

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

The season began on February 6th, marked by what is known as Ash Wednesday. While we did not have an official service to mark the event, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs forty days prior to Easter (excluding Sundays). On that day, ashes are gathered from the Palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday, and used to mark the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those present. Symbolically, the cross marks remind us that we were created from dust and to dust we will return.

Following Ash Wednesday, we continue to Palm Sunday which is always the Sunday prior to Easter. This year Palm Sunday falls on March 16th. Palm Sunday is marked by the waving of palm fronds in remembrance of the entry of the Lord into Jerusalem and marks the beginning of Holy Week .

We remember the last week of the life of Christ on earth during Holy Week. Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper of Christ and his Disciples. There are many ways that the Christian church has celebrated Maundy Thursday. Some celebrate by the washing of feet; some with the blessing of oil and the anointing of the sick; some with Holy Communion. Following the distribution of Holy Communion the congregation often leaves in silence and the altar is stripped bare.

The following day is Good Friday. This is the day that the Church mourns Christ's death. Saturday is also known as "Black Saturday" to commemorate Christ in the tomb. It is marked as a day of silence and prayer.

We awake early on Sunday morning to recall Mary's hurried trip to the tomb where she found the stone rolled away and the grave empty. We are Easter People, our Lord is not dead but alive—and lives now and forever. Christ has died, Christ is risen; and, because he is risen, we celebrate—for Christ will come again.

Mark your calendars and we will gather together on Maundy Thursday, March 20th and share together in service and Communion. Then I hope that you will come out and be a part of the Easter celebration that will be held on March 23rd BEGINNING at 7:00 a.m. Following the service, we will share breakfast and have Sunday School. There will be only **one service on Easter**, but we will have plenty of room to accommodate everyone.

Rev. Eric Lane – March 2008