

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

March 27, 2024



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday March 28th 7 p.m. @ St. John

Good Friday March 29th 7 p.m. @ Redeemer

There will not be a Saturday 5:15 p.m. service on March 30th.

Please do join us at St. John for the Easter Vigil at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday 11 a.m.



Community Supper

Our Community Supper takes place tomorrow from 4-6 p.m. Stop by for a filling meal and then join us at St. John for Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Just some reminders for Easter Day: On Easter, March 31, 2024, there will be no Sunday school. However, the students were asked to be at the classroom at 10:30 AM so we can retrieve our Easter banner and hang it in the church for the 11:00 AM service. Please bring your Mite boxes. The students can, if they wish, sit with the class during the service. After the church service there will be an Easter Egg hunt either on the church lawn (weather permitting) or in the parish hall. All children are invited to attend. Candy bags will be furnished. Happy Easter!

Bonnie Garrity



St. Mary's Guild

There will not be an April meeting as we will be putting our efforts and energy towards the upcoming open house/concert and rummage sale. Our next meeting will be on May 7th.

Kitchen Coordinator appointed.

With the approval of the Vestry, the Rector is pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Murrelle as Kitchen Coordinator for the next year. This volunteer position is responsible for ensuring that the kitchen and pantry remain clean, inviting and usable for all who have need of it. Her responsibilities include coordination of the purchase of things like spices and paper products (plates, flatware, cups, etc.), non-perishable food products, and other needed supplies. She may establish guidelines or rules governing the usage of the kitchen. She will be reaching out to the volunteers of the Sunday School, Scouts, St. Mary's Guild, the Parish Park Fair (formerly the Street Faire), Community Supper, and Taking Off Pounds Sensibly groups to determine their needs and to convey the guidelines or rules for using the kitchen and pantry. Thank you, Linda for taking this on!



**WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY RUMMAGE AFTER APRIL 7TH. PLEASE
NO BOOKS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

Readings for Easter March 31, 2024

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

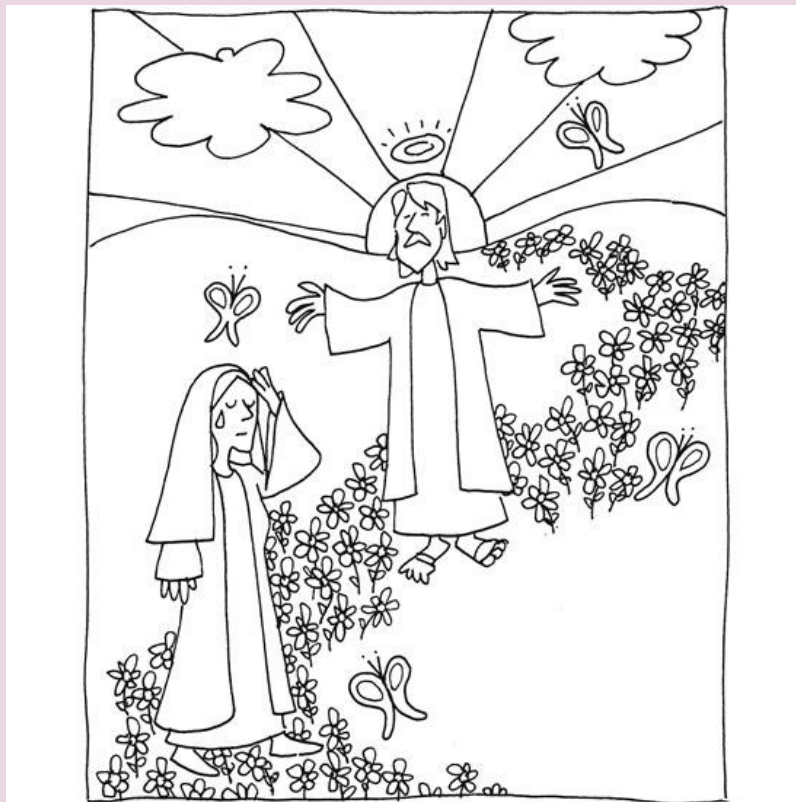
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Scripture Reflection

Reflection on the Gospel by Serene Jones from Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word

We do not go to church simply to remind our conscious minds that God lives, and we are called to follow Christ. We need to show up so that our bodies can be reminded of him too, and so the unconscious recesses of our psyches can be moved anew, our dispositions toward grace rejuvenated, our anxieties quelled as the world shifts once again into place and Easter comes, and comes, and comes again. In this yearly event we enter into the ripe, cinematic fullness of our embodied, uniquely personal lives—this is the shared space where Jesus meets us, calling our name, receiving our touch, calming our anxious worries, and reminding us again and again that grace is not an object to be known but a gift to be lived. How are you meeting Jesus this Easter day? From whom did you receive his touch? How did you receive the gift of God's grace this day?



Mark your Calendar

Please join us on Sunday, April 14, 2024 in celebrating the restoration of our Stained Glass Windows. There will be an open house to view the windows from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. we are please to bring you "Tribute Quartet"

<https://www.tributequartet.com>

A Gospel group out of Tennessee. You do not want to miss this group and their wonderful music. The event is free, although we will gratefully accept a free will offering.

Please say "yes" if you are asked to make sandwiches or baked goods for our refreshments.

Please consider being a guide to the windows during the open house. Please tell all your friends about the Open House and the wonderful concert to follow!



Serving in Worship at Redeemer

March 29 Good Friday

Reader: Alice Bennett

Usher: Walter Chaykosky

Greeter: Margaret Cole

Passion Gospel Readers: Alice Bennett

Glenda Hinsman

Rose Carpenter

Amy Murrelle

Diane Siebecker

March 31 Easter Day

Diane Siebecker

Rick Rhodes

Mary Rhodes

Congregational parts will be in bold type in your handheld bulletin.



Makenzi Morrow 3/27

Daye Moreno 3/30

Zachary Murrelle 4/3

Verlyn Warrington 4/5

The Wildcat closet continues to collect donations of Sweat pants, Sweat shirts, socks and toiletries. The box is located in the atrium . Linda Murrelle will pick up your donations and make sure they are delivered to the proper locations.



For the Month of **March** we will be collecting peanut butter for our local food pantries.

Lent Resources from Episcopal Relief and Development

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28

Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

John 13:16–17

On Maundy Thursday, we see Jesus using every part of his body to convey a single message: he and his followers have come to serve. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus states, "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you as an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14–15).

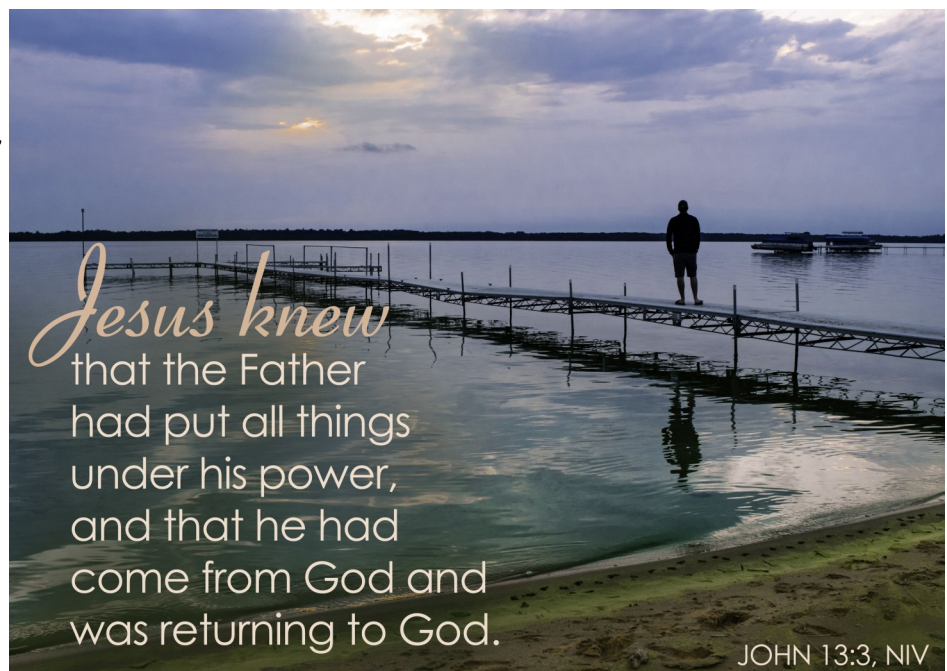
Since Jesus mentions his role as a teacher, I want to reflect on his teaching methods. Jesus frequently conveys his messages at a slant. He teaches in parables, and Christians have been puzzling over their meanings for centuries. Jesus uses intentionally obscure gestures. For instance, when he faces a tough line of questioning, Jesus raises a coin and proclaims, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

In contrast, during the Last Supper, Jesus throws his full body weight to convey one clear message. He uses every tool at his disposal— dramatic, symbolic action and words—to emphasize his message that those who follow him are there to serve, not to be served. He desperately doesn't want his future followers to get this part wrong.

And yet we do. It is mildly funny to see how Peter immediately misunderstands what Jesus was trying to convey. Peter first refuses to have his feet washed and then he goes to the other extreme and asks Jesus to wash every part of him.

Today's readings Psalm 116:1,10–17 | Exodus 12:1–4,(5–10), 11–14 | 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 John 13:1–17,31b–35

To what extent have we received Jesus' message about service? Do we really see our ministry as one of service or are we trapped in the role of waiting to be served?



GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

John 18:17

On this Good Friday, I invite us to reflect on the imperfections of Peter. This is the disciple who Jesus calls his rock, and who, in time, becomes “the rock” on which Jesus’ church is built. But John’s Gospel doesn’t present Peter in a particularly positive light. Some of Jesus’ last words to Peter are a chastisement: “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:11). Famously, Peter devotedly follows Jesus as he is bound and led away but also saves his own skin by denying three times that he ever knew Jesus. At the moment of Jesus’ arrest, “the rock” that Peter resembles isn’t granite—a rock that you can build on. Rather, he is more like porous pumice, rough around the edges and caving in all too easily.

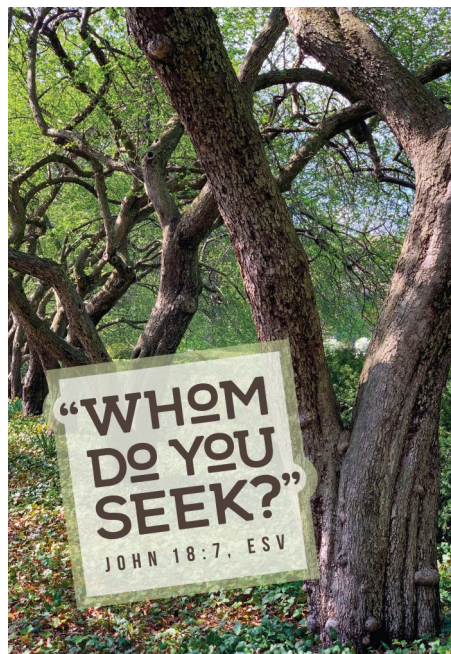
Why does John’s Gospel include these embarrassing details about Peter, who becomes perhaps the most important disciple? I see these details as a sign of hope.

Through Peter’s fallibility, the story involves all of us. Christianity is not only for the heroic, the unspeakably wise or the extremely brave. It is also a faith for people who overreact, who get it wrong quite often and who run away. On Good Friday, Jesus is arrested and led away to be crucified, and Peter utterly fails to live up to what he had previously promised to do. This is a source of embarrassment, yes, and yet it’s exactly this full and complicated humanity that Jesus redeems in the days to come.

Today’s readings

Psalm 22 | Isaiah 52:13—53:12 Hebrews 10:16–25 or 4:14–16; 5:7–9 John 18:1—19:42

Think of your life and spiritual journey. When have you, like Peter, failed to do what you promised? When have you, like Peter, been a rock for others?



SATURDAY, MARCH 30

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

Matthew 27:59–60

About a year ago, the United States Surgeon General warned of an epidemic of loneliness. He described acute isolation as significantly more widespread than previously imagined and as equally or more dangerous to Americans' health as smoking and obesity. I found myself thinking about this epidemic of loneliness while reading Matthew 27:57–66, which describes Joseph of Arimathea wrapping Jesus' body in cloth, laying the body in a tomb, rolling a stone to shut the tomb and walking away.

Jesus is isolated and shut away, separated by a wall of cold stone.

In Christian tradition, Holy Saturday commemorates the time when Jesus descended into the depths of hell. I recently saw a dramatic, medieval Christian painting portraying Jesus entering hell through the open mouth of a crocodile-like demon. As a person in the twenty-first century, though, I imagine this scene somewhat less literally. Today, as Jesus is entombed, I imagine Jesus entering the hell of acute loneliness, descending to the depths of isolation and pain.

Tradition has it that Jesus enters hell in order to share in this experience—and to redeem and liberate us from its grip on our lives. Let us pray that this may be so. There is so much isolation and loneliness in our world today and so much hunger for genuine connection. Easter has much to do with the grace found in friendship and community.

Today's readings

Psalm 31:1–4, 15–16 | Job 14:1–14 or Lamentations 3:1–9, 19–24 | 1 Peter 4:1–8 Matthew 27:57–66 or John 19:38–42

Reflect on how the Good News of the Resurrection can take away the sting of loneliness. How can you be Christ's hands and feet in that work?



EASTER SUNDAY , MARCH 31

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

John 20:18

This is the final reflection on this journey, and I want to end by saying what a privilege it has been to accompany you along the way during this season of Lent. Having walked through these forty days together, let us now share in Easter joy.

Each Gospel has a different account of the moment the disciples discover Jesus' empty tomb. In reading the four accounts this year, I was struck by the way angels appear in the texts. In John 20, two angels dressed in white sit where Jesus had been lying. In Mark 16, an angel appears as a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side of the interior of the tomb. In Matthew, the earth trembles as an angel descends from heaven to roll back the stone and sit on top of it. And in Luke 24, two angels assure the women who have come to Jesus' tomb that Jesus is alive.

Sometimes the angels bring words of reassurance. In other stories, they simply state that Jesus has been raised. And in one instance, the angels are confused as to why Mary Magdalene is crying. Doesn't she know? Christ is alive and has been raised from the dead.

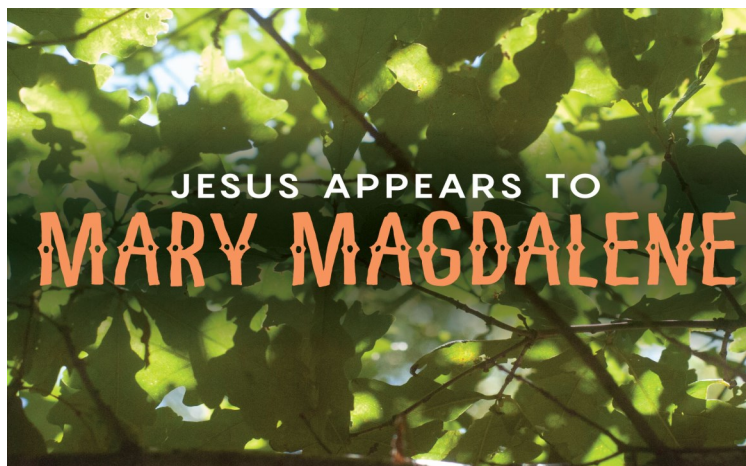
As we come to the end of this season, I am reassured by the physical placement of these angels. The Gospels tell us that these messengers are seated on top of, beside or just inside death's tomb. They have come to announce a new reality, and I wonder if we, as Christians, aren't called to join these angels in doing the same.

Fearfully, tremblingly, very imperfectly, we are called to sit in places of darkness and terror and proclaim that death has no victory here.

Today's readings

Psalm 118:1–2,14–24 | Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9 | 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43 | John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ has risen indeed.







Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
John 20:1 (NIV)

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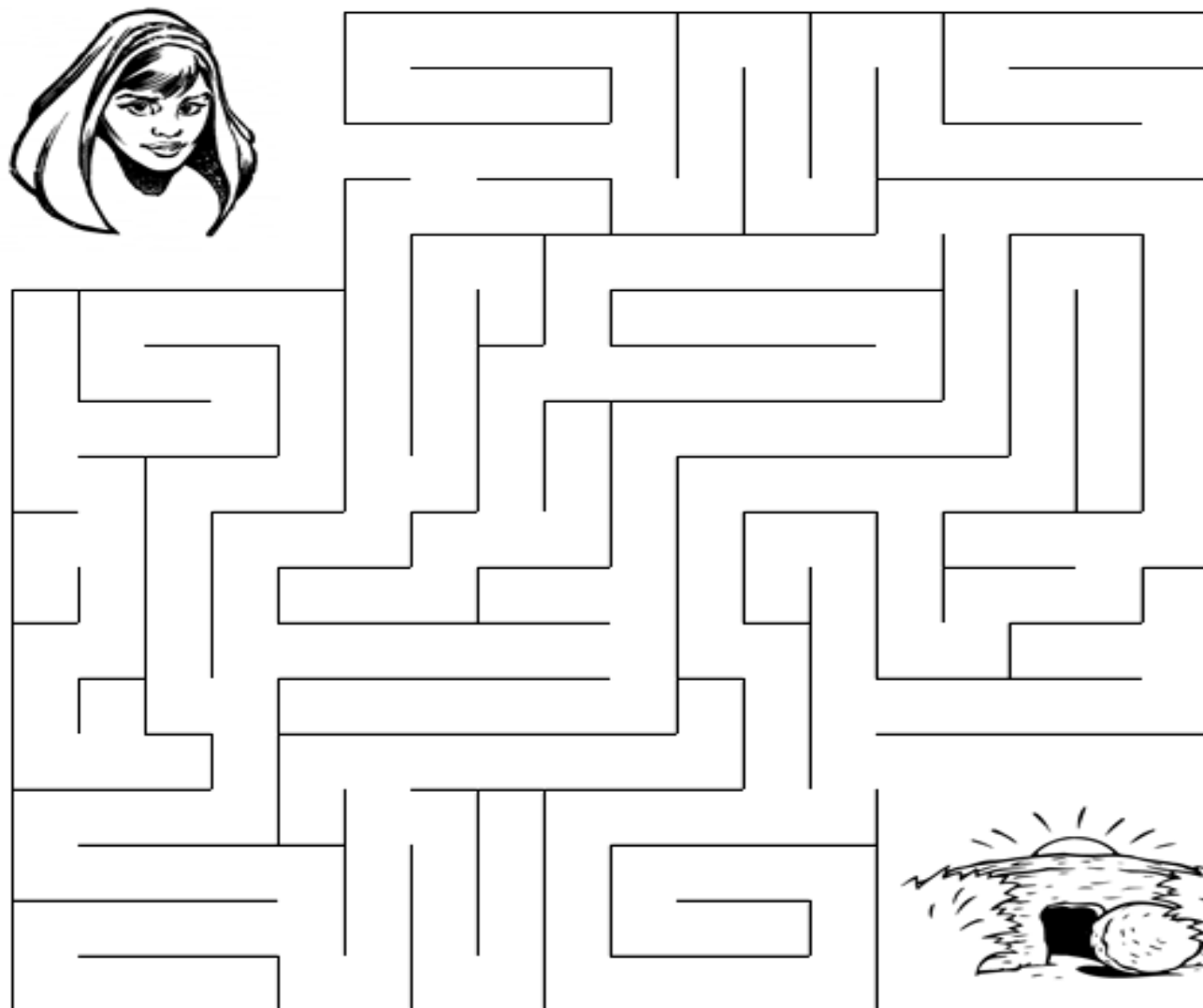
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The Case of the Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

John 20:1 (NIV)

Based on John 20:1-18 (NIV)



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