

Triduum



From Pastor's Desk

The Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

The Triduum (meaning three days) is the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover. The Triduum marks the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection and is the most important time of the church year. It begins with the evening Divine Service on Holy Thursday, continues through the Divine Service on Good Friday, and reaches its culmination in the Easter Vigil.

The services of the Triduum are designed as one service over three days. Since it is one service in three parts—Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Easter Vigil—no Benediction is spoken at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday Divine Service, neither is there an entrance rite nor a Benediction on Good Friday. The Benediction returns at the conclusion of the holy three days at the end of the Easter Vigil. Thus, I encourage you to make time to attend all three services so as to participate fully in the richness of these three most holy days.

The Goal of Lenten Preparation Reached

Prepared by the days of Lent, Christians celebrate on these holiest of days the saving work God has accomplished in Christ. From the events

remembered these days, sorrowful and yet so joyful, the church takes part in the deepest mystery of the Christian Faith: the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In rites, ceremonies, and words the mysteries of Jesus' final hours are with us again: his passion, his death, his rest in the tomb, and his rising from the dead. In this we discover the answer to age-old questions: Does God love us? Is God merciful? Does God care for us? We have only to look to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection to learn the answer.

These are days for fixing our eyes on the holy mystery of his cross and filling our ears with the Words of his Gospel. Nowhere else does God's love appear so vividly. In the love Christ showed for a sinful world, we find the beginning of the Church, the source of her sacraments, the key to understanding the human story, and our hope for eternal life.

Holy Thursday

The Triduum begins with Holy Communion on Holy Thursday evening, when Jesus sacramentally anticipated the gift he would make of himself on the cross. It is also called Maundy Thursday. Maundy from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means

commandment, for “a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.” His command to love one another as He has loved us is dramatically demonstrated in His making the disciples clean by washing their feet. We are made clean from sin by the forgiveness of sin in baptism and absolution, thus do we forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. Like the Paschal lamb, killed and eaten by the people, according to the Old Testament account read from Exodus this evening, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, whose blood is a sign of God’s salvation, a sign of life that marks us so that death passes us by.

Good Friday

This day is certainly good because of the salvation and good gifts Christ won for us. It is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the Cross. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, elaborate words of praise are omitted, and the Altar remains bare. The service contains a number of ancient elements, particularly the reading of the Passion according to St. John, the Bidding Prayer, the procession of the Cross and the Reproaches, and the singing of “Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle.” The service concludes with the Holy Communion. As the day remembers the redemption Christ won for us on the Cross, it is quite fitting that we receive the Fruit of that death in the Sacrament of His true Body and Blood. For this is done in remembrance of Him, and as St. Paul says, “as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is the climax of the Triduum, celebrating the passion and resurrection of Jesus. It is not only the conclusion of the Triduum, but it is also the first celebration of the Resurrection. With a rich display of symbols, rites and readings, the church in worship expresses her faith in the mystery that brings her into being.

Light conquers darkness

The vigil opens with a service of light. Like the Jewish Passover, our Easter celebration coincides with the beginning of spring, when the sun offers new warmth and the earth is ready to flower again. Our words “lent” (from the middle-English word for spring, “lengthening days”) and “Easter” (possibly Germanic or Anglo-Saxon in origin, signifying “the east,” “the rising sun”) point to the long tradition of seeing this holy mystery through signs of the natural world.

The lighting and procession of the Paschal candle, carried with reverence and praised in song, is a sign of Christ, “the light of the world,” and celebrates the victory of light over darkness for which humanity has always longed.

As the first celebration of the Resurrection, this night was, in ancient times, the customary time for Baptisms, and so the liturgy of the Vigil is soaked with baptismal imagery. Though we do not have anyone to be Baptized this night, we will remember our own Baptism in the recitation of the Baptismal Rite’s questions and answers.

God’s love endures forever

A series of readings recalls the great interventions of God in history, from creation to the the redemption of Israel from Egypt, and ends with the account of Jesus’ resurrection. The great “alleluia” proclaims with triumphant joy the victory of God’s Son.

Rejoice! This night says as it brings before us the deepest symbols of our hopes and fears. The darkness, sign of evil and death, has been overcome by light. A lamp, a candle has been lit; a fire is enkindled in our hearts; a nourishing water flows through our lives; a baptism destroys what is unclean and brings to life again.

Rejoice! this night says to all creation. The Word who made all things, as a new Adam, freshly proclaims God’s promise of life. All creation celebrates God’s love. The service concludes with the Holy Communion, the Benediction (heard for the first time of since Palm Sunday), and the Easter Acclamation: Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

From the President Death's Precarious Toehold.

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

In a beautiful treatment of the resurrection of Christ, Luther compares the resurrection to a birth:

Christ, our head, has arisen. But now that the Head is seated on high and lives, there is no longer any reason for concern. We who cling to Him must also follow after Him as His body and members. For where the head goes and abides, there the body with all the members must necessarily follow and abide. As in the birth of man and of all animals, the head naturally appears first, and after this is born, the whole body follows easily. Now since Christ has passed over and reigns above in heaven over sin, death, devil, and everything, and since He did this for our sake to draw us after Him, we need no longer worry about our resurrection and life, though we depart and rot in the ground. For now this is no more than a sleep. And for Christ it is but a night before He rouses us from the sleep (*Luther's Works*, vol. 28, p. 110; *Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15*).

The hard part is done. The walls of the fortress of death, sadness and gloom have been breached—yes, razed at the foundation! Says Luther, because of Christ's resurrection, "all the hold death still has on us is by a small toe!" In Baptism, we've been united with Christ. So we shall go where He goes. Through cross, trial and into death? Yes . . . but with Christ through death to life and resurrection (Rom. 6:1ff.).



That's the secret to a joyous life, come what may. Read the Book of Acts, and you will quickly find that the powerful evangelistic preaching of the apostles was very simple. This Jesus is the Christ, foretold by the prophets (Acts 2:25ff). "You crucified and killed [Him] by the hands of lawless men" (Acts 2:23). "God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it" (Acts 2:24).

It was a straightforward message of (1) prophecy fulfilled; (2) stinging Law directed full force, right between the eyes; and (3) sweetest Gospel. Believe and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. By faith, all that is Christ's is yours. In Baptism, you are connected with Him, and both His death for sin and resurrection to life are yours. We depart from this type of evangelistic preaching (Scripture/Law/

Gospel/Resurrection/Baptism) at our own eternal peril, to the detriment of the Church.

Too simple? Hardly. It's God's apostolic outline for preaching—for reaching the lost and forgiving and empowering the baptized (however creatively applied!). And note how utterly objective it is! Notice who the actor is! God promised this Christ in the Scriptures! God's Law damns you! God's Gospel of the resurrection—of Christ put to death for our transgressions and raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25)—forgives you! The hard part is done! “It is finished” (John 19:30). Believe it, and it's yours! There is nothing to do. Only receive! Joy!

This is the resurrection source of the apostles' joy—a joy that would not wither, even under the whip (death's toehold). “They beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they [the apostles] left . . . rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name” (Acts 2:41). “Reconciled by His death,” “saved by His life,” “we rejoice in God!” (Rom. 5:9ff). Trials (pinched toes) push us to repentance, which is the path to joy (Psalm 51).

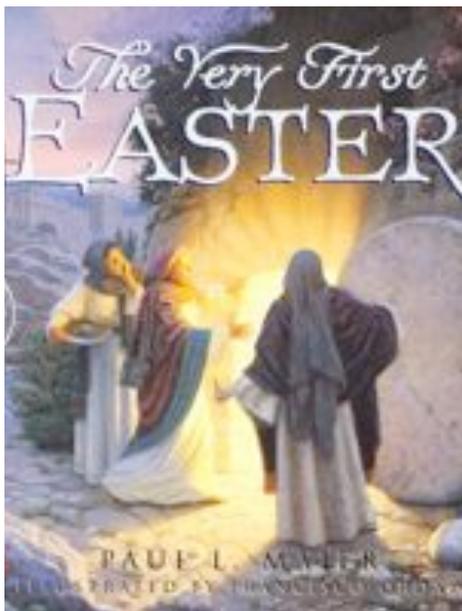
And so the apostles and prophets bid us rejoice in trials (1 Peter 1:3–6). They point us to Jesus in every tribulation, all purposefully sent by God for our good (Rom. 8:37ff), “who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross” (Heb. 12:1–2). The apostles invite the baptized to “suffer together” and “rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26) for a more fulsome joy!

The very resurrection of Christ—come home to us in Baptism (Col. 2:12)—frees us to breach the walls of pride and hatred and envy. We are freed to not expect those around us to be anything but sinners in need of Law/Gospel and love, just like we are (1 Tim. 1:15)! We are freed to rejoice in family and friends. We are freed to face death, even death, with the resurrection resolve that has grabbed hold of us in Christ. He's been through it all. He knows the way. He is the way.

Sin, death and the devil still pinch toes. They've got a toehold to be sure . . . but only a toehold! And not for long.

Blessed Easter!

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The Book of the Month **The Very First Easter**

This book offers an historically accurate description of the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection through Scripture and beautiful artwork.

Ten-year-old Christopher wants to know the story behind the story and learns important details about this miraculous event that help him understand the season's celebration. He also

discovers his own special link to the very first Easter.

The award-winning team of Paul L. Maier and Francisco Ordaz work together again to bring children a vivid picture of Jesus' last days on Earth.

The Very First Easter makes a wonderful gift for children, families, and friends.

To order a copy for you or someone else, contact the church office.

Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

Greeters List

3 Mar	Joan Vukelich – East Laverl Byers – West
10 Mar	Ruth Sims – East Tim & Teri Pollock – West
17 Mar	Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East Jim Dyer - West
24 Mar	Joan Vukelich – East Laverl Byers – West
31 Mar (6 AM)	Ruth Sims – East Tim & Teri Pollock – West
31 Mar (9 AM)	Harold & Irene Wattjes – East Donna Campbell – West
7 Apr	Jim Dyer – East Joan Vukelich – West
14 Apr	Laverl Byers – East Ruth Sims – West
21 Apr	Tim & Teri Pollock – East Donna & Gunnar Campbell – West
28 Apr	Jim Dyer – West Joan Vukelich – East

Coffee Committee

Mar	Laverl Byers
Apr	Arleigh & Mary Jane Jones

Funeral Committee

Mar	Lauren Braaten
Apr	Theresa Fields

Altar Committee

3 Mar	Donna Campbell
10 Mar	Donna Campbell
17 Mar	Theresa Fields
24 Mar	Theresa Fields
28 Mar	Sue Danielson
29 Mar	Sue Danielson
31 Mar	Sue Danielson
7 Apr	Theresa Fields
14 Apr	Sue Danielson
21 Apr	Sharon Allen
28 Apr	Sharon Allen

Elder On Duty – Communion

3 Mar	Geof Danielson
10 Mar	Steve Hilgendorf
17 Mar	Josh Whitson
24 Mar	Josh Whitson
28 Mar	Steve Hilgendorf
29 Mar	Geof Danielson
31 Mar (6 AM)	Jack Appleby
31 Mar (9 AM)	Steve Hilgendorf
7 Apr	Steve Hilgendorf
14 Apr	Steve Hilgendorf
21 Apr	Geof Danielson
28 Apr	Geof Danielson

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
2/3	21	64	0	\$1,935.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
2/10	21	58	0	\$2,488.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/13	0	0	51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/17	20	77	0	\$3,167.84	\$0.00	\$20.00
2/20	0	0	45	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/24	16	85	0	\$2,160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2/27	0	0	41	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	78	284	137	\$10,271.34	\$20.00	\$20.00
Total	499			\$10,271.34	\$20.00	\$20.00

March 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Communion Recitation Day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting Fran & Arnold Dean</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 8:00 PM Refreshments/Moules Refreshments/Ladies Aid Serve</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting - Joan Rubin</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 PM Men's Club/Prayer/Break William's Study Cash Burner Debra's Eyes Dina Burner Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Bernice/Communion Ann Klose</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Children's Service Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Mission Meeting Wayne & Janice Arthur</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Circuit Pastor's Conference</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 8:00 PM Refreshments/Moules Serve Esther Fabian Fran Dean</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Outfit - Steward Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Debra Eyers Dina Burner</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion A. Clark King 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism 2:30 PM Nursing Home Book Service Communion Recitation Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Education Meeting Michael Tobin</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 7:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 8:00 PM Refreshments/Moules Club Serve</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Ladies Aid Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:00 AM/9am Sunday Morning/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Peggy Brough</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 11:30 AM T.A.M.A. Meeting David & Stan Snyder</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Holy Thursday/Communion 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 PM Good Friday Service/Communion Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Easter Vigil 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p>31</p> <p>8:00 AM Easter Service/Communion 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM Easter Service/Communion 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt Book Services</p>						

April 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting Joan Mulligan	2 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Jill Zurbur	3 7:30 AM Matins Becky Koppers	4 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Carlson Russo	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Shelene Hall
7 9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Heidi Stjepan 11:30 AM Church Council Heidi Stjepan Catechism Recitation Day	8 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Members Meeting Dave Stauffer Kris Wulfsberg Joan & Bob Vukovich	9 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Circuit Pastor's Conference	10 7:30 AM Matins Tina Russo	11 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting	12 Elin & Matt Ferguson Pastor's Day Off	13 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Joyce Novakovic
14 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Scott Dallas Children's Sermon Day	15 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Educational Meeting 7:30 PM Women	16 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting	17 7:30 AM Matins	18 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion
21 8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Catechism Recitation Day	22 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Avery Alexander Kathleen & Leonard Bourgeois	23 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Leona & Don Connors	24 7:30 AM Matins 11:30 AM T.A.M.A. Meeting	25 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Ladies A.M. Bible Study James Whitson Joyce Whitson Tyler Krasin	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion
28 9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism 7:00 PM Youth Group	29 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Elin Whitson	30 7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Paul Nils				

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

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