

From: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church office@stmattsbldm.org
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To: roghollis@mac.com

PM

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Contents

Rector's Ramblings

The Doors! The Doors! In wisdom let us attend!--Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

The Deacon's exhortation quoted above is not about the rock band responsible for "Riders on the Storm", but literally about closing the doors of the Church before the recitation of the Nicene Creed.

Today, let us attend to the doors in wisdom for there is a proclamation made in metal.



Notice, first the horn motif mentioned last week.

Secondly, if polished (and that is a task that is a near impossibility) the brass "rivets" combined with the handles form the Alpha & Omega a symbol for Jesus Christ.

We first find the reference to Alpha and Omega (the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet) in Revelation 1:8 and it is an important motif through the

The Good News

February 9, 2016



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Tonight

Men of the parish are preparing a traditional meal of pancakes and sausage for everyone on Tuesday, February 9th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Come celebrate Mardi Gras (or for those of us who do not use fluent French - Fat Tuesday) with friends and family of the parish.

Bible Study

Returns for the Lenten Series which starts on February 10. We will meet before the 7PM Ash Wednesday service.

During Lent we will study the lives of the Apostles after Pentecost. Each evening will begin at 6PM with soup and salad and (after Ash Wednesday) concludes at 7:30 with Compline.

Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 PM on Wednesday Evening (following the study at 6 p.m.)

Remember Stations of the Cross

are prayed each Friday in Lent, beginning with February 12th, 5:30 p.m.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

book confirming the identity of Jesus Christ as God. In Rev. 21:6 John the Revelator reports, "And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end." Yet, the reader of Scripture should not be surprised to read this in Revelation. The idea of God as first and last is found in Isaiah, "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god." (Isa. 44:6) And again, "Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last." (Isa. 48:12)

This identification of Jesus with YHWH, the God of Israel, is communicated with the location of the Alpha and Omega on the door. In one of Jesus' controversial statements in the Gospel of John he states, "I AM the door of the sheep." This use of I AM is a direct claim to continuity and identity with the God who revealed himself to Moses in Exodus 3.14, "God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM". For Jesus' hearers this would engender controversy.



Jesus, however, does not stop there, he continues in Joh 10:9, "I AM the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

Jesus is the door and only by entering through him can we be saved. Our very own Church door makes this proclamation in metal. Would it surprise you to discover that this proclamation is as controversial today as it was during Jesus earthly ministry?

Dave+

PS I will be migrating my personal (and most often checked) email from gmail to

frhalt@protonmail.com over the next month or so. The Church email for me (rector@stmattsblm.org) will continue to be "live".

 **Service Schedule**
for the week of 
February 7, 2016

Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
7:30 AM

Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
10:00 AM

Evensong 4:30 PM

Other Services:

Ash Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Morning Prayer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday 7:00 AM
and Thursday 7:30 AM

Rosary 5:30 PM Wednesdays.

Intercessory Prayer

Monday at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday
at 12:40 p.m., and Thursday at
10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

 **Ministry Links** 

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1920 E. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701

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