



Crossings

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ✠ EPISCOPAL
875 COTTON STREET, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Holy Eucharist

Sunday: 9:30 and 11:00 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm

Book Study and Eucharist

Tuesdays during Lent: 11:00 am

Nursery

Sunday
9:45 am – 12:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday: 9:45 am

Sunday School

Sunday: 10:00 am

The Vestry

Reece Middleton, Senior Warden
Ginger Paul, Jr. Warden
Steve Snodgrass, Secretary
Tommie Sue Brooks
Shirley Enani
Maggie Fowle
John Hughes
Anna Grace Madden
Sara Townsend
Monty Walford, Treasurer
(non-vestry)

Contact Information

Telephone: (318) 222-3325
Fax: (318) 681-9506

Email:

office@holycrossshreveport.com

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

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins. . . .”

Can you imagine carrying around a burden of sin all your life? As it gets heavier and heavier, with no relief? Guilt and regret, misgiving, separation from others, from God, and ultimately from yourself? Sacrifices made over and over to atone for each new sin, knowing you would sin again and never being sure how many times God would forgive you. Not to mention the pain of being unable to forgive yourself. I imagine it would be like a walking death, a circular treadmill from which there would be no relief. No life. No resurrection. Sin after sin.

The author of the Letter to the Ephesians puts it bluntly: “You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived. . . .” (Ephesians 2:1). How often do we stop and think about God’s grace in the stark terms of death and life? We can hardly conceive of such love, given to us not because we’ve earned it or deserved it—or made the right sacrifice—but as gift, pure gift.

The truth is, though, we sometimes have a hard time accepting God’s gift of forgiving love. Our instinct and our experience tell us there are no free gifts, no gifts without strings attached. Not in this world, anyway. Love that gives without expecting a return. That’s hard for us to grasp.

The passage we’ll read on the Fourth Sunday in Lent describes God’s love beautifully. Can we believe it? This love can change our lives. It’s ours by virtue only of our being God’s beloved creation. We haven’t done—cannot do—anything to deserve it. This is grace, and because we can’t envision the full implication of God’s grace, we accept it in faith. We believe it just because God promises it is so. We come closest to glimpsing God’s grace when we see God’s love on the cross. Jesus died because he would not budge from his knowledge of God, which was in conflict with the teaching of his day and the “hell and damnation” preaching of the ages. There’s something about human nature that responds to guilt, even as destructive as we know it to be.

So God loves us, whether we love God and one another or not. That taps into our inclination toward judgment, too. It’s not fair! God can’t love the hardened

The burden of sin*



Grace and forgiveness*



criminal just as God loves the penitent who goes to church every Sunday! Is this just another ploy to avoid accepting what we cannot understand, what we cannot believe is true? Do we avoid confessing that we can't forgive ourselves; do we accept that we don't have to be "good enough," worthy of this otherworldly love? Better just to let go of that worry and accept, again, by faith, that God's love and God's justice are not to be equated with those of human beings.

This leaves us with the question, "How are we to respond?" With thanksgiving, yes. With awe and wonder that leaves no place for planning our lives or worrying about measuring up; only a full measure of gratitude. Gratitude that, like God's love, does not count the cost, only giving spontaneously the response that, like laughter and the opening of arms, breaks open our hearts to receive love and open the floodgates of love to God and to others. This is the response God seeks.

As we live in the midst of Lent, may we ask only that we be more and more open to receiving and accepting God's love. As we grow in that love, our response will take care of itself.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" (Ephesians 2:10).

The Rev. Mary B. Richard

Photos are scenes from the 1986 film **The Mission, directed by Roland Joffé and starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons.*

Real life, the Gospels tell us, is about doing the will of God, speaking for the poor, changing the lives of widows and orphans, exalting the status of women, refusing to make war, laying down our lives for the other, the invisible, and the enemy. It is about taking everyone in instead of leaving anyone out. When we learn that, after years of being steeped in the lessons of one liturgical war after another, then life changes for everyone.

*Joan Chittister, in **The Liturgical Year***

Daily Feast: Meditations on the Word, Year B

Louisville: Westminster, John Knox Press, 2012



FEASTING
on the WORD™

The Third Sunday in Lent March 4, 2018

Exodus 20:1-17 ∞ *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*
John 2:13-22 ∞ *Psalms 19*

(*Exodus 20:1-17*) If nothing else, stories and traditions like these remind Christian interpreters of the Ten Teachings that these teachings have been around a long time. They are never our possession, any more than the God who uttered them is. Instead, we stand among a people counted as God's peculiar possession, set apart by holy speech and practice for the mending of God's holy world.

Barbara Brown Taylor

The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 11, 2018

Numbers 21:4-9 ∞ *Ephesians 2:1-10*
John 3:14-21 ∞ *Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22*

(*Numbers 21:4-9*) What concrete things do we focus on that epitomize our fear? In what sense do these things become idols that keep our fear in place? What is God capable of doing with those idols, once they have been plucked out from under our feet and set up on a pole where we can see them clearly? How does God respond to our fear, both in the wilderness and at the foot of the cross?

Barbara Brown Taylor

Calendar for March

Tuesdays during Lent	Book study and Eucharist	11:00 am	Undercroft
Wednesdays during Lent	Soup Days	11:00am-1:00pm	Undercroft
Saturdays	Holy Eucharist	5:00 pm	Chapel
Sundays	Holy Eucharist	9:20 am	Rose Garden or Chapel (depending on weather)
	Nursery	9:30 am – 12:15 am	Education Building
	Sunday School	10:00 am	Education Building
	Holy Eucharist	11:00 am	Nave
Sunday, March 4	<i>The Continuing Feast</i>	after the 11:00 service	Undercroft
Wednesday, March 21	Vestry meeting	5:30 pm	Undercroft
Thursday, March 8	Stations of the Cross	Noon	Rose Garden or Nave
Thursday, March 22	VOA Eucharist	10:00 am	Nave
	Stations of the Cross	Time TBA	Rose Garden or Nave

Prayer List

Wanda Allen
Debbie Atwood
Michael Atwood
Michael Breedlove
Tommy Breedlove
Cary Rhea Brooks
Evelyn Corley
Hugh Coyle
Ron Dean

Shirley Enani
Floyd “Buzzy” Farrar
Ed Finuf
Peter Flowers
Christine Hennigan
Barbara Hughes
Kenneth Jordan
Flo Little
Mim McCoy

Jim McCranie
Allison Moncla
The Buddy
Morehead family
Jim Santa Ana
Brady Sessions
Erik Showalter
Tommy Simrall
Jack Theurkauf

Sonny Thomas
Robert Todd
Sara Townsend
Bill Wright
Larry Wright
Mary Wright
Sheryl Wright

Our condolences to John Hughes and his family upon the death of John’s father Homer Hughes on February 1.

We pray for those who serve and are served by the Caddo Council on Aging;
For refugees fleeing disaster, war and famine and hoping for a new life;
For all who grieve, especially those who have lost loved ones through violence;
for the people of our country, that we may work with renewed purpose to overcome our fears and prejudices;
for law enforcement officers and the people they serve; for people in all places where there is war and fear, and for those who
seek peace and justice; and for the leaders and the people of our country, that we may break the bonds of prejudice and
politics and money and enact laws that serve those who are most vulnerable.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Candidates to Holy Orders: Lee Jefferson, Brooks Boylan, Garrett Boyte;
and for Postulants: Andrew Armond, Laurent De Prins, Meg Lovejoy, Scott McCoy, Paul White.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Province de L’Eglise Anglicane du Congo,
the Most Rev. Zacharie Masimango Katanda, Archbishop of the Congo and Bishop of Kindu;
and for the Church of England, the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

God of mercy, preserve us from the depths of despair and grant us the courage to always return to you. May we grow in humility and openness to the Holy Spirit, continually inviting us to conversion and challenging our complacency and self-righteousness. *Amen.*

Lay Ministries

The Third Sunday of Lent March 4, 2018

Sun. 11:00 am:
Lectors: Hannah Wallace, David Richard
Prayers of the People: Reid Raymond
Eucharistic Ministers: Kay Hunter, Ginger Paul
Acolyte: Hannah Wallace
Ushers: Herschel Richard, Anna Grace Madden
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00 pm: Margaret Heacock
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00 am: Ginger Paul

The Fourth Sunday of Lent March 11, 2018

Sun. 11:00 am:
Lectors: Ginger Paul, Nathaniel Means
Prayers of the People: Melissa Fowle
Eucharistic Ministers: Monty Walford, Ginger Paul
Acolytes: Herschel Richard, Joe Bob Evanson
Ushers: Edward Cloyd-Baldwin, Bill Richard
Altar Guild Sat. 5:00 pm: Margaret Heacock
Altar Guild Sun. 11:00 am: Tommie Sue Brooks



Lay Ministers Needed

Is God calling you into a new kind of ministry? Serving in worship and in preparation for worship are among the most rewarding ways you can give for the life of the church. We are finding ourselves “short-handed” in a few areas. Here are some ways you might pray to see if you would like to serve:

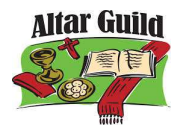
Altar Guild: Prepare the altar and Communion vessels before the service, wash and tidy up afterward. Altar Guild members work in pairs, as a rule. Training is provided.

Ushers: Greet people as they come into the Narthex, hand out service leaflets, take up the offering, take the bread and wine to the altar for Communion. Ushers work in pairs.

Lectors: Read the lessons and Prayers of the People during the worship service. Training is provided.

Eucharistic Ministers: Serve the Chalice during Communion; assist Acolytes in clearing the vessels away after Communion. Training is provided.

Acolytes: Lead the procession, carrying torches and the Cross; clear away vessels after Communion. Training is provided.



New ministers will receive all the training necessary and will serve with a “seasoned” minister until they are comfortable. We are really in need of Altar Guild members, Ushers, and Acolytes! Please consider seriously these ministries and call Mary, 222-3325, if you feel a tug at your heart to serve in a new way. Thank you for all you do to make Holy Cross the wonderful place it is!

Service Music

The Third Sunday in Lent: March 4

Mass:	Merbecke S 153 <i>Christ our Passover</i> Ambrosian Chant; adapt. Martens
Psalm 19:	J. Haydn/Tone VIII.2; adapt. B.P.
Anthem:	<i>Never weather-beaten sail</i> Charles Wood
Hymn-Anthem:	<i>Lord Jesus, Sun of Righteousness</i> H. Darke
Hymns:	628 St. Ethelwald 148 Uffingham 149 Old 124th
Organ:	<i>Fugue in B Minor, BWV 579</i> J. S. Bach <i>Elevation II, Op. 32</i> Dupré <i>These are the Holy Ten Commandments, BWV 679</i> , J. S. Bach

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 11

Mass:	Merbecke S 153 <i>Christ, our Passover</i> Ambrosian Chant; adapt. Martens
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22:	Robert Knox Kennedy
Anthem:	<i>Wondrous Love</i> Anon., British tune, pre-1701; arr. A. Clarke
Solo:	<i>He that is down needs fear no fall</i> anon. 17 th cent. melody from <i>The Scottish Psalter, 1650</i>
Hymns:	489 Tallis' Ordinal 325 Let Us Break Bread 699 Aberystwyth
Organ:	<i>Chorale in B Minor</i> C. Franck <i>Laetare, mov. IV</i> from <i>L'Orgue mystique</i> Charles Tournemire <i>Litanies</i> Alain

There are three more Soup Days in Lent. . .



Come to the Undercroft to enjoy a delicious lunch of vegetable beef soup, crackers, homemade dessert, and water—all for the bargain price of \$5.00. All proceeds go to the various community ministries sponsored by the ECW.

To help make Soup Days more of a success than ever, we need your help! You can make vegetable beef soup to add to the pot, or you can donate homemade pies or cakes. If cooking and baking aren't your forte, please consider helping serve our guests. Remaining Soup Days are:

Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
March 7, 14, 21

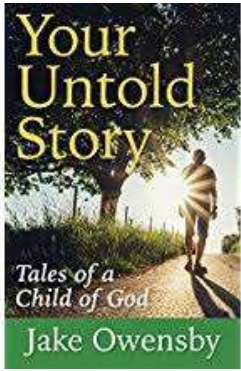
. . . and *The Continuing Feast* is this Sunday!

Once again, the Undercroft will be bursting with food, friends, and fellowship as we celebrate *The Continuing Feast*. Bring a main dish, side dish, salad, appetizer, or dessert, and enjoy lunch with Holy Cross members, friends, and neighbors.

Sunday, March 4, after the 11:00 service

The kitchen crew asks that if you bring a hot dish, you bring it already cooked. We have facilities for keeping food warm, but not for cooking dishes at different temperatures. Also, sometimes we aren't sure if a dish is to be served hot, cold, or at room temperature. Please indicate any special instructions so we don't spoil something you've worked so hard to prepare.



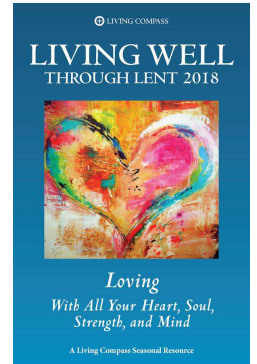


Book Study for Lent

Our Bishop's new book, *Your Untold Story*, is out! It can be ordered from Amazon: \$14.95 paperback, \$12.99 Kindle edition. During Lent we are meeting on **Tuesdays at 11:00 in the Undercroft**. We read the book together, discuss it, and close with Communion. Join us!

It's never too late to begin a Lenten discipline. . . .

We've unfortunately run out of *Living Well through Lent 2018* booklets of meditations for the days in Lent that were available in the Narthex and the Undercroft. However, a free Kindle edition is available through Amazon.com. Go to "Books" and enter the title. It can also be viewed on a computer, tablet, or smart phone.



Our Community Garden

Several years ago we partnered with the Occupational Therapy class at the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, along with Donna Earnest and her neighborhood ministry, to begin a community garden on land we own on Tally Alley behind the Education Building. Holy Cross had the woods cleared, and the OT class and neighbors planted and tended the garden. Our neighbors continue to harvest healthy vegetables and enjoy them for meals, although not many of them are consistently involved in gardening. We believe that this is one of our most helpful ministries to and with our neighbors.

However, Donna, who manages Hope House on weekdays and leads a Bible class with neighbors on Saturdays, has her plate overloaded and has had to discontinue her work in the garden. The OT students are active when their classes are in session, but there are gaps when they are not available.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO CARRY ON THE GARDEN!

If you love to garden, or even if you would just like to help with watering, please call Mary at 222-3325. This is a ministry that gives visible gratification, as well as the satisfaction of knowing our neighbors are eating a little healthier than they would without the availability of fresh, delicious produce.



Hope House T-shirts



New Hope House T-shirts in bright blue may be ordered through the church office. At \$15, they're a bargain, and are a wonderful way to spread the good news of Hope House's ministry far and wide.

Memes and Cartoons

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS NOT YET COME: LENTEN GREETING CARDS



Did you give something up for Lent this year? (Cartoon by Inherit the Mirth)



Your editor had to google this one: Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is a day of celebration. The name comes from the traditional Latin introit for the mass: "Laetare Jerusalem," ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem.")

Church of the Holy Cross ✠ Episcopal
P. O. Box 1627
Shreveport, LA 71165-1627

Website: www.holycrossshreveport.com
E-mail: office@holycrossshreveport.com

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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.*

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

Forward Day by Day for **March** and **April**, 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