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# LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

2010

*"I invite you therefore, in the name of the church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."*

*The Book of Common Prayer*



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE PLAINS, VIRGINIA

### PILGRIMAGE FROM ASHES TO FIRE

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a call to return to God with all our hearts. It marks the beginning of a pilgrimage from ashes to fire. This is the day we hear God's call to repentance and reconciliation, the day we are brought face to face with our own sins and failures of the past and reflect on our mortality in the light of the redeeming love of Christ.

In the season of Lent, God calls us to recover the identity we were given in baptism. Lent takes us from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, Palm Sunday and the great services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the fire of the Great Vigil of Easter and the joyous feast of Easter Day.

Wherever you are on your journey with Christ, you are invited to participate in an individual Lenten discipline of study, reflection, prayer and the worship services offered at Grace Church.

*"This season, therefore, let faults be forgiven, let bonds be loosened, let offences be wiped clean, let plans for vengeance fall through, that through the divine and human grace of Christ, the holy festival of Easter may find us all happy and innocent." from a sermon of Leo the Great d. 461*

#### ASH WEDNESDAY: BEGIN THE JOURNEY IN PRAYER

February 17, 2010

12 noon Holy Eucharist

5:00 PM Family Service with the St. Cecilia Choir

7 PM with the Grace Church Choir

*The imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist are offered at all services.*



### EASTER AT GRACE

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia!*

#### THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: PASCHAL FIRE

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 PM**

*"Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death." BCP p 285*

**Great Vigil of Easter** - From the earliest days of the Church, the Easter Vigil was the focal point of the year. The service can begin at any time after sundown on Saturday, beginning in the darkness as the new fire is lit and the Paschal Candle is carried into the church. This return of light symbolizes the light of salvation, the resurrection of life and the triumph of God's grace over the darkness of sin and death.

**Baptism, Alleluias and Bells** - At the Great Vigil of Easter new members are brought into the Church in baptism as we welcome the Good News of Christ's resurrection with

Alleluias, grand music, the splendor of flowers and the ringing of bells.

### EASTER DAY – THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

*April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, 9 and 11AM*

The Family Service at 9 a.m. will be followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the 11 a.m. Festival Celebration with music by the Grace Church Choir.

*Let us pray that God who has restored us to life by the death and resurrection of Christ may continue his healing work within us and may we who share in this mystery never cease to be God's people in the world. Amen*

SUNDAYS OF EASTER: APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup> UNTIL PENTECOST, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
services at 7:45, 9 ; 11AM and 5 PM

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT:

*February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>- 6:30 PM Candle light service of Evening Prayer, Supper & Program “Chant to polyphony: our music and heritage in our community today,” led by Eric Dombrowski, Organist and Choir Director.*

The prayers, the silence and the music are contemplative, holy and inclusive, increasing our awareness of God's action in our lives.

### LENTEN QUIET DAY:

*10AM-2PM March 6<sup>th</sup>*

The Quiet Day provides an opportunity to take a break from life's demands and focus on God's peace. Participants will be invited to listen meditatively to a selection of music that J.S. Bach composed for Lent, then to pray using the method of Centering Prayer (a modern version of an ancient practice that involves sitting in silence and using a repetition of a word to quiet the mind). This quietness can help us focus on quieting our hearts, souls, and minds so we can better feel the presence of God and prepare for the gift of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the miracle of his resurrection.

### WAYS FOR FAMILIES TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THEIR LENTEN JOURNEY

- ✦ Come join us each Sunday for the Family Service and for Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.
- ✦ Make a point to bring your children to the special family services during Lent and on Easter Sunday. *Ash Wednesday 5:00 p.m.; Palm Sunday Procession at 9:00 a.m.; Good Friday 5:00 p.m.; Easter Sunday at 9 am Family Service*
- ✦ Be intentional about working with your children to maintain a simple yet meaningful Lenten discipline of caring for others. *Look for parish sponsored assistance for Haiti.*
- ✦ Participate in the youth programs to deepen relationships in the community of faith. *The Youth Group will host the Community Lunch on March 27<sup>th</sup>.*

### BAPTISM:

*During the Great Vigil of Easter, April 3 at 8 PM*

*“The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.”*

*Page 265 BCP*

### LIVING OUT OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

*Confirmation & Reception –May 16<sup>th</sup>*

*Preacher & Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon*

*“Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have*

*bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen". Page 419 BCP*

### YOUTH CONFIRMATION

*Sundays 12:45-2PM - beginning March 14<sup>th</sup>*

All youth who are interested in being confirmed when Bishop Dixon visits on May 16<sup>th</sup> should contact The Rev. Matt Johnson at ([matt@gracechurch.net](mailto:matt@gracechurch.net)).

### ADULT CONFIRMATION

*Sundays 12:45 - 2:30 - beginning March 14<sup>th</sup>*

These classes will provide a grounding in living faithfully in the Episcopal Church with introductory material in the areas of Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, the history of the church and Anglican moral theology as tools to deepen faith. For more information, contact The Rev. Caroline Parkinson at ([caroline@gracechurch.net](mailto:caroline@gracechurch.net)).

## HOLY WEEK AT GRACE

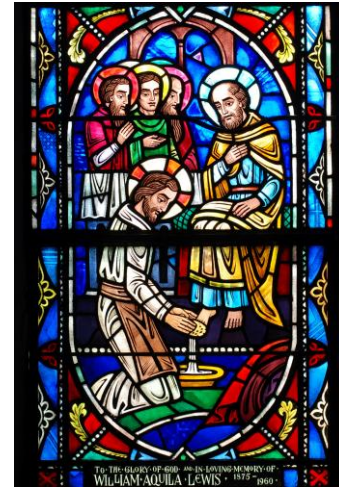
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY: *March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, 9, 11 AM and 5 PM*

Blessing and Procession of the Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel according to St. Luke.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: *April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.*

*Parish Supper and Liturgy for Maundy Thursday*

*The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday* holds before us the whole story of our redemption through the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord.



*"A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one another." Anonymous*

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> AT NOON, 4 AND 7 PM

*Noon - 3 PM Liturgy of the Day*

*4:00 PM Family Service.* A service for the parish young people.

*7:00 PM. Service of Meditation and Reflection* upon the final path traveled by Jesus Christ. The evening's music will feature works by Stainer, Handl and Harris sung by the Grace Church Choir under the direction of Eric Dombrowski, Organist and Choir Director.

### SUNDAYS IN LENT

*February 21<sup>st</sup> : 10 AM Service and Annual Parish Meeting*

*February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 21<sup>st</sup>: 7:45, 9 and 11 AM. Holy Eucharist*

*10:15 AM Christian Education*

*5 PM Evening Prayer & Holy*

*Communion from the Celtic tradition*

*"This, God's people meeting, his Holy Scripture hear;*

*his living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.*

*We journey on believing, renewed with heavenly might,  
from grace more grace receiving on this blest day of light."*

*Christopher Wordsworth      # 48 Hymnal 1982*

### **SUNDAY FORUMS IN LENT**

**February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup> – 10:15 AM in the Parish Hall**

*"Building Healthy Relationships"* God calls us into relationships as couples and families and communities so that new life, new possibilities may come to pass, so that aloneness may come to an end even in a culture that tends to treat commitment and intimacy as conditional and self-satisfying.

*"Cherished God, give me true and heartfelt courage that brings strength resilience, and determination to do what is right rather than what is expedient and convenient. Let my courage be seen in small ways that reflect the essence of your commandments: let me forgo gossip and sarcasm, exercise caution with placing blame, refuse to duck away from responsibility, speak wisely at the appropriate moment, and cultivate compassion and understanding. Let me be among those who have the courage of my convictions. Amen"*

*Henri Nouwen,*

### **TUESDAYS IN LENT**

**February 23 – March 30 - 9:15 AM Service of Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 -11:45 Book Study (In the Library) Altar in the World**  
by Barbara Brown Taylor. This is an excellent source to remind us of the importance of recognizing God's presence all about us in the world – wherever we experience the Holy, wherever we find sanctuary -- seeking and recognizing God in the midst of life.