

This Week at St. John's

March 18, 2007

About the Readings

Joshua 4:19-24; 5:9-12

Today's reading is excerpted from the account of the events that ceremonially ended the exodus period and opened the way for the conquest of the promised land. The crossing of the Jordan echoes the crossing of the Red Sea. Then the people are circumcised, so that they might celebrate the Passover. The nature of the "disgrace of Egypt" (their slavery to the Egyptians? the skepticism about God's ability to provide and protect them in the wilderness?) is not clear.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Paul presents the new reality of human existence "in Christ"—it is a new creation! Old attitudes and relationships with one another based upon a human perspective have been superseded. In the midst of the old creation, Christians, by faith, now live on the terms of the new creation in the new community inaugurated by God through Christ. God does not keep track of sins, but rather offers forgiveness. The Christian's ministry is to announce reconciliation for all.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Like many of Luke's best-loved stories, this is both an account of human relationships and a parable of God's relationship with humanity. It has been called the parable of "the two lost sons," for both are self-centered, each in a different way, and both misunderstand their relation to their father.

(Commentary from *Living the Good News: Leader's Guide for Adults*)

Announcements

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to worship with us at St. John's this morning, and invite you to enjoy coffee and fellowship in the parish hall after the service.

Child care is provided from 9:15 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. An usher will assist you.

Outreach: The Outreach Ministry Group will continue its "Ton of Food in 2007" program toward the goal of 2000 pounds. During the month of March, baby food and baby-related items are being collected. Items can be placed on the west pew in the parish hall or given to the ushers prior to the church service. The Outreach Ministry Group would like to extend its appreciation to the parishioners for their generous contributions.

Easter Flowers: Easter memorial offering envelopes can be found on the shelf in the narthex, on the tract table, and in the hallway beside the Altar Flower Bulletin Board. This special offering is used to beautify St. John's at Easter and to remember those we hold dear in our hearts. Please submit the names of those you wish to be remembered, and your check, by **March 26th**. It is important to write "Easter Flowers" on the check memo line so that your offering gets credited properly to the flower fund. You may place the envelope in the offering plate, turn it into the office, or mail it to the church.

About The Episcopal Church

Cathedral: It is the principal church of a diocese and is the building that contains the diocesan bishop's *cathedra* (throne). It is also the symbol of the ministry of a diocese and the place where important Episcopal liturgies take place. Not all dioceses have cathedrals, and many cathedrals are simply parish churches that provide offices for the bishop and diocesan staff. Cathedrals in major metropolitan areas, however, are usually noted for their impressive architecture and rich liturgical celebration.

Intercessions This Week

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the church in Tanzania, the Rt. Rev. Simon E. Chiwanga, Bishop Coadjutor, and the Rt. Rev. Jacob Erasto Chimeledya.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City; the Very Rev. Terry White, Dean; the Rev. Sue Sommer, Canon Pastor and Sub-Dean; the Rev. Carol Sanford, Curate; the Rev. Bryan England, Deacon; the Rev. Bruce Hall, Deacon; and for the Diocesan Associate Treasurer, Mr. Jon Yeager.

Birthdays

Mar. 18 Jean Baker
Gary James
Mar. 19 Joseph Defazio
Mar. 20 Robert Bradley
Elise Hargiss
Mar. 20 Jim Price
Diane Johnson
Mar. 21 Kristopher Chaffin
Timothy McCroskey
Debby Williams
Mar. 22 Jay Hancock
Mar. 23 Marshall Price
Jo Warren
Mar. 24 Kimberly Salsman

Faithful Departed

Mar. 18 Raymond E. Patterson
Mar. 24 Sally Mae Achord
Helen Braig

Prayer Requests

Shirley	Larry
Dorothy	Trudy
Bill	Maxine
Terri	Deidra

Names submitted by parishioners will remain on the parish intercession list for 30 days. After 30 days, the names will be removed, unless they are re-submitted. There is no limit on how many times a prayer request can be renewed. This new policy will allow the clergy to better manage the official prayer list of the parish. If you have any questions, please contact Father Miller.

Calendar

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Mass— Rite I
March 18		<i>Outreach Reception</i>
(4 Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Rector's Forum
	10:15 a.m.	Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Mass— Rite I (sung)
		<i>Outreach Reception</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Pot Luck Dinner
		Lenten Class
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
March 19	5:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
(St. Joseph)	6:00 p.m.	Mass
	6:30 p.m.	Vestry
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
March 20	5:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
(Lenten Feria)	6:00 p.m.	Mass
	6:30 p.m.	Interior Castle Study Group
		AA (Women's Group)
	8:00 p.m.	AA
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
March 21	5:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
(Thomas Ken)	6:00 p.m.	Mass
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
		Adult Bible Study
		Inquirers' Class
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
March 22	10:00 a.m.	St. Clare's Crafters
(James De Koven)	12:00 p.m.	Mass and Anointing
	5:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
	8:00 p.m.	AA
Friday	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
March 23		
(Gregory		
The Illuminator)		
Saturday	4-5:00 p.m.	Confessions
March 24		
(Gabriel the		
Archangel)		
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Mass— Rite I
March 25	9:30 a.m.	Rector's Forum
(5 Lent)	10:15 a.m.	Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Mass— Rite I (sung)
	5:30 p.m.	Pot Luck Dinner (Outreach Sponsored)
		Lenten Class

How could a loving Father allow his Son to suffer such agony as our Lord suffered? We know, of course, it was because of God's great love for us, his erring children. For our sakes, Christ was handed over to murderers. For our salvation, he was separated from his Father for a time. Perhaps at times we feel forsaken by God. It is then that we must remember our Savior and thank God that, because of Christ, we are never forsaken, never outside his grace.