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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Lent is the season that most priests use to make experimental changes. The reason is that it is a fairly short season, and any experiment can be chalked up to "being penitential". Now, it might have to do with actual penance, or repentance, or struggle, or it may simply be "penitential" in that it is to be endured by the congregation for a season.

With that in mind, you will notice that the Celebrant will be facing away from the people during the Eucharistic Prayer. This is the "traditional" posture and is referred to as Ad Orientem, or East Facing. The "modern", or currently normal, posture is called Versus Populum (towards the people).

The terms "traditional" and "modern" are not really appropriate, as there are examples of both types of celebration in the ancient and modern Church. However, one or the other has become the regular way of doing things at various times. However, they both symbolize, or embody, something different.

Ad Orientem is often viewed as the "priest turning his back on the people" and therefore not inclusive or inviting. However, the reality is that in facing the altar in the same direction of the people, the priest is actually identifying with, and communicating that he is a representative of, the people. Additionally, his identity is one of leading the congregation in worship. In short, the priest is saying to the people, "I am one of you", and to God, "I am one of these your people and have come

The Good News

February 16, 2018



Adult Formation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Meets this week 2/21 at 5:30 for supper and study at 6.

For Lent we will try something just a little bit different. We will study Hymns and Prayer. Each night we will discuss a couple of hymns from our Hymnal, different types of prayer, and spend time in quiet practicing prayer.

Breakfast Fellowships

Men's Breakfast will meet at 8:00 AM on 17 February.

Altar Leadership

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Would you please mark Sunday, February 18 on your calendar to join Fr. Dave and Dn. Tim for a brief ministry training/refresher after the 10:00am service.

We are asking all serving as Acolytes, Crucifers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Thurifers to come together for review and refresher of our various ministries and their details. Feel free to go briefly to coffee hour and then gather around the rail promptly so we can share about a half an hour to cover key aspects of the functions.

To prepare for February 18, please share any specific questions or concerns you may have about your ministry so we can be sure to cover what you wish to know.

Deacon Tim

Time to Update the Directory

In the third week of March, we plan to publish a new

to you with them and on their behalf".

Versus Populum, while perhaps more welcoming, communicates more subtly that the priest is not the leader in worship, but the host of the table. In many ways, it is a confirmation that the priest functions in In Persona Christi Capitis (In the Person of Christ the Head), and is an Icon of Jesus. Ironically, the seemingly egalitarian model reinforces a significant difference between laity and clergy.

So, is one right and one wrong? By no means. In fact, both have elements of the whole picture. The priest is one of the people, and the priest is supposed to be an Icon of Christ. Yet, priests need the help of the people to embody this.

So why make this change? To remind us all that our clergy are one of us, and to remind the clergy that our role is to primarily be pastors and leaders of worship, bringing the laity with us in one Body before the throne of the Living God.

I am very interested to hear how you receive this seasonal change in orientation.

Pray for me, as I pray for you during this Lenten Season,

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

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

Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it to the Office (office@stmattsblm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

Gary will take photos for 10AM worshippers on the next three Sundays (Feb 4, 11, 18) and then he will be available for 7:30AM worshippers on Sundays (Feb. 25, March 4 and 11). He sets-up in Parish Hall immediately after worship.

Chrism Mass

Each year the clergy of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to celebrate a "Mass of Chrism". This special Mass is centered around the renewal of ordination vows for each clerical order, and the blessing of the oils used for anointing of the sick and baptism. In many ways this is the ancient picture of the Church, Bishop surrounded by clergy and laity.

Yet, it is a service that is usually poorly attended as in most places it takes place on a week day in Holy Week. In our Diocese the service has been moved to the Saturday before Palm Sunday in the hope that the laity of the Diocese will be interested in attending.

St. Matthew's will be setting up a carpool for anyone interested in attending the service. After the Mass we will head to a local restaurant for a meal and fellowship.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hallway.

Date: 24 March 2018

Place: St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield

Time: 11 AM (Leave St. Matthew's at 9AM).

Return: ????

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

18-February

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Volunteer needed

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson & Shelley Carter

Thurifer: Emily Lavikoff

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Shelley Carter

E.M.: Shelley Carter

Monday Counter: Gary Ploense
Coffee Hour: Valarie Jones & Kathryn Morris

25-February

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson
Lector: Chris Bennett
E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt
Lector: Cris Embree
E.M.: Shelley Carter
Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis (sub)
Coffee Hour: Chrissy & John Stoffer

Outreach Opportunities

COMMITTEE MEETING - Sunday 2/18, 9:00 AM

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH

In January and February of the new year, let's help The Salvation Army collect nonperishable food items to help needy people get through the winter. Here are suggestions:

- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Canned soups
- Peanut butter
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Macaroni & cheese boxes
- Box dinners
- Any nonperishable food items

We will continue to collect and deliver gently used coats and other winter items to The Salvation Army through January. Thank you all so very much for your continuing generosity.

The Outreach Committee

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of February 18th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall

Sunday-9:00 a.m.-Outreach Committee meeting

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-7:00 p.m.-MLT meeting

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Tuesday-9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.-ISO Auditions

Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Simple Supper

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation & CGS

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Friday-3:00 to 5:00 p.m.-Confession
Friday-5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for February 18, 2018

Hymns: #150, #470, #143

Old Testament

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Psalm 25:1-9

Ad te, Domine, levavi

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *

for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness * to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 11 - 17

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Ken Barling

Ron Gordon

Lynn Gray

Collect for February 18th

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save;; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

