

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Last Sunday, we heard about the palms and the passion. My sermon encouraged you to think about the theology of the cross, and the words--faith, hope and love. It also encouraged you to use this week to discern what it means to be disciples who carry the cross into a suffering world.

As part of your discernment, I would like to encourage you to read the ELCA's Statement--"How Strategic And Authentic Is Our Diversity: A Call for Confession, Reflection and Healing Action." It can be accessed on the homepage of the ELCA website, elca.org (or you can ask Nalani to send you a copy). While you are on the ELCA website, you can also view "Presiding Bishop Eaton's Easter Message."

In year's past, we would have gathered together for services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. This year, I would like to suggest that if you have internet access, you consider viewing a virtual service.

There are several Maundy Thursday worship services that will premiere on April 1, 2021. To peruse the many options, type, "Maundy Thursday ELCA service" and press the "search" button. This will pull up all the services available to you on YouTube.

For Good Friday, the pastors of the ELCA churches in Eau Claire, have created a "Midday Good Friday Stories" service. It's focus is on the "Last 7 Words of Christ." The service includes poems, music, scripture readings, and visual effects. You can access it via YouTube at any time, since it has already been posted.

Another option for Good Friday, is the service provided by the "Intermountain ELCA Synod--Region 1," on YouTube. The visual images may be from the State of Washington. They include waves lapping on the shore, with majestic mountains in the distance. The service includes poems, readings, litanies, and special effects to broaden your auditory and visual experience.

In preparation for Resurrection Sunday, I would like to encourage you to read our gospel passage, John 20:1-18. Children with Story Bibles will enjoy reading, "Women at the Tomb," which is based on Luke 24:1-12. It is found on pages 276-277. (Note: in the Lukan account, several women come to the tomb, but in our Johannine gospel reading for Sunday, Mary Magdalene is the only woman at the tomb.)

As we enter the final days of our Lenten journey, may these services and readings support you and strengthen you "'til we meet again" on Resurrection Sunday!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy