



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

515 Franklin Avenue • River Forest, Illinois 60305 • 708-366-7730

April 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With Lent 4 behind us, we are approaching the end of the season. Thus, we are approaching Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery. We are approaching the defining moment of our faith.

Rather than another 'book review' which I typically do for Lent, I thought I would change(!) this year. I thought I would take us through the Proper Preface for Holy Week.

Proper Prefaces are the inserted words the priest says/sings in the liturgy during the Sursum Corda, just before the Sanctus at the start of The Great Thanksgiving (see BCP p. 333/340). Proper Prefaces are season-specific and can be found at the end of the Holy Eucharist I section of the BCP, starting on page 344.

During Lent, three Prefaces are available: one of two is selected each service prior to Holy Week; the Holy Week Preface will be used on Palm Sunday and throughout the rest of Holy Week. We have been using the 'first option' thus far during Lent.

Like the seasonal blessings mentioned in prior issues, the Proper Prefaces contain statements of faith appropriate for a particular season. They remind us of events that occurred in that season and what they mean for us today (not only when a particular season rolls around, but for our faith as a whole).

The Proper Preface is inserted (see BCP p. 341) to explain why we should be giving thanks to God at that time (ie, in that service and during that season). The Holy Week Preface says:

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord Most of our prayers contain this language somewhere, typically at the closing and combined with the rest of the Trinitarian language (Father and Holy Spirit). This is simply following instructions from our Lord (John 14:13-14), that anything we ask in his name he will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

What we are 'asking' God at this time is to be present with us in this Eucharist, the meal Jesus instituted on the night before he was handed over to suffering and death. We don't need to remind God of this. We sometimes need to remind ourselves.

**who for our sins was lifted high upon the cross** Jesus was and is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. This world remains a sinful place. Jesus remains the one who removes our sins from us.

With telephone poles and skyscrapers around today, we may not think that Jesus was lifted very high. Humans even go higher: on airplanes and into space, even to the moon. Our creations go even farther (probes into deep space).

The height of the cross is irrelevant. It was high enough to lift him off of the ground for others to see. It was high enough so that he would hang and die. It was high enough to stand out to one and all. It was high enough.

**that he might draw the whole world to himself** Height gave Jesus perspective on the rest of the then world around him as he was crucified. At the same time, it gave those around him perspective and line-of-sight to see him.

The analogy is to a wilderness experience of the Hebrew people. The people had again murmured against God, so God sent poisonous snakes that bit and killed many. Moses was instructed to make a bronze serpent and to lift it high via a pole (what became the caduceus): those who could see this serpent after they had been bitten would be saved.

**who by his suffering and death became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him** Execution by crucifixion involved pain, suffering and death. It was used as a reminder by Romans that those who crossed them would pay a steep price. Jesus did suffer and die - there is no doubt about it.

His physical suffering began when he was whipped. It continued when they placed the crown of thorns on his head. It ratcheted up even further when they nailed him to the cross, rather than merely secure him there with ropes. It was not an easy death.

He also was raised from the dead on Easter, becoming the author of eternal salvation for his followers, then and now. Our journey of faith, our journey into Christ (as one author put it), is how we live out our trust in him.

Thus, even this little 'add-on' during the Eucharist is a statement of faith in and of itself. It reminds us of events at a specific time that impact us throughout all time ... and beyond.

Peace be with you,

## AROUND AND ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH

Even before Spring officially arrived, we'd begun to see glimpses of what that means. We'd had warm days. We'd even seen green start to appear out of the ground, at least. Blossoms and leaves are still a few weeks away, but warmer temps are coming! No doubt we'll see at least one more snow: after all, this is Chicago. But it shouldn't stick for long.

### **St. Leonard's Ministries**

Our first Evensong/Pot-Luck Supper/Program of the season was a grand affair. After a brief 'choir rehearsal' of the congregation, Fr. Pete officiated lovely service. We retired to the undercroft for an amazing array of offerings, the usual Christ Church fare.

The program was a moving presentation by Victor Glaskin, director of St. Leonard's Ministries, and one of the residents, Alonzo. Each spoke without notes, but from the heart.

Victor gave a brief summary of the work that is done with both males and females who come either directly from incarceration or shortly after release therefrom. He made the point that these individuals have to be motivated enough to work within the program. St. Leonard's recidivism rate (returning to incarceration) is about 18%, while the state average is about 50% (St. Leonard's rate would be lower if they were more selective in accepting applicants to the program, but that would defeat some of the goals of the ministry). They teach culinary skills, 'greening' skills, computer skills and provide the only high school graduation (not GED) program for adults in the state: Mayor Daly awarded the most recent diplomas.

Alonzo spoke as one who was still 'in process'. He'd been a resident for about 6 months and was working his way through the program. He gave us a brief history of his life, then moved on to how St. Leonard's had helped him and how he was now motivated to return the favor. He gave an inciteful illustration of a dog who sat on a nail and cried until it got up off of the nail: we have to want to change ourselves - no one can do it for us. He was still being mentored there and was trying to mentor others when they got stuck.

### **St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians**

Our second evening of Evensong/Pot Luck Supper/Program was another enjoyable event. Evensong is such a beautiful way to close the day. The Pot Luck was an incredible feast. Fr. Pete talked to us about familiar scripture.

He began by recalling for us a little bit about St. Paul and his travels. He also mentioned that Corinth was an important port and crossroads city (a la Chicago?) in the Roman Empire. It even held bi-ennial games along the lines of the Summer Olympics.

Paul stayed in Corinth longer than anywhere else he visited, except Ephesus. In fact, he wrote to Corinth from Ephesus. This letter, like his other letters, contains a letter-style common in Paul's day but a bit more formal than today's style. His opening and closing language is familiar. In fact, much of the language in Paul's letters is familiar to us, since we use so much of it in our liturgies.

The letter is written in two parts: the first 6 chapters reply to the concerns of Chloe; the rest of the chapter responds to concerns of the general community. There were many 'concerns', as Paul was now absent and had founded a church in Gentile-land. As additional background, Paul's source for his authority was read: his conversion experience on the Damascus Road in Acts.

Time did not allow discussion of all of the concerns. A sample of 6 was investigated. They included the institution of the Eucharist (Chapter 11), eating meat dedicated to idols (Chapter 10), the veiling of women (and unveiling of men) (Chapter 11), the gifts of the spirit (Chapter 12), Paul's famous hymn to love (Chapter 13) and his thinking on the resurrection (Chapter 15). Concluding, Fr. Pete reminded us that we really hadn't even scratched the surface of Paul's theology or even this first letter to the Corinthians.

### **Oak Park Deanery Quiet Day...Maureen Puleo**

The Deanery Quiet Day this year was at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in La Grange on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight people attended from around our Deanery. The Rev. Terri Stanford was the main speaker. The topic was "Dispositions and Dangers: Our Baptismal Calling".

The word "disposition" comes from the Latin *disponere*, to arrange or to put in order. As Christians, we are disposed to imitate Christ. We discussed what it is to be disposed to be present, to be vulnerable, to be hospitable, to bring order, to be outrageously humble and to simplify. We also talked about the dangers of being a Christians: the risk involved in reaching out to others. She concluded by stating that all these dispositions are held together by Christ's love for us.

### **United Thank Offering...Maureen Puleo**

Donations from Christ Church so far total \$257.00. We are still accepting your donations. Please bring or mail them to church. All the monies collected will be presented at the ECW Convention. Thanks you to everyone for your support.

### **The Oak Park/River Forest Food Pantry**

The Oak Park/River Forest Food Pantry again this year is participating in the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Feinsein Challenge**. Rhode Island philanthropist Alan S. Feinstein will divide \$1 million among anti hunger agencies nationwide as a spur to raise funds during March and April, 2010. He has challenged food pantries across America to collect as many food items and cash donations as possible. At this time the Pantry especially needs, full size bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving supplies, shampoo or conditioner would be great for a "toiletries drive." You may bring the items to church. Monetary donation to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry by check should be made out to *Christ Church* and marked for OPRF Food Pantry and send or brought to church.

\$ 50 will provide 9 meals for 9 families

\$500 will provide 9 meals for 92 families

\$ 250 will provide 9 meals for 46 families

\$1000 will provide 9 meals for 184 families

All non-perishable foods are always needed and can be brought to church on Sundays. We all shop: just buy one extra item a week. The following items are in constant need: canned soups and vegetables, cake mixes, crackers, cereal, baby foods. Special thanks to everyone for remembering the needs of the needy.

## **The Prayer Shawl Ministry...Maureen Puleo**

I have now completed my third shawl which was blessed by Fr. Pete and presented to Ethel Edwards. I would like to start a knitting/crochet group at Christ Church. If interested, please call me at 708-848-3476.

## **Helping out St. Leonard's House**

Please remember to keep bringing coffee, flip-flops, toiletries, and miscellaneous paper goods. The need is ongoing.

## **Lawrence Hall Youth Services**

We recently received two letters and a card from folks at Lawrence Hall Youth Services thanking us for the \$300 Red Stocking party collection, this year delayed until January due to Fr. Pete's installation. They have been posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

## **Easter Flower Decorations**

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope for Easter Flowers. Your contribution will provide for flowers and decorations for our church at Easter. These contributions may be made "In Loving Memory" of departed loved ones, or "In Thanksgiving." Please write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line of your check to Christ Church, so that your contribution may be properly recorded. Please print clearly the name(s) of the person(s) to be memorialized, or the nature of the thanksgiving on the enclosed Easter Flower Envelope and send it to church or bring it on Sunday.

### **Holy Week and Easter Services**

Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Eucharist (followed by stripping of the Altar and Agape Meal in the Vestry room)
Good Friday	12 noon	Stations of the Cross
	7:30 p.m.	Eucharist (from reserved Sacrament)
Easter Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (Followed by Easter Egg Hunt)

## **People to remember in our daily prayers**

Ethel Edwards, Marie Platek, Jean Small, Judith Tracy, Ellen Tracy, Dick Joseph, Isabelle Rinal, James Swaba, Jerry, Ed, Elizabeth, Betsy Bradley, Dean Ferris, Ed Downs, Elaine Carroll, Kay McMannamon, Suzanne Davis, Chris Fogle, Sally Sprandel, Nick, Ross, Isabella, Jeannette, Wendy, Matt, Gina, Crista, Tatiana, Keith, Janet, Daniel, Iris, Thomas, Helen, Clayton Shuck, John Landem.

We also pray for those serving in our armed forces especially, Joseph Sowka, Kent McQueen III, Charles McQueen, Zachary Bokum, Andrew Nissen, Jonathan Felix and Tracy Engleson.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Guild Cleaning Day, Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** to prepare for Easter.

**Pence Cans - Please bring your filled Pence cans on Easter Sunday.** The donations will help support the needs of the church.

**Noon Eucharist** - Wednesdays (except Holy Week).

**ECW Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** starting at 9:00 a.m. at The Church of The Holy Spirit, Lake Forest. For information see the February issue of THE DIOCESAN MIRROR on the table in the Narthex.

**Vestry Meeting, Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries in April

3	Patricia Millett	20	Miles Caven Clary
9	John Edwards		Debbie & Bill Schaubel
11	Megan Schaubel	24	Patricia and Rich Millett
12	Patricia Brundage	26	Patti Wright

### DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY

**Special Birthday Celebration May 2<sup>nd</sup>...**Ginny and Frank Swaba

Long time member of this parish, Isabelle Rinal will turn 90. She was born on a Sunday morning and kept the family out of church (St. Lawrence's in Libertyville). We thought it more than appropriate to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at church followed by a luncheon and cake in the undercroft. All the church family is invited to join us after the 10 a.m. Eucharist and help her celebrate. No gifts please...just your presence.

**Fun Raisers Rummage Sale This Spring, Saturday, May 8...**Ginny Swaba

We are in the last month of preparation for the Rummage Sale. Please sign-up and volunteer your time for sorting and preparing for this fund raising effort. Many hands are needed for the big day. The Rummage Sale not only benefits Christ Church but the community by offering usable items at a very reasonable price.

A schedule of the hours for delivery and sorting is on the table in the Narthex. If you need help delivering large items, call me at 708-771-5023 or 708-291-0602 to arrange for pick up.

**Pentecost, May 23...**Calling all the non-English tongues to join us for this opportunity to read scripture in various languages as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and the tongues of flame that lighted upon the disciples' heads.

**APRIL SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP MINISTERS, ALTAR GUILD,  
ALTAR FLOWERS, COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:**

		<b>10:00</b>	
<b>4</b>	Easter Sunday	Altar Guild	K. Flanders/ M. Gilbert
		Altar Flowers	Easter flowers
		Thurifer	M. Slusser
		Acolyte	N. McReynolds/B. Schaubel
		Chalice	D. Schaubel
		Lectors	P. Muth/G. Swaba
		Usher	R. Thomphsen
		Counter	R. Millett
		Coffee Hour/Egg Hunt	The Vestry
		<b>7:30</b>	<b>10:00</b>
<b>11</b>		Altar Guild	P. Wright/P. Millett
		Altar Flowers	E. & J. Edwards
		Acolyte	M. Brundage
		Chalice	A. McQueen
		Lectors	A. McQueen
		Usher	R. Lietz
		Counter	
		Coffee Hour	
			M. Elliott
			D. Moravec
			N. DiCiocco/P. Millett
			D. DiCiocco
			D. Moravec
			P. Millett/M. Kard
<b>18</b>		Altar Guild	M. Slusser
		Altar Flowers	D. & B. Schaubel
		Acolyte	M. Brundage
		Chalice	A. McQueen
		Lectors	A. McQueen
		Usher	P. Kowal
		Counter	
		Coffee Hour	
			N. McReynolds
			N. DiCiocco
			J. Muth/M. Lopez
			P. Muth
			F. Swaba
			R. Thomphsen/A. Moreno
<b>25</b>		Altar Guild	M. Puleo
		Altar Flowers	M. & D. Lopez
		Acolyte	A. McQueen
		Chalice	A. McQueen
		Lectors	A. McQueen
		Usher	R. Lietz
		Counter	
		Coffee Hour	
			M. Elliott
			M. Slusser
			P. Wright/P. Small
			P. Small
			A. Moreno
			D. Schaubel/P. Millett

**If you are unable to serve on your day, please switch with someone and  
call the office before Friday at 708-366-7730**