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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

We began our Lenten series on Wednesday night, and I was very pleased with the turn out. Our theme is Hymns and Prayer and we discussed the importance of hymnody as both theology and as prayers. Singing hymns is a form of corporate and individual prayer.

In light of our discussions on Wednesday, I thought I would share a few thoughts with our entire congregation on hymnody.

The first of these is that hymns are chosen for inclusion in our official sources for their theology, not for their "singability". Each hymn text is a complete theological text and is useful for both teaching the faith and prayer.

It is the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music that determines what enters into our official hymnals. Their guidance is to include texts from the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, or "from texts congruent with them." So, for Episcopalians/Anglicans it is the text that takes supreme importance, not the music.

Tunes for hymns are not set in stone and can be changed as needed. We sometimes do this, but only if the tune is congruent with the text. In other words, singing a text that goes best with a soft melodic pastoral tune to a march is not really appropriate. Think of singing "Come thou fount of every blessing" to the tune "Austria" (The German National Anthem Tune). It does not really work.

Hymns for Sundays and other services are chosen for their texts

The Good News

February 23, 2018



Adult Formation meets this week 2/28 at 5:30 for supper and study at 6. (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is off this week)

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 singing together and in quiet practicing prayer.

Time to Update the Directory

In the third week of March, we plan to publish a new 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@stmattsbldm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

Gary is taking photos for 7:30AM worshippers on Sundays (Feb. 25, March 4 and 11). He sets-up in Parish Hall immediately after worship.

Outreach Opportunities

Very Special Project

Outreach committee has decided to raise money for Mr. Advent Chakupewa. He is the son of Bishop Elias Chakupewa of Tabora, Tanzania. He is attending Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. The total cost per year is \$4000, upkeep included. He has wanted to do this for several years and plans to return to Tabora to practice medicine. Checks can be made out to the church with note in the memo that it is for *Outreach-Education*.

and how they support the readings, homily, Eucharistic prayer, and collect. Sometimes this will produce a hymn that is "unsingable" as the tune is not in our regular repertoire. If we can use a different tune, and it preserves the "feel" of the hymn we will. If, however, the tune is unfamiliar and you find it "unsingable", still do try as the text has been chosen to communicate a message. If you still cannot sing it, use the time to mediate on the text itself.

And if you have questions about the hymns, or tunes, for any given Sunday, or want to know why something was chosen, please let me know. After all, in the words of Harry Truman, "The buck stops here."

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

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

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 is 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

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

4-March

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Lector: Susan Long

E.M.:

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Nona & Harlan Noel

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of February 25th

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

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

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Evensong

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

Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies

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

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 (NO CGS this evening)

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 25, 2018

Hymns: #401, #141, #707, #345

Old Testament

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me

and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22:22-30

L: Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

P: My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship
him.

L: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to
the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

L: To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in
worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

P: My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 25 - March 3

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Bob Cooper

Collect for February 25th

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

