

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ,

April 2023

We begin the month in Passiontide, “Deep Lent,” wherein we switch our liturgical colors from the Lenten array of unbleached linen and purple (the symbol of our penitence) to red (the color of Christ’s blood shed for us). We veil all crosses and images in the Church, in effect drawing our attention from everything but the blood of Christ and His suffering have now entered the very crucible of our Lenten observations, the season of Passiontide. Having acknowledged the fundamental sinfulness of our souls, our need to cast such sin away, to be filled with the things of God and of His inexhaustible desire to do so, we now turn to the medicine with which our God heals us: the suffering and death of His Son, our Saviour. It is a difficult prescription; none of us can fully comprehend the depth of God’s love for us and to gaze upon it so depicted is a terrible thing (in the truest sense of that word). So the Church commends our Saviour’s Passion to us in a way consonant with His own mercy. As we draw closer to the Cross of our Lord, in our devotion and as Good Friday approaches, let us pray that our Lenten devotions serve their proper aim; that in denying self, we may see Christ and our salvation in Him more clearly. This will be, of course, the only proper preparation for our celebration of the Paschal Feast at Easter, whose glorious season occupies the greater balance of the month. We have focused our communal study this Lent on the writings of the Minor Prophets and the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. How apt for us to turn our eyes to the fulfillment of all prophetic utterances of our salvation in the clearest vision of the Son’s offering of Himself in obedience to the Father in the bond of the Holy Spirit. To have God’s praises echo in song throughout our sanctuary as we have probed the depth of our sin and God’s victory over the same serves as a yearly act of renewal, energizing us to do the Father’s will as taught us by the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. After all, the spiritual disciplines we set in Lent ought ideally to set for us new and permanent patterns of holy living, so too I think the exalted worship of Easter ought to set for us a very high standard of praise throughout the year. And to that end let me thank, in advance, Dr. Radu and the Choir for what I know will be beautiful worship music, Mrs. Jackson and the altar guild for a beautifully appointed sanctuary, and Mrs. Marvin and the flower guild for encouraging our sight and smell to join ear and heart and voice in the totality of worship. As I have said before, if joy in worship is the hallmark of our lives in Christ, then all other forms of fellowship (working together, socializing, etc.) will be richer times, complementing our fundamental communion with each other in Jesus. May God bless you with a continued Holy Lent and Passiontide and a Blessed Eastertide.

Yours in Christ, Edward L. Rix



HOLY WEEK, EASTER, & FEAST DAY SERVICES

The Lenten/Easter brochure in last month’s newsletter gave notice of the times for our Holy Week and Easter Services, so I’ll only remind you that we have daily Communion services in Holy week (excepting Good Friday with its three-hour service starting at Noon) and Easter Services at our regular Sunday times of 8:00 and 10:00 with a nice Easter Egg hunt (for the children!) after the later service. Communion services are also said at 8:00 am on Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday. Good Friday and Easter Sunday (all Sundays in fact) are days on which we are obliged to be at Church worshipping our Lord. And St. Mark the Evangelist is commemorated with Communion at 10:00 am on Tuesday the 25th.

ALICE LINSLEY LECTURE

Many will have noticed the poster on the bulletin board of the Parish House announcing a lecture, offered in conjunction with our sister parishes in the Anglican Fellowship of the Delaware Valley, by Dr. Alice Linsley, a noted scholar and commentator. A former resident of our area, Dr. Linsley once worked in ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church but later rejected the validity of the ordination of women. She is a retired University Anthropology professor who specializes in Biblical Anthropology and who has thought deeply about the issues of Theological Anthropology, the roles of Men and Women and contemporary issues of gender. Her very timely lecture is: *How the Binary Reason of the Bible informs Christian Morality and Ethics*. It is at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor of our Parish House on Wednesday, April 19th.



“The kingdom of God...is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.” *St. Luke 13:18-19*