



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
MARCH 2, 2016

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 AM
Saturday: 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:15 and 6:00 PM

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Choir Practice

Sunday: 9:45 AM

Sunday School

Sunday: 11:00 AM

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Gerry Brooks, Jr. Warden
Christine Hennigan, Secretary
Monty Walford, Treasurer
Melissa Fowle
Stephanie Hamblin
Jo Ann Horton
John Hughes
Kendall Raymond

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Fax: (318) 681-9506
Email: holycrossshrv1@bellsouth.net

Please visit our website

www.holycrossshreveport.org

Deadline

Material for *Crossings* must be received by **12:00 Wednesday**.
Please send to
lynn.walford@lsus.edu

Lenten Refreshment

Murillo: The Return of the Prodigal Son



The Fourth Sunday in Lent has historically been known as “Refreshment Sunday.” The name comes from the time when Lent was a season of severe self-denial (no meat, no fat, often self-deprecating practices, etc.), a solemn time when no one had parties or celebrations. About halfway through the season the Church offered a day of refreshment, a day to let down a little from the stern time of preparation for Easter. Just a little break.

In Lent, the traditional focus is on our sin and our mortality. We may miss fully appreciating the purpose of that path: God’s forgiveness and the “refreshment,” the freedom, we are given in being forgiven. Freedom from a life bound by guilt and hopelessness; in fact, *new* life, understood most fully in the Resurrection. And underneath that forgiveness, and surrounding it—indeed, its very essence and reason for being—is the vast unconditional love God has for every person and every creature God has made.

The parable of the Prodigal Son, or of the Forgiving Father, as some have called it, is one of Jesus’ stories most familiar to us. It is our Gospel lesson for Refreshment Sunday. The imagery is brilliant: we can feel ourselves there on that property, in that family. We can identify with each of the main characters: the father, the older son, the younger son. We have known their times of joy and sadness, of fear and hopelessness, of anger and guilt and emptiness and uncertainty. The almost otherworldly nature of the father’s forgiveness of his wayward son, one son’s arrogance turned to humility, one son’s faithfulness turned to resentment: it’s all very human and very familiar to us.

What we may miss is that brief but most poignant picture of the father: “But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.” We can imagine the father, bent with age and sorrow, watching daily, hoping for

his return. Did he suppose his son had been successful with his inheritance? Had he heard reports of his son's riotous living and ruin? Did he know if his son lived or died? What we do glean is that somewhere in that abyss of sorrow there lived still a tiny spark of hope—or perhaps a great brightness of hope—that saved him from being swallowed by darkness and despair. He watched hopefully.

That is the love of God. That is the love, the unexplainable, unimaginable, superhuman, crazy, extravagant love we know so little of in this life. That is the love that saves us when we imagine that we are unredeemable, beyond hope. That is the love that holds hope for God's Creation and keeps hope alive for God's people, who have no hope that they can save themselves.

We may give up on one another, give in to resentment and righteous anger. We may give up on ourselves when we see that we can never reach the mark of perfection. "I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

God never gives up. I believe that each day God watches and waits and hopes—and the Spirit prays within us too—for each of us to turn to God and say, "I have sinned. I accept your forgiveness. I shall not die, but live!" This is refreshment for every minute of every day. This is the food of gratitude. May we continue to be blessed with the knowledge of God's wonderful, forgiving love for us and strengthened to live in that love and to give that love to all whom we meet.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B
Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 6, 2016

Joshua 5:9-12 ✞ *Psalms 32*
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ✞ *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

(*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*) The old is finished. The new creation has overthrown our human judgments filled with prejudice and bias. The gospel challenges that assumption that human nature cannot change by stating that God can indeed achieve such a transformation in Christ. This is the incredible glory of what Lent suggests is in fact possible. No longer are we held sway by the powers that would destroy us. In Christ we are fully free to experience this grace that created a new humanity, one responsive to the vision of God to bring creation home.

Mark E. Hopper

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2016

Isaiah 43:16-21 ✞ *Psalms 126*
Philippians 3:4b-14 ✞ *John 12:1-8*

(*Philippians 3:4b-14*) One of the most interesting phrases in the whole lection comes in verse 9. Paul's right relationship with God and neighbor does not come from the law, he says, but through "faith in Christ." This makes faith sound like something that Paul does, but the phrase can also mean "through the faith of Christ." In this view Paul's only hope of acting right at all is because of Christ's faith in him. This makes faith sound like something that Christ does.

Barbara Brown Taylor

Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

From Episcopal Relief and Development

ERD works with church partners and other local organizations to save lives and transform communities worldwide. We rebuild after disasters and empower people to create lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger, and disease. Working in close to forty countries, our programs impact the lives of approximately three million people around the world.

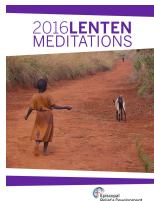


Our mandate is taken from Jesus' words, found in Matthew 25. All of Episcopal Relief and Development's international development programs work toward achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aim to cut extreme global poverty. We use the MDGs as benchmarks to evaluate our progress. Our four core program areas are to:

- **alleviate hunger and improve food supply**
- **create economic opportunities and strengthen communities**
- **promote health and fight disease**
- **respond to disasters and rebuild communities**

To learn more about the specific kinds of work we do, visit <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do>.

In Sunday School our children have been given Hope Chests to hold their offering for those to whom ERD ministers. Additional Hope Chests are on the table in the Narthex. Please take one if you would like to save in this way and contribute to the ministry of the Episcopal Church. The boxes will be brought and presented at the altar on Easter Day.



2016 Lenten Meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development are on tables in the Narthex, along with envelopes that make it easy to send ERD a donation. Please take one of the booklets and use it during Lent to grow in your knowledge and love of God and of one another.

AND PLEASE REMEMBER THE FASTING FUND FOR LENT

Baskets are in the Narthex, the Chapel, and the Chancel steps

Calendar for Lent

Sundays	Informal Eucharist	9:20 AM	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Choir Practice	9:45 AM	Nave
	Nursery	9:45-AM-12:15 PM	Education Building
	Sunday School	11:00 AM	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist II	11:00 AM	Nave
Wednesdays	Holy Eucharist (Enriching Our Worship)	12:15 PM	Chapel
	Soup Days	11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Undercroft
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Chapel
March 6	Continuing Feast	12:15PM	Undercroft
Maundy Thursday, March 24	Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing	TBA	Hope House

Prayer List

Bill Alexander
Wanda Allen
Warren Bankston
Jim Boyd
Jay Colvin
Laurie Connell
Evelyn Corley
Amy Crone
Ron Dean
Jean Dooley
Elizabeth Eglin

Shirley Enani
Floyd "Buzzy" Farrar
Lady Martha Garner
Austin Gleason
Kevin Hall
Larrisa Hall
George Love
Chris Lowery
Mim McCoy
Paige McCranie
Ila Riggs

Linda Robinson
Sandra Robinson
Brady Sessions
Tommy Simrall
Robert Todd
Cliff Townsend
Mattie Washington
Charlotte Webb
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright

If you would like to request an addition to the Prayer List, please call the church office, 222-3325. Our practice is to keep names on the list for six weeks. If we have an update at that time requesting that we continue to pray for the person, we will leave the name on the list. If not, we will remove it. You can always call if you would like us to add it again.

We pray for those who serve and are served by the Fuller Center for Housing;
for all who are homeless or hungry;
for the people of Mexico, the Middle East, and all places where there are war, oppression and fear;
for migrants in Africa and Europe; and for all who seek peace;
for all immigrants seeking acceptance and safety, that our country may be a safe place for all people;
for the people of our country, that we may find together the way of compassion and peace from our prejudices
and racial tensions; for law enforcement officers and the people they serve;
for candidates running for office this year, and for our President and Congress, that they may work together to
pass legislation to lessen the danger of violence and injustice in our country
and provide for the needs of the most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for St. Luke's, Jennings, the Rev. John Clark (Phyllis);
and for Trinity, Crowley, the Rev. Herman Ogea (Kathi)

Jesus Christ, you offer forgiveness to us all, at every moment. Give us the humility to accept it, and the grace to extend that gift to others. *Amen.*

Say Ministries

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 6

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Stephanie Hamblin

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Nathaniel Means

Prayers of the People: Maggie Fowle

Eucharistic Ministers: Fred Ogunyemi, Kendall Raymond

Acolytes: Patrick Raymond, Hannah Wallace, Audrey Roberts

Ushers: Herschel Richard, Bill Richard

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, June Kirkland

The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 13

Sat. 5:00 PM: Lector: Larry Wright

Sun. 11:00 AM:

Lector: Maggie Fowle

Prayers of the People: Becky Snodgrass

Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ann Horton, Reece Middleton

Acolytes: Steve Snodgrass, Aaron Horton, Herschel Richard

Ushers: Tommie Sue Brooks, Gerry Brooks

Altar Guild Sat. 5:00: Margaret Heacock, June Kirkland

Altar Guild Sun. 11:00: Jo Ann Horton, June Kirkland

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies make our church even more beautiful during the Easter Season and on Easter Day. Giving lilies in honor or memory of people who have been significant in your life is a lovely tradition. If you would like to contribute to the "lily fund," please send your donation to the church or put it in the offering plate, clearly marked "easter lilies," and please include the names of those you are remembering.



Service Music

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 6

Mass: Merbecke, *Christ our Passover* Ambrosian Chant; Martens, adapt.

Psalm 32:1, 2, 6-9 Tone 4.c

Anthem: *Wondrous Love*, arr. Lynn

Hymns: 489 Tallis' Ordinal 641 Southwell 411 St. Thomas (Williams)

Organ: *Laetare* (mov. IV) Tournemire *Chorale in Bm* C. Franck *Plainsong Prelude* Maekelberghe

The Fifth Sunday in Lent: March 13

Mass: Merbecke, *Christ our Passover* Ambrosian Chant; Martens, adapt.

Psalm 126 Tone 1a.2

Anthem: *When I survey the wondrous cross* C. Hart

Solo: *He that is down needs fear no fall* anon. tune Scottish Psalter

Hymns: 441 Rathbun 398 Forest Green 610 Blaenhafren

Organ: *Prière* Franck *Fugue in Bm* BWV 579 J. S. Bach



Our small but *wonderful* Holy Cross choir! Back row: Robert Henley, Marshall Middleton, Reece Middleton. Front row: Melissa Fowle, June Kirkland, Maggie Fowle, Ginger Paul. Not pictured: Jo Ann Horton, Helen Richard

Coming Soon: Inquirers' Classes

Do you want to ✕ know more about the Episcopal Church? ✕ become a member of Holy Cross? ✕ brush up on your "Church knowledge? ✕ be confirmed at Holy Cross? If so, we have just the classes for you! The Rev. Sally Fox will lead classes on Church history, sacraments, and our Book of Common Prayer for approximately six weeks in the Easter Season, on Sunday mornings: April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1 and 8. Bishop Owensby will confirm new Episcopalians and bless the Renewal and Reaffirmation of vows on his yearly Visitation on Sunday, September 11. Please see upcoming issues of *Crossings* for more information.

And be sure to remember . . .



The Continuing Feast this Sunday after the 11:00 Service

All you need to bring is a dish to share, a hearty appetite, and the desire to spend some time with our Holy Cross family, friends, and neighbors.

Soup Days, Wednesdays from 11:00 to 1:00

Three more Soup Days remain: March 2, 9, and 16. For only \$4.00 you can enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade vegetable soup and dessert. Volunteers are welcome to contribute soup or dessert, or to help serve.



Church of the Holy Cross ☩ Episcopal

P. O. Box 1627

Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.org

E-mail: holycrossshr1@bellsouth.net

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage

P A I D

SHREVEPORT, LA

Permit No. 1197

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement: *The Church of the Holy Cross, Shreveport, Louisiana, strives to be the presence of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond, through worship of Almighty God, open inquiry, sharing fellowship, valued diversity, genuine inclusiveness, and servant leadership—encouraging all to exercise God's gifts and calling as we share the Gospel of Hope in programs, to serve without regard for religious affiliation, race, or economic status.*

Anyone have a weedeater you don't need?

Volunteers at Hope House are going to begin cutting the yard there. We have a very small area that can be maintained with a weed eater – all we need is one! If you have an electric or rechargeable battery operated weed eater you would like to donate to Hope House, please call the church office, 222-3325, and let us know. And thank you!

Hope House: There is an ongoing need for coffee, sugar, creamer, laundry detergent, disposable razors, and personal size hygiene products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.). Donations can be taken to 762 Austin Place or to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

Forward Day by Day for **February** and **March**, in both standard and large-print editions, is available in the Narthex and the Undercroft.



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ph.D.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jacob Owensby, Ph.D., D. D.

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

The Rev. Sally M. Fox

The Rev. Kenneth W. Paul

The Rev. Donald D. Heacock

Mr. Bruce Power

Mr. Ron Dean

Mrs. Laurie Connell

Mr. Charles Alford

XXVII Presiding Bishop

IV Bishop of Western Louisiana

Rector

Assisting Priest

Rector Emeritus

Director, Holy Cross Child Placement

Organist-Choirmaster

Organist Choirmaster Emeritus

Office Administrator

Sexton