



Trinity Topics

April 2018

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**“This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell,
and rose victorious from the grave...**

**How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined
and man is reconciled to God.”—*The Book of Common Prayer 1979***

The Great Vigil of Easter, though rather recently revived in the Anglican tradition, is one of the great treasures that the Episcopal Church offers a world so desperate for authenticity. It is beautiful and reverential; it is even exciting at moments, and indeed modern life could use a good dose of beauty, reverence, and excitement. Even more do people today, believer and unbeliever alike, yearn for something real that can give meaning to the day-to-day grind. The Easter Vigil gives meaning to so many weeks filled with so many ordinary days by framing our past, present and future in a new context of God’s love for every one of us.

In the first part of the service, as the setting sun leaves the church in darkness, we recite the “Prophecies,” which are episodes from the Old Testament which we believe demonstrate not only God’s mercy, but also God’s plan to redeem humankind in Jesus Christ. As the service moves from the Prophecies to a renewal of our baptismal vows, we zoom in from the history of all humankind to our own lives, where God has acted in a definitive way in our baptisms. For better or worse, our past makes us who we are. We look into our past, with all its apparent messiness and baggage, and there we find that the grace of God has been with us all along, sustaining us and guiding us to our savior. An authentic faith knows this is true and can find evidence of it in specific events in the past.

Finally, the Resurrection of Jesus! After weeks of Lenten introspection, “Glory be to God on high!” Bells peal joyously, the organ booms forth, the lights are thrown on. A history filled with darkness and confusion comes to a sudden and climactic end when God fulfills his promises throughout history in this one great event. Jesus has gone to the end of all human things and discovered there the God of the Living, who can bring life to these dry bones of our lives like water springs to the desert. He gave us life in the past and will not fail to give us life again if we have faith. We are chosen to be the Church of God, and we find our identity in the Resurrection of Jesus.

The decisive moment of Resurrection, when we have the choice of faith and new life, is ever present to us in the Eucharist. Whenever the Host is placed in your hand, new life becomes possible because Jesus is present to us offering himself as our bread. If this is true, how then should we live? What will you do differently with the knowledge that God has given you a fresh start and now you are free to live the life of the Kingdom of God? Once again, an authentic faith demand something concrete and specific. A biblical world view is not a life of abstraction—what specific thing will you do differently now that you know God has forgiven you and given you eternal life?

Theologians have often declared that every Sunday is a little Easter, where we encounter again and again the resurrection of Jesus, who is alive for us. We spend the rest of our lives striving to understand this thing God has done for us and praying for the grace to express this work in our lives through charity and compassion for our neighbors. If anyone asks you what the Episcopal Church is about, or what it means to be a Christian, invite them to the Easter Vigil. This one service can say more about that than thousands of pages of theology. We spend the rest of the year unpacking the significance of the events of Easter.

Father Zach

News & Announcements

Maundy Thursday Watch

The *Watch at the Altar of Repose* is an ancient tradition that we will observe on the evening of Maundy Thursday, from the end of the service until midnight. The consecrated Host and Cup are left at a special altar that has been decorated like a garden, and the faithful remain to pray and meditate on the suffering of Jesus. It recalls Jesus' lonely plea, before his arrest, that his disciples would stay awake with him as he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. The church will be open during this time for anyone to come and go, whether to pray, meditate, or spend a little time in quiet fellowship with others.

Confirmation and Receptions (second reminder)

The next opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or to be received into the Episcopal Church will be Trinity Sunday on **May 27th**, when the bishop will visit our parish.

Confirmation is an opportunity to make a mature commitment to Christ. It is a welcoming celebration of people entering into the work of Christ as they publicly accept for themselves the promises made at their baptisms. It can be celebrated at any age, though it is traditionally celebrated around 13 years of age, when young persons approach adulthood and begin making their own decisions. Reception is a rite welcoming into the Episcopal Church those who have been baptized and confirmed in another denomination. It is also a welcoming celebration of new lives coming into our Episcopal family. Both rites culminate in the bishop laying his hands on the person's head and offering anew the Holy Spirit that unites Christians to God and to one another.

To undergo either Confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Zach or the parish office. Either rite requires instruction in the Christian faith as it is expressed in the Episcopal tradition, which will involve 3 or 4 conversations with Fr. Zach and other inquirers. In fact, these conversations will be open to anyone who would like a refresher course on the fundamentals of Christian faith! Email: brooksz@gmail.com for more information.

A Course in Anglican History: Part I

It is the year 1521, and the chaos of the Protestant Reformation is exploding across the continent of Europe. There are, however, few signs of discontent with the Roman Catholic Faith in England. The Church in England does a better than average job of keeping her clergy in good, honest order. Masses of pilgrims wend their way to the great shrines of Canterbury and Walsingham. Devotion to the Virgin is so great among the people that England is known across Christendom as the "Dowry of Mary." England's King, a young Henry VIII, is married to a relative of the King of Spain, Catherine of Aragon. After 12 years, their marriage has produced only one child who survived infancy—Princess Mary Tudor. As he waits with increasing impatience for the arrival of a male heir, the King loudly repudiates Protestantism and declares his loyalty to the Ancient Faith by writing the theological treatise *A Defence of the Seven Sacraments*. Pope Leo X is so impressed that he grants the English crown the glorious title "Defender of the Faith." All is right in Roman Catholic England.

This column is the first in what will be a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

The Heifer Project International

The Church School's annual Lunch and games for *The Heifer Project International* on March 4 raised \$730. Their Bake Sale on March 18 raised \$467. The Easter cake pop sale has not yet been completed. Don't forget to bring your arks (mite boxes) back to church on **April 8** to add to the donations to *The Heifer Project*.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Sunday, April 29 will be the Spring Ingathering for the United Thank Offering. This program dates back to the 1871 General Convention, when it created the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society. The first United Offering (later called the United Thank Offering) in 1889, raised \$2188.64. This enabled a church to be built in Anvik, Alaska, and a woman missionary to be sent to Japan.

Several of our members use the little blue boxes throughout the year. It is a great habit to insert some money in it when we feel we have been blessed or when we are thankful for an event in our lives. However, if you do not keep a blue box at home, we welcome your kind offering on this Sunday. Think about your life and what you have to be thankful for.

Mothering Sunday

We want to thank Forrest Keaton and all the Men who served the Women and Girls breakfast on March 11. The food was great; the tables were perfectly set; and the service was fantastic!

Palm Sunday

We offer a special thanks to Betsy Kennedy and Dana Ryan who made all of the palm crosses.

Call for church keys

The parish office is out of interior church keys! We had new locks installed on the exterior doors, and we have an ample supply of those keys. We issued those new keys to all those who asked. What we need are some of the old keys returned.

While, of course, everyone should have access to the church when they need it, having so many keys in circulation is an obvious security issue. It also leaves the office with no keys to pass out when someone needs access to the church outside of office hours. If you have a key to the church stored away and cannot think of any really pressing reason to keep it, please bring it back to the church and leave it with Fr. Zach or Jo Ann.

Death

Judith Fay, wife of John Power, died on December 25, 2017. The Burial Office for Judith was on March 20.

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Trinity Fellowship
Tuesday, April 3, 7 pm

Special Church School Activities:

Wednesday, April 11, 4:30 pm
Pizza party!
Rehearsal of song!
Flower planting!

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

Monday, April 9
5:30 – 7:00 pm

April 15

The Church School Children will be
singing the anthem
at the 10 o'clock service.

Vestry

Tuesday, April 17

Regular Vestry Meeting at **7:00 pm.**

A GRACIOUS INVITATION TO
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TO A RECEPTION for

Donald Richard Eldred

In Celebration of His 90th Birthday

Sunday April 22, 2018

3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Cedarhurst Retirement Home

2225 West Morton Avenue

Jacksonville, IL 62650

Holy Saturday, March 31
Easter Eve

12 noon - Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

SERVICES IN APRIL

Sunday, April 1:
EASTER DAY

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday in Easter Week April 4:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 8:
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 9:

The Annunciation (tr.)

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 11:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 15:
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 18:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 22:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 25:

St. Mark

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 29:
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

***Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.***