

**For The Bulletin Of  
April 14, 2019**



***From Father Robert***

We are fickle creatures! We can experience happiness to the point of being ecstatic one minute and sink to the depths of despair the next. We can sing the praises of someone now that we will despise later. There are certainly reasons for the changes in our emotions and attitudes, but there can be no dispute that our emotions and attitudes change, and sometimes quickly so.

The church attempts to capture and express this fickleness in the liturgy today when we enter with palm branches singing songs of praise, only to cry out in unison moments later during the Passion, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Luke's version of the passion of Jesus has several unique characteristics when compared especially with his Marcan source. For example, Luke gives us the episode of the back-and-forth between Pilate and Herod that is absent in all other gospels. Some scholars see that Luke's Christology bears even on the relationship between these two rulers, who, unwittingly through their encounter with Christ, "became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly." It's as though Christ has the power to bring friendship even among those who are seeking to have Him executed.

The power of Christ is also on display in this gospel when Jesus prays from the cross, "Father, forgive them." The distinctly Lucan theme of forgiveness is on Jesus' lips at the moment before His death. And the mercy of Jesus extends even to a criminal, which Luke relates to us in an exchange between them. Again, no other evangelist tells this story. The other evangelists simply narrate that two criminals were crucified along with Jesus.

The profundity of these two chapters is something that we reflect upon year after year. We will not exhaust this story. It will exhaust us, and we will return to it to gain insight, understanding, and strength. The grand themes that Luke employed in his gospel are on full display here: mercy and forgiveness.

Let's soak up the gospel today and try to keep our fickleness in check. Let's wave palm branches and sing songs of praise without losing ourselves in call to "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" But even if, and perhaps when, we do, we know that forgiveness awaits from a merciful and loving God.





### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Perhaps the liturgical expression of palm branches followed by shouts of crucifixion has something in common with our spiritual life. When are the moments we are ecstatic? When are our palm branch and singing moments? What causes those moments? Are we caught up with the crowd? Are we praising the Messiah, or the things we want the Messiah to do? Are we caught up in expectations, or ready to be a disciple, which literally means “to follow?”

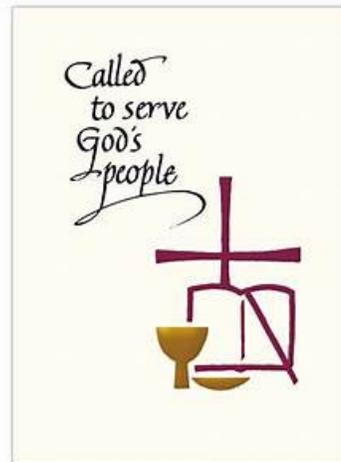
It is much easier to sing somebody’s praise when we think that person will live up to our expectations. But what happens when they do not? What happens when there is another path to follow?

The moments in our spiritual life when we cry “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” are not likely to be “high praise” moments. Crucifixions happen by our negligence and our selfishness. We crucify when we destroy, uproot, tear down, or otherwise extinguish life and that which is life-giving. And often we don’t realize it until it’s too late. But we believe in a God Who brings life from death, even when we cause the death. And that is the ultimate paschal mystery.

What significance will Palm Sunday have for me this year? What am I

bringing to worship today? What will I take away? More than just a fresh palm frond?

- The prophet Isaiah tells us, “The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.” Who are the weary in our community? What word do they need to hear?
- St. Paul records an early hymn to Christ in his letter to the Philippians, lauding the One Who “emptied Himself.” What spiritual practice helps you to empty yourself so as to make room for Jesus?
- At the beginning of today’s gospel we hear Luke’s account of the Last Supper, when Jesus gives His body and blood, His entire self, to us. How do you experience Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist?
- How will you set aside your regular routine these next eight days to enter into Holy Week and the Triduum?



The Members and Pastoral Council of Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church cordially invite you to attend the Service

of Ordination for **The Reverend Herman A. Sealey** as a Pastor of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 195 Alvarado Avenue, Pittsburg, California 94565.

Our parish has had a wonderful relationship with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church for the past 15 years. Their Pastor, Rev. Roger Kuehn, has participated in our Ecumenical Good Friday Liturgies as well as participating in the World Hunger Walk which always leaves from their facility on San Jose Avenue. I am attending and I hope there will be other parishioners who will join me in this wonderful event on Palm Sunday for Deacon Sealey as he is ordained to the Presbyterate.



### ***The Easter Environment***

You are invited to become a part of one of the great traditions of our parish by contributing to the Easter Environment. Our Art & Environment Committee has once again planned a beautiful and appropriate environment that says "EASTER!" for the entire 7 weeks of the Easter Season. Your contributions provide the candles, fabric, art work, vestments, floral arrangements, plants, and trees that adorn the sanctuary from the evening of The Great Vigil to Pentecost. Your donation may be made either "In memory of" or "In honor of" a

loved one. Please place your contribution in the envelopes provided and indicate the nature of your donation, either "in honor of" or "in loving memory of." Many thanks for your support.



**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 and 11:00 a.m.**  
**PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE OF THE LITURGIES!**

*The Blessing of the Palms, Procession, Reading of the Passion, Holy Eucharist (incense at 11:00 a.m.)*

**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist for Monday of Holy Week**

**Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion for Tuesday of Holy Week**

**Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist for Wednesday of Holy Week**

# Triduum



**Holy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>,**  
**8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer**

**7:30 p.m. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** – *Reception of the Newly Blessed Holy Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist, Candle-light Procession to the Altar of Repose; Incense*

**Good Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer**

**12:00 Noon**  
**Ecumenical Good Friday Service**  
**“The Seven Last Words”**

**3:00 p.m. Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death** –  
Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion

**7:30 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer and Veneration of the Cross** (*Incense*)

**Holy Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer**

**8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil** – *Lighting of the New Fire, Liturgy of the Word, The Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Holy Eucharist (Incense)*



**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 a.m.**  
*Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Holy Eucharist*

**11:00 a.m. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME!**  
*Procession, Liturgy of the Word, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Holy Eucharist ( Incense)*



To those who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Nina Bourdain, Mencey Osborne, Nancy Santos, Thelma and Reno Benasfre, Jean Rogers, Jun Bajet, Al Cosce, and Alfred Madoshi.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Rose Salamanca, Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Father Robert.**

...a very special Thank You to the volunteers who came on Wednesday morning to help with the Easter letter mailing: **Bernice Campbell, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield,**

**Rowena Cayaban, Crispina Malonosan, Claudette Gumina, Lorie Tapia, Bobbie Ochang, Vangie Parrilla, Nancy Newton, Jane Enos and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...to **Dilcia Aparicio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Frances Rojek, Mel Costanza, Maryann Peddicord, Estrella Rusk, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Paul Riofski.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza (Lead), Beth Enea, and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keeps watch over our vehicles during the Reconciliation Service and the weekend Liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Dave Simpson.**



I am often asked about resources for spiritual health and well-being for women, especially given the heavy masculine emphasis in our denomination and worship. There are a number of wonderful women authors and spiritual directors who contribute regularly to women's spirituality. They include Joyce Rupp who writes a monthly newsletter to which you may subscribe at no charge at [www.joycerupp.com](http://www.joycerupp.com). Another wonderful resource is Sister Joan Chittister and her monthly "Vision and Viewpoint." You may google the address to subscribe. Another wonderful resource for both women and men is Fr. Richard Rohr and you may subscribe for his daily meditations at [meditations@cac.org](mailto:meditations@cac.org). Other resources can be found by simply googling "spiritual resources for women."



***Easter Greetings for Archbishop  
Brunett***

Please join me in sending the warmest of Easter wishes to Archbishop Alex Brunett. Archbishop led our diocese for only 7 months in the interim between bishops. The Retired Archbishop of Seattle, he had a huge impact on the diocese in the brief time he was here.

We were especially blessed by his presence during that period of time when visited the parish and presided for liturgy. We will not forget his homily nor the love he shared from the moment he arrived. When he left the diocese, he suffered a major stroke and continues to live in a care facility.

Please join me in sending him Easter Cards with good wishes, the remembrance of his visit and present with us, thanking him for the amazing work he did in the brief time he was our bishop, and letting him know that he is remembered with great love and affection. Cards may be sent as follows:

Archbishop Alex Brunett  
Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of  
Seattle, 710 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA  
98104.

