

Holy Thursday: We Don't Do This Because We Have Short Memories

"When the Church gathers and celebrates the Lord's Supper," the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon, "we are not merely 'announcing' to ourselves and to the world that Christ died and rose again, as though we had short memories and constantly need to be re-



"The Angel Rescues Peter from Jail", www.jesuschristssavior.net, Acts 12:6-10—which *isn't* the Acts reading for this Sunday, but it's close enough. This Sunday's Acts reading will tell of the apostles' rescue from jail by an angel, while the jail remained locked and the guards continued to stand outside.

mind of this.

"Paul is saying that when we celebrate the Lord's Supper and when we enact these sacred actions and say these sacred words, the meaning and power and reality of Jesus' death is brought forward right into the present moment. Christ's saving work becomes a present reality right here in our midst."

"These days of the Great Triduum," he continued, "are significant, because they are not merely a sentimental remembrance of past events." Instead, he said, participation in this "mystery" of the great three days can "change our lives forever."

Good Friday: What to Do with Jesus?

This was the question Pilate faced, the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon, and "each of us now faces" the same question, he said.

Our two available choices are acceptance or rejection, he continued. Pilate, he said, thought he could avoid making a choice, but he couldn't. Quoting Max Lucado, Pastor Thelander said, legend says Pilate is in eternity, "still plunging his hands into the water seeking forgiveness . . . for the kindness he didn't do."

Holy Saturday: Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One, and Come Away

"Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come

away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear upon the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land; rise up, my fair one, and come away." Song of Solomon 2:10-13.

"An obscure French theologian . . . postulates that (these words) form half of a conversation, similar to when you observe someone talking on the telephone," the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said. "You hear half of the conversation, but you cannot hear what is being said on the other end.

"When Jesus hung on the cross and cried, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' his words formed one-half of a conversation. We are not told what God may have said or done in response. Could it be possible, asks the French theologian, that God responded to Jesus with these words, 'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear upon the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land: rise up, my fair one, and come away.'

The face of an illiterate, leprous, hospitalized woman near death in Boston began to shine, and she told her doctor that her Lord brought her a message: "Rise up, my love . . ." she recounted, reciting the passage. (p.2→)

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Sundays

10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service
11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation
11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion.

**We welcome donations for
The Harbinger.**

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, tea, refreshments.

Thursdays: 5:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 6:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

Readings, 4/15: Acts 5:12-29; Ps. 118:19-24; Rev. 1:1-8; John 20:19-31.

4/22: Acts 9:1-19; Ps. 33:1-11; Rev. 5:6-14; John 21:1-14.

Prayer Emphases: Cambodia; Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; St. Augustine's Church (APA), Scarborough, ON, and the Rev. Canon Ivan Chan, Vicar; Christian Retreat Centers; parishioners on Beach Street.

(Holy Saturday Sermon, cont'd.) "Paul says that the whole creation groans and longs for its redemption in Christ. Soon—perhaps sooner than we think—it will hear these words: 'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. . . .'"

Easter Sunday: Remember How He Told You, While He Was with You

The women who arrived at Jesus' empty tomb then remembered that Jesus had told them he would die and rise again. "How often in your life have you experienced something significant or memorable, without truly 'hearing' or internalizing its truth or meaning?" the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander asked. That's why, he said we are a church that "immerses itself in the Christian calendar", has "so much public reading of Scripture", repeats credal statements and prayers, and takes "the symbolic and visual aspects of worship seriously"—so that part of the story may "light a fire under you" later if it doesn't now.