

*i thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)*

*how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any-lifted from the no  
of all nothing-human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

— e.e. cummings



## Dearly Beloved,

I have known and loved this poem since I was 12; our school choir sang a choral setting of the poem. The last time I read it aloud was at the St James Crematorium in Toronto, over the casket of a 17-year-old parishioner, whose death I had attended at Sick Kids Hospital. In 2010, when he was 13, Ethan Plecash wrote a hymn for Earth Day at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto (see sidebar). His life may have been cut short, but his words and his vision of what our future could look like have lived on. I like to think it is not a coincidence that Earth Day almost always falls in the Season of Easter.

This Easter letter reaches a wider audience than our regular communications—people with connections to St Michael's who live nearby and members of the St Michael's diaspora far and wide. Those at a distance may be following us on our weekly livestream or archives. We are grateful to all who are part of the life of our community, and we plan to continue to livestream beyond the pandemic to better stay in touch.

Every year, I invite parishioners to experience the fullness of Holy Week, not just services à la carte. The Triduum is the Latin name for the Three Days that begin with the Maundy Thursday liturgy, recalling the first Eucharist and Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet. In some parts of the world, the service ends with an Altar of Repose for the reserved sacrament, surrounded by a profusion of flowers. Sometimes there is a vigil through the night. There is no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. The version of the Passion is always from John, which invites the image of the crucified Jesus reigning from the Cross as the Christus Rex, Christ the King. The large cross in the Columbarium Room is a Christus Rex, as opposed to a suffering crucified Christ.

Holy Saturday is the day in between death and resurrection. One English church planter describes Holy Saturday as the “no-man's land between the questions and the answers.” In the morning there is a simple burial office for Jesus, with mostly Altar Guild members present.

But after dark on Saturday, the Great Three Days concludes with the lighting of the paschal Fire and the first celebration of Easter at the Easter Vigil, a service that begins in darkness, then by the light of the Paschal Candle and tapers. We tell stories from salvation's history, we renew our baptismal vows, and we celebrate the Eucharist after the lights come up.

The Feast of Easter is not a BIG Sunday, per se; every Sunday is a little Easter, celebrating the central mystery of the Christian faith, Christ's resurrection. But we pull out all the stops and add a brass quintet on Easter itself.

As the interim rector, I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together, and for the Rev. Beto Arciniega's leadership of the Misa community. I am delighted that I will be able to pass the torch to the new rector, the Rev. R. Scott Painter, who will be arriving toward the end of Easter Season.

As we reflect on the new life of Easter, how is that new life expressed in our own lives as Easter people? Ethan Plecash's *Song for the Environment* was his way of practicing resurrection – what is yours?

“Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do more than we can ask or imagine; glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.” [Ephesians 3:20-21]

Sherman Hesselgrave, Interim Rector

*P. S. Please see the back of this letter for our Holy Week & Easter schedule.*

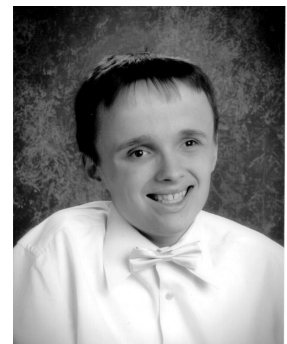
## Song for the Environment

Tune: *Beach Spring*

We must care for the environment  
and this lovely world of ours.  
Planting trees in every valley,  
watch them grow up to the stars.  
See the sun shine on clean rivers,  
as they flow down to the sea.  
Every lake has its inhabitants, fishes  
swimming happily.

No more mining every mountain,  
no more poisons in the ground.  
No more pesticide on farm fields,  
greener planting will abound.  
When the animals roam freely,  
never kept away from light,  
Then the meals at our own tables will  
become a kinder sight

We can practice better values,  
in the hurried life we lead.  
Stop our rushing and our buying,  
take some time to think and read.  
How to plant a little garden, how to care  
for every seed.  
We'll grow better as we learn how to live  
just with what we need.



Ethan Plecash, 2010

**ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!  
THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED.  
ALLELUIA!**

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

- 7:30 am** Palm Blessing & Eucharist (Church)
- 9:00 & 11:00 am** Both services will begin in the Nativity Hall.  
9:00 am — Eucharist, Blessing of the Palms, Processional & Passion Narrative  
11:00 am — Eucharist, Blessing of the Palms, Processional & Palm Sunday readings (no Passion narrative at this service)
- 1:00 pm** *Domingo de Ramos. Bendición y Procesión comenzará en el Nativity Hall. Tendremos la narración de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo durante la Eucaristía.*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

- 6:00 pm** Agapé Supper in the Parish Hall
- 7:00 pm** Liturgy of the Last Supper. The service will begin at 7:00 pm. All are invited to participate in the foot-washing, symbolic of the servant ministry Jesus instituted with the disciples. Music will be led by the St. Michael's Singers and the Choristers.

## GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- 5:00 to 7:00 pm** Church and labyrinth open for prayer and meditation
- 7:00 pm** Bilingual Good Friday Liturgy will include Stations of the Cross beginning in the courtyard; music led by the St. Michael's Singers.

## HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 9:00 am** A brief service will commemorate Jesus' body resting in the tomb.

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, SATURDAY NIGHT

- 8:00 pm** The service begins in the Church. As darkness comes, we light the Paschal Candle and re-tell ancient stories of God's love and call to us. We renew our own baptismal promises in the water of life. With the announcement that the Lord is risen, bells will sound and we will celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. Music will be led by the St. Michael's Singers.  
A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

## EASTER DAY, APRIL 9

- 7:30 am** Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 & 11:00 am** Festive Easter Eucharist, with Music for Congregation, Brass and St. Michael's Singers; Children's Liturgy of the Word  
A reception in the Parish Hall will follow each service.
- 1:00 pm** *Santa Eucaristía* (Eucharist in Spanish)

**Childcare will be provided on Easter morning.**

## PARKING AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Broadway Medical Clinic's parking lot and the **right-hand side** of the Liebert & Liebert building (4300 NE Broadway) parking lot are available Monday through Friday after 5:00 pm, Saturday after 12:00 noon, and Sunday all day.

Until after April 15, the left side (as you face the building) of Liebert & Liebert's parking lot is available on Sundays **ONLY**.

The Dollar Tree lot is **NOT** available for St. Michael's parking. Also, do not park in the Hollywood East parking lot, west of the high-rise.

## GIFTS FOR EASTER FLOWERS & BRASS



Gifts for flowers in the church at Easter and brass players on Easter Day are most welcome and may be given as memorials or thanksgiving offerings.

Checks should be made payable to St. Michael's or STMAA, with "Easter Flowers" or "Easter Brass" in the memo line. You may also donate through the website, [stmaa.org](http://stmaa.org), using the "Donate to our Ministries" button. If you donate that way or with cash, please use this form or email [glorio@stmaa.org](mailto:glorio@stmaa.org) to make your memorial/thanksgiving wishes known. Gifts must be received by **Monday, April 3**, to be included in the Easter bulletins. If you use this form, please circle "In Thanksgiving for" or "In Memory of" to indicate your wishes.

Flowers     Brass

In Thanksgiving for / In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Parish Office,  
email [glorio@stmaa.org](mailto:glorio@stmaa.org), or call 503/284-7141.

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 6 - SUPPER AT 6:00 PM

- Bring a pot of soup to share (recipe provided)  
 Serve (arrive at 5:30)     Clean up

### GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7

- Greet and direct people to church and labyrinth from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

### EASTER VIGIL - APRIL 8 - AFTER THE 8:00 PM SERVICE

- Bring a dessert or cheese/cracker plate (finger food)  
 Help during the reception     Clean up

### EASTER DAY - APRIL 9

- Help after the 9:00 am service     Help after the 11:00  
 Clean up after the 11:00 reception  
 Bring treats (dessert item or cheese/meat/cracker plate – finger foods only, please.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact the parish office for more information  
or to sign up, at 503/284-7141 or [glorio@stmaa.org](mailto:glorio@stmaa.org),  
and/or return this form to the Parish Office.