at this Mass. They are Walter Grove, Katherine D’Urso Harrington, Daniel Lui, Jack Phelps, Alyssa Stewart, Isabella Strydom, Max Verheyen, and Jack Vicchio. Two others will make their First Communion at the Easter Vigil when they will be baptized.

Good Friday celebrates the glorious Passion of Christ our Lord. We listen to the readings that culminate in the solemn chanting of the Passion according to St. John. Sin brought Jesus to the Cross. Our selfishness paved the way for His passion and death. The Cross is the instrument for the last and greatest Epiphany. God transforms an instrument of shameful death into an instrument which brings life out of death. “We venerate thy Cross, O Lord: and praise and glorify thy holy Resurrection: for by virtue of the Cross joy hath come to the whole world.” After the homily we pray for the Church and for the world in the Solemn Collects. Then, following the example of Egeria, a fourth-century traveler and our first witness to this liturgical custom, we venerate the Cross. Her diary tells us much about how Easter was kept in the early church. After the veneration we are invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament consecrated at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday. The Eucharist is the sign of God’s saving presence and love for us. Christ our High Priest feeds us with His own Body and Blood.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the high point of the church year. We are called to hear the great events of salvation history, to listen to the acts of God’s love for us. The Vigil begins in darkness and ends in the light of the Risen Christ. Christ is the light of the world. He redeems us from sin and death and invites us into His Kingdom of new life. Through the waters of Baptism we walk as the new Israel. The parting waters of the Red Sea for Israel at the Passover which drowned the Egyptians now wash over us to cleanse us from sin and give us new life in Christ. The ancient chant of the *Exsultet* reminds us that this night is the holiest of nights for it celebrates when “Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.” This evening Michelle Leung and Kendall Clark will be Baptized into Christ’s new Life. We renew our baptismal vows and then gather at the Lord’s table to share unending life in the Eucharist. The Paschal candle glows with the joy of the Risen Lord.

Easter Day dawns with the knowledge that God loves us. The Alleluia has returned to our lives. The Paschal candle burns as a sign of the Risen Christ. The brass and timpani sound the joyous message that “Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun hath risen.”

I hope that each of you will prepare for the Paschal mystery by examining your conscience in the light of God’s love for us and that you will make your confession. Holy Week and Easter are truly the climax of the Church year. Each of us is called to put aside the pettiness and hardness of heart that separates us from the love of God. We should give ourselves over to the power of God present in the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. Growing in love requires the attitude of a pilgrim. We should constantly strive to find God in our lives and in those about us. We should seek the Kingdom not in a place more beautiful and more spiritual but right where we are. Evelyn Underhill reminds us that if the spiritual life is like a rose garden then one must tend one’s roses if they are to have beautiful blooms. I wish that all us may truly bloom in the Lord’s goodness.

I remain faithfully your priest,

Frederick S. Thomas, SSC
Rector



From Father Speer

THE BOOK OF JOB is one of a handful of the basic books in the whole human story. Job will provide the beginning our preaching themes for Good Friday. You will find the book of Job at the head of the Writings in your Old Testament, after the History books and before the Prophets. Moderately long and difficult, the book of Job provides a lifetime study. It provides an appropriate set of daily readings for the season of Lent, because its 42 chapters come pretty close to the number of the days of Lent. Presently, I am reading one of these chapters each day in Lent. This in itself is a task, demanding, difficult, and not always clear.

A brief introduction to this book will help us prepare for Good Friday. The structure of the book is clear. Like a good sandwich, it has a separate middle portion between bread on each side. The main text of the book runs from chapter 3 through chapter 41. Here we find dialogues between Job and his “friends,” an interlude on Wisdom, and several

monologues by Job, Elihu, and God. This is already intimidating. What about the prologue and epilogue? These provide the context of the book. They set up and resolve the tension by introducing Job the person. God allows Satan to do down to earth and attempt to draw Job away from God. The only limit on Satan is that he is not allowed to kill Job.

The powerful theme of the book is theodicy, “the justice of God,” the problem of how a just and righteous God, and sinful and unjust human beings, can live together at all. The short answer is, they cannot. If God is just, why is there so much injustice in the world? If God is loving, why is there so much hate in the world? If God is righteous, why is there so much sin in the world? These are thorny questions. Job argues with this righteous God. Job’s three “friends” give him varied and sometimes contradictory advice regarding how to answer the problem.

But there is another answer. It is the answer of the Cross. We will preach from this book on Good Friday, the day of our salvation. We will place before the father the example of his son, Christ Jesus our Lord, and notice that God treats him as unjust, although he is just, so that we might pray for mercy and be treated as just, although we are unjust and do not deserve mercy. Read chapter 28, the Wisdom chapter, with references to mining in the ancient world, as a pointer to the search for Wisdom. Miners descend deep into the earth where no other creature dares to descend, in order to retrieve the most precious metals and jewels. Miners undergo severe danger to life and limb in order to find this treasure. It must be so with the search for Wisdom. What is the price of Wisdom? What is the cost of entering into relation with God? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. To shun evil is understanding.

Read chapters 16 and 17, the response of Job to the second speech of Eliphaz. Job complains, foretelling the Cross. They open their mouths at me. They strike me on the cheeks. God hands me over to evil men, who pierce my kidneys. I must look forward to the Pit as my home. I must say to the Pit, You are my father. There is no hope for one who descends into the Pit. The book of Job is the beginning of our Good Friday preaching. The end is the Cross.

*Father Speer
Priest Associate*

Suzanne Meier would like to thank all those who provided meals on Fridays after Stations and Benediction this Lent.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday - April 5

8:00 a.m. Low Mass

10:00 a.m. Blessing of Palms, Procession & High Mass

Maundy Thursday - April 9

6:00 p.m. High Mass, Procession to the Altar of Repose & Stripping of the Altars
The watch before the Altar of Repose begins after the Mass.

Good Friday - April 10

3:00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday & Mass of the Pre-Sanctified

Holy Saturday - April 11

7:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil & High Mass

Easter Day - April 12

8:00 a.m. Low Mass

10:00 a.m. Procession & High Mass

Daily Mass Schedule

Sunday

7:45 a.m. Matins & Low Mass

10:00 a.m. High Mass

5:00 p.m. Evensong

Monday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Tuesday

12:00 Noon Low Mass and Holy
Unction

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Thursday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Friday

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Saturday

12:00 Noon Low Mass

April Mass Intentions

April is the Month of the Resurrection

1 Feria	Holiness of life
2 Feria	A good Holy Week
3 COMPASSION BVM	Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary
4 Feria (St Isidore, BCD)	The Church in Spain
5 PALM SUNDAY	Our Parish Family
6 Monday in Holy Week	Walking in the Way of the Cross
7 Tuesday in Holy Week	Amendment of Life
8 Wednesday in Holy Week	Personal holiness
9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Those making their First Communion
10 GOOD FRIDAY	
11 HOLY SATURDAY	Those being Baptized
12 EASTER DAY	Our Parish Family
13 Easter Monday	Pope Benedict
14 Easter Tuesday	Eugene, our Bishop
15 Easter Wednesday	John, our Bishop
16 Easter Thursday	The Joseph Richey House
17 Easter Friday	Grace & St. Peter's School
18 Easter Saturday	For those Baptized at the Easter Vigil
19 LOW SUNDAY	Our Parish Family
20 Feria	Rowan, Archbishop of Canterbury
21 St Anselm, BCD	The Church in Europe
22 Feria	The All Saints Sisters of the Poor
23 St George, M	The Church of England
24 Feria	Those who made their First Communion
25 ST MARK, Ev. M	St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia
26 EASTER II	Our Parish Family
27 St Peter Canisius, CD	The Society of the Holy Cross
28 St Paul of the Cross, C	The Passionists
29 PATRONAGE OF ST JOSEPH	Family Life
30 St Catherine of Siena, V	Religious Orders

Directory Update:

Irma Tyler was inadvertently omitted from the new parish directory. Her entry should be:

Irma Tyler
9202 Turnbull Road
Randallstown, MD 21133
410-655-2207

April Music

April 5 - PALM SUNDAY

Missa a 4 voci - Grossi
Solus Ad Victimam - Leighton
Bow Thine Ear, O Lord - Byrd

April 9 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Missa de S. Maria Magdalena - Willan
O Sacrum Convivium - Messiaen

April 10 - GOOD FRIDAY

The Reproaches - Victoria
Bow Thine Ear, O Lord - Byrd
Parce mihi, Domine - Morales

April 11 - EASTER EVEN

Communion Service in A Minor - Darke
Maria Magdalena - Gabrieli

April 12 - EASTER DAY

Missa Brevis - Gabrieli
Maria Magdalena - Gabrieli
Haec Dies - Wood

April 19 - LOW SUNDAY

Communion Service in A Minor - Darke
This Joyful Eastertide - arr. Wood

April 26 - EASTER II

Communion Service in F - Sumsion
O Sing Unto The Lord - Greene