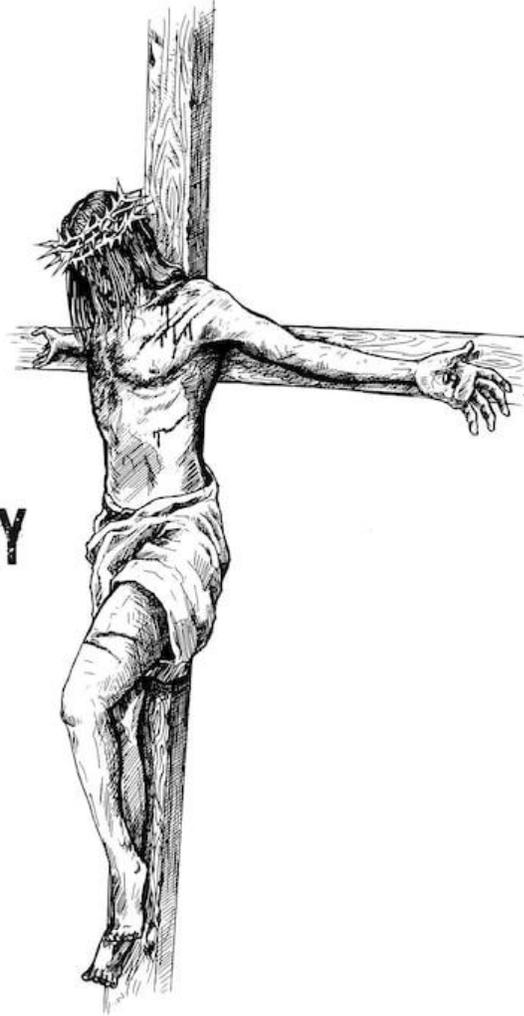
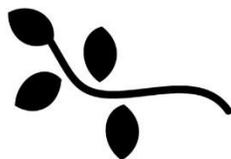


**GOOD FRIDAY**



**...a season to dream, explore and recommit to  
faith in action!**



# CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.

**April 3, 2026 – 6:30 PM**  
**Good Friday**

Celebrant:

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE APPOINTED FOR THE DAY**

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**      *Translation: Complete Jewish Bible*

“See how my servant will succeed!  
He will be raised up, exalted, highly honored!

<sup>14</sup> Just as many were appalled at him,  
because he was so disfigured  
that he didn’t even seem human  
and simply no longer looked like a man,  
<sup>15</sup> so now he will startle many nations;  
because of him, kings will be speechless.  
For they will see what they had not been told,  
they will ponder things they had never heard.”

53 Who believes our report?  
To whom is the arm of *Adonai* revealed?  
<sup>2</sup> For before him he grew up like a young plant,  
like a root out of dry ground.

He was not well-formed or especially handsome;

we saw him, but his appearance did not attract us.

<sup>3</sup> People despised and avoided him,  
a man of pains, well acquainted with illness.  
Like someone from whom people turn their faces,  
he was despised; we did not value him.

<sup>4</sup> In fact, it was our diseases he bore,  
our pains from which he suffered;  
yet we regarded him as punished,  
stricken and afflicted by God.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded because of our crimes,  
crushed because of our sins;  
the disciplining that makes us whole fell on him,  
and by his bruises\* we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, went astray;  
we turned, each one, to his own way;  
yet *Adonai* laid on him  
the guilt of all of us.

<sup>7</sup> Though mistreated, he was submissive —  
he did not open his mouth.

Like a lamb led to be slaughtered,  
like a sheep silent before its shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> After forcible arrest and sentencing,  
he was taken away;  
and none of his generation protested  
his being cut off from the land of the living  
for the crimes of my people,  
who deserved the punishment themselves.

<sup>9</sup> He was given a grave among the wicked;  
in his death he was with a rich man.

Although he had done no violence  
and had said nothing deceptive,

<sup>10</sup> yet it pleased *Adonai* to crush him with illness,  
to see if he would present himself as a guilt offering.  
If he does, he will see his offspring;  
and he will prolong his days;  
and at his hand *Adonai*'s desire  
will be accomplished.

<sup>11</sup> After this ordeal, he will see satisfaction.

“By his knowing [pain and sacrifice],  
my righteous servant makes many righteous;  
it is for their sins that he suffers.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will assign him a share with the great,  
he will divide the spoil with the mighty,

for having exposed himself to death  
and being counted among the sinners,  
while actually bearing the sin of many  
and interceding for the offenders.”  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 22:1-21** *Translation: Complete Jewish Bible – to be prayed by all*

**My God! My God!**  
**Why have you abandoned me?**  
**Why so far from helping me,**  
**so far from my anguished cries?**  
**My God, by day I call to you,**  
**but you don't answer;**  
**likewise at night,**  
**but I get no relief.**  
**Nevertheless, you are holy,**  
**enthroned on the praises of Isra'el.**  
**In you our ancestors put their trust;**  
**they trusted, and you rescued them.**  
**They cried to you and escaped;**  
**they trusted in you and were not disappointed.**  
**But I am a worm, not a person,**  
**scorned by everyone, despised by the people.**  
**All who see me jeer at me;**  
**they sneer and shake their heads:**

**“He committed himself to *Adonai*,**  
**so let him rescue him!**  
**Let him set him free**  
**if he takes such delight in him!”**

**But you are the one who took me from the womb,**  
**you made me trust when I was on my mother's breasts.**  
**Since my birth I've been thrown on you;**  
**you are my God from my mother's womb.**  
**Don't stay far from me, for trouble is near;**  
**and there is no one to help.**  
**Many bulls surround me,**  
**wild bulls of Bashan close in on me.**  
**They open their mouths wide against me,**  
**like ravening, roaring lions.**  
**I am poured out like water;**  
**all my bones are out of joint;**

my heart has become like wax —  
it melts inside me;  
my mouth is as dry as a fragment of a pot,  
my tongue sticks to my palate;  
you lay me down in the dust of death.  
Dogs are all around me,  
a pack of villains closes in on me  
like a lion [at] my hands and feet.  
I can count every one of my bones,  
while they gaze at me and gloat.  
'They divide my garments among themselves;  
for my clothing they throw dice.  
But you, *Adonai*, don't stay far away!  
My strength, come quickly to help me!  
Rescue me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dogs.

#### **A Reading from the Odes of Solomon**

I have shattered the bars of iron  
And iron has become red hot  
It has melted at my presence  
And nothing more has been shut  
Because I am the gate to all things  
I went to free the prisoners  
Because they belong to me and I abandon no one...  
I have sown my fruits in the hearts of mortals  
And I have changed them into myself..."

#### **The Solemn Collects**

Dear People of God:

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.  
(Congregation will kneel as able)

Let us pray for the holy Church of Christ throughout the world;  
For all bishops, priests, deacons and ministers and all the people God has entrusted to them  
For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Leo of Rome, Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, Mark, our Bishop Carlye, and all the people of this diocese, for all Christians in this community and for all Christians of east and west, for those about to be baptized that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence*

Living God, send the fire of your love upon your Church and set our hearts ablaze, until we become light as are light. Teach us to know Christ in one another. As you call us to love and serve all people, help us to grow in your perfect freedom; in Jesus Name. **Amen.**

Let us pray for this world, which is sighing  
And groaning for redemption, for the whole suffering humankind in this present age, for those who are affected by of war and racial conflict, for those overwhelmed by natural disasters, for all who will meet with any kind of accident, for those who are any kind of danger,

*Silence*

Lord God, you want the well being of all of us and not our destruction take all violence from our midst. Extinguish hatred in our hearts.

Curb passions in us that makes us seek each' others' lives. Give peace on earth. We ask this in Jesus Christ, Name. **Amen**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them; For Donald, the President of the United States, Mikie, Governor of this State, Timothy, Mayor of Morristown

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations, for diplomats, peacemakers; for the armed services and all in harms way because of war

For doctors, nurses, hospital and hospices; for police and firefighters; for all who protect the weak and serve the common good

For farmers and corporations, for workers and trade union leaders, reformers and visionaries

For artist performers; for poets and writers; for journalists and filmmakers

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence*

Gracious God, your Wisdom spans the world, ordering all things for good. Blow your Spirit over the nations, sweeping away whatever divides us. Guide all who govern to serve justice and peace, until your will is done on earth as in heaven, and your reign of peace of peace is fully come; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffering and in need; for the poor and oppressed, the exploited and despairing, the sick and the suffering, for victims of envy, discrimination and revenge; for all who hunger for food, for work, a home and a holy purpose in their lives, for all face death, the loss of love, the crushing of dreams, the crippling of body or mind, for all who long for family, friendship, children, a sense of belonging and being known, for all in danger and captivity, all who long for peace and freedom and safety, that we may follow Christ in sharing all human suffering as our own,

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ . **Amen.**

Let us pray for those whose faith is not our own. For Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists, Native Americans, Shintoists, Pagans and every people of faith. For their rabbis, mullahs, priests, lamas, shamans and holy teachers, for those whose faith is known to God alone, for all who are condemn, persecute, or martyr others in the name of religion, for all who suffer and die in witness to Christ, for all who suffer and die for their conscience's sake, that as Christ came as a stranger to befriend us, we may learn to welcome those unknown and alien to us

*Silence*

Eternal God, your Spirit enlivens all your creatures. Send Her, in the midst of our divisions to bind all humankind together in your friendship. End the violence we do in your name. And so draw the world toward you, that our many faiths may prove your abundant love; in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all have no faith; for all who have found a way to believe, for all who turn away from God or betray the truth they know, for all whose hearts are hardened by sin or indifference, for all who exploit the faith and trust of others, for forgiveness of wrongs, and reconciliation of enemies, and peace where justice can no more be found

*Silence*

Have compassion, O merciful God, on all who do not know you or who turn away from your saving love. As your Son sought the lost and poured out his life for sinners, now reform and purify your Church. Make us like him, a beacon of hope for this troubled world, a path of reconciliation for the violent, and a sign of welcome for all welcome people, through Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Reproaches** Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*

**All: Holy God,  
holy and strange,  
holy and intimate,  
have mercy on us.**

**All: O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

I brooded over the abyss,  
with my words I called forth creation;  
but you have brooded on destruction  
and manufactured the means of chaos.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

I breathed life into your bodies,  
and carried you tenderly in my arms:  
but you have armed yourselves for war,  
breathing out threats of violence.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

I made the desert blossom before you,  
I fed you with an open hand:  
but you grasped the children's food,  
and laid waste fertile lands.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

I abandoned my power like a garment,  
choosing your unprotected flesh:  
but you have robed yourselves in privilege,  
and chosen to despise the abandoned.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strange,  
holy and intimate,  
have mercy on us.**

I would have gathered you to me as a lover,  
and shown you the ways of peace:  
but you have desired security,  
and you would not surrender your self.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?**

**Answer me.**

I have torn the veil of my glory,  
transfiguring the earth:  
but you have disfigured my beauty,  
and turned away your face.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

I have labored to deliver you,  
as a woman delights to give life:  
but you have delighted in bloodshed,  
and labored to bereave the world.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

I have followed you with the power of my spirit,  
to seek truth and heal the oppressed:  
but you have been following a lie,  
and returned to your own comfort.

**O my people, what have I done to you?  
How have I offended you?  
Answer me.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strange,  
holy and intimate,  
have mercy on us.**

#### HOLY COMMUNION

#### Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have  
done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as  
ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may  
delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Absolution

We are bold to pray in whatever language or form that brings us closer to God,  
**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God

#### THE BURIAL

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

#### Reading from T.S. Eliot

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope, for hope would be hope for the wrong thing;

Wait without love For love would be love of the wrong thing;

There is yet faith But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.

Wait without thought for you are not ready for thought;

So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

#### Concluding Prayer

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Creator and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** Service at 10:30 a.m.

**The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

**The Book Group meets online at 7pm: 3/30/26 THE HORSEWOMAN** by James Patterson and Mike Lupica. Please contact Veronica for the link. Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop by going here. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

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Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>



## From Rev. Willie J. Smith

### Holy Week

Lent ends on Saturday March 28, which is known in Eastern Church as **Lazarus Saturday**. We are all familiar with the Gospel Story of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus. The scene is set for what will take us into Holy Week, a period in which we are invited to participate in the last days of Jesus' life. There are liturgies that occur during the week that are different and taken from the writings of woman name Egeria. Egeria was a Spanish nun from the 4<sup>th</sup> century who went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. She witnessed and recorded the services of Holy Week or "Bright Week as she called it. The Services are one long continuous event with breaks for rest and meals. These services are so intimate in that we are connected to those pilgrims, of Egeria time, to the present.

The services of Thursday through Saturday of that week are known as the "**Triduum**" or "**The Three Great Days**". There is no Entrance or Recessional hymn; no blessing. The focus is on the events leading up to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.



The week begins with **Palm Sunday**, the commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, which begins in triumph and ends betrayal. Hosanna is said, shout, sung which is a prayer that means **O God Save Us**.

Tuesday is the Gospel story feet being anointed with spikenard, an oil that is costly and known for its healing properties. In most Episcopal Dioceses, the clergy gather with their Bishop for a Chrism

Mass.

At the Mass the clergy with the Bishop renew the vows and receive blessed **Chrism** and **Healing Oils**. The **Chrism Oil** is used for those who are to be Baptized or Confirmed and **Healing** is used for Pastoral Services.

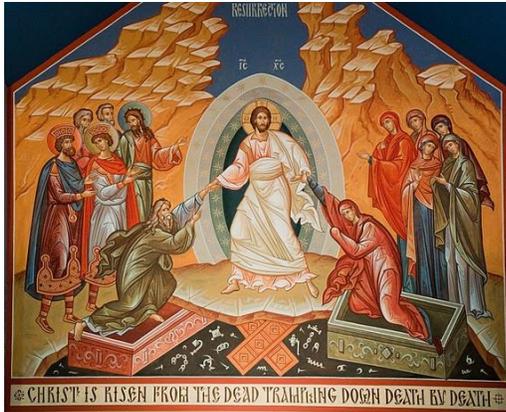


**The Three Great Days** are **Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)** in which Jesus prayed for the oneness of the Church and instituted the Eucharist. The service consist of foot-washing (hand washing in some places), the Eucharist and the Stripping of the Altar. The Passion Gospels tell the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest and trial before the Jewish /Roman authorities. The Altar is stripped to symbolize any preference to Jesus be bare. Maundy comes from the word **Mandatum** which means **command**. Jesus's commandment to love one another as he has loved us.



**Good Friday** is a day of silence and prayer. There is no Eucharist, no singing, no bell ringing. Prayers are offered and the Communion offered from the Eucharist from Holy Thursday.

**Holy Saturday** a day of quiet in preparation for Easter. The Eastern Church believes that Christ descended to Hell to free those who have died. In the Creed there is reference “he descended into Hell”. Baptisms take place the



Easter Vigil, a service of Scripture Readings, music and celebration of the Resurrection. The 50 Days of Easter.



## **FROM DEACON ERIK**

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I encourage each of you, in this season of Lent, to dream and imagine the Church of Redeemer in the 21st Century. I continue to challenge you to look at who you are as a leader in the Episcopal church, offering not just inclusive language but a congregation that acts on their faith.

Taking this time to dream and explore encourages breaking out of stagnant routines and imagining a better & brighter future. The church of the Redeemer is filled with people who believe in faith inspired by the hope that life is eternal, supported by the sustaining promise of God's unquestionable love.

Complacency leads to defeat and exclusion. This is not what I have been told is the spirit of the Church of the Redeemer. Actively exploring new initiatives and ministries is the gift of our imaginations. Now more than ever, it is time for us to dream.

I challenged you all in Advent to do some cleaning and clearing of spaces. The specific space was and is the church undercroft, which is cluttered and presents neglect. I have been told there are treasures in this space, and it is time to rescue these treasures. The opportunity to name and identify these artifacts of Redeemer's history will unearth many of the seeds of your dreams for the Church of the Redeemer.

These are gifts that require moving from dreams to planning and action that will chart the course of faith in action, our ministry in 2026, and thereafter. Let us welcome Eastertide with the joy of resurrection.

In last week's Gospel, we learned that Jesus was talking with Elijah and Moses as witnessed by Peter, James, and John. We also learned that Peter wanted to preserve this with individual huts for Jesus and the two prophets. Instead, God exclaimed this is my son whom I am pleased, listen to him. In the moment of this dramatic transfiguration, belief is realized.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deacon Erik". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text "Peace and blessings,".



**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.