



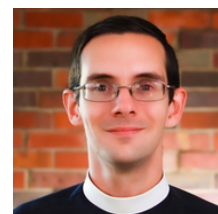
ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONNECTIONS

A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

The Lenten Journey from Sin to Grace

Lent is often a somber time in the church. The sustained focus on our sinfulness can feel dispiriting to many. To some, it seems like the entire season is designed to make us feel bad about ourselves. But of course, the point of talking about sinfulness isn't to make us feel bad.



The point is to understand the miraculous scope of God's grace. We worship a God of forgiveness, and forgiveness implies there is real harm that has been done that needs forgiving. Only by honestly reckoning with our own failings can we truly grasp the depth of God's love and mercy.

We have all fallen short in our relationships with God, with one another, and with all of creation. In the Litany of Penitence which we will pray on Ash Wednesday, we confess to God "our negligence in prayer and worship," "our blindness to human need and suffering," and "our waste and pollution of your creation." Yet in all our confessions, the purpose is to lead us onward to rejoicing in God's forgiveness.

This journey of self-examination through the season of Lent leads us finally to the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry and his death on the cross. When we read those stories each year, we can too easily dismiss those who crucified Jesus as moustache-twirling villains who have little in common with us. After all, we love and worship Jesus! Surely we would have been on his side had we lived back then. Yet Lent invites us to see our own rebellion against God in the acts of those who conspired to execute Jesus. The season asks us to listen for our own voice in the crowd shouting "Crucify him!"

This Lent, during our Wednesday night program, we'll take a closer look at some of those figures who opposed Jesus: Pilate, the Pharisees, Herod. Why did these "Enemies of Jesus" want him out of the way so badly? Can we explore their real motivations and move past seeing them as one-dimensional villains? And as we come to a better understanding of their fears, their ambitions, their prejudices, might we see something of these figures reflected in ourselves? Only when we have learned to see ourselves in the mob can we take this step from sin to grace and understand the mercy of the one who forgave his enemies from the cross, even as they were crucifying him.



Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 22 at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Join us as we begin our journey through Lent with Ash Wednesday liturgies and the Imposition of Ashes.



LENTEN SERIES

Wednesdays, March 1–March 29

6 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Dinner in the Parish Hall

7 p.m. Programs for Children and Adults

Adult Program: “The Enemies of Jesus”

Over these five Wednesday evenings, we will look more closely at some of the biblical characters who opposed Jesus during his ministry and even sought to have him killed. We read about these characters every Holy Week, but we rarely take a close look at their motivations and historical context in order to see them as real, complex individuals. Throughout the series, we’ll explore how our own prejudices and support for the status quo lead us to have more in common with these “enemies of Jesus” than we often realize.

March 1: The Pharisees

March 8: King Herod

March 15: Judas Iscariot

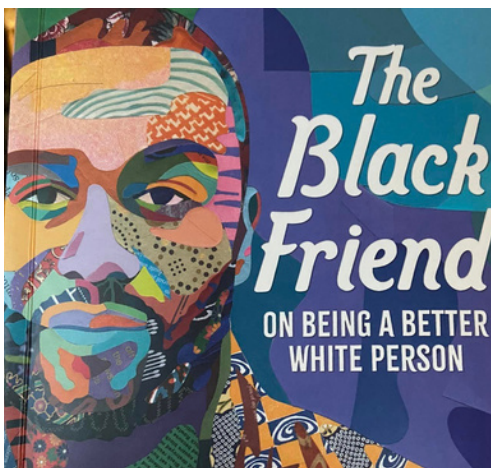
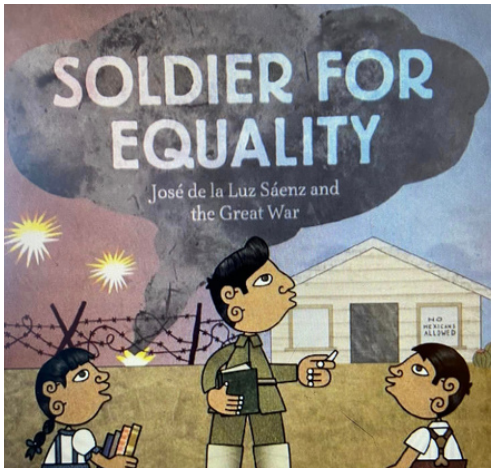
March 22: Caiaphas and the chief priests

March 29: Pontius Pilate

Children’s and Youth Program

Our children and youth will be diving into books that help explore the realities of discrimination and Christ’s call to love our neighbor. Grades K-5 will be reading “I Dissent,” “Soldier for Equality,” “Hammering for Freedom,” and “A Song for the Unsung.” Grades 6-12 will be reading “The Black Friend.”

There will be no Children’s and Youth Program on March 15 for Spring Break.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



Palm Sunday

April 2 at 10:15 a.m.

Holy Wednesday

April 5 at 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 6 at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

April 7 at Noon

Family Stations of the Cross

April 7 at 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday Service + Vigil Rehearsal

April 8 at 10 a.m.

Easter Vigil

April 8 at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service

April 9 at 10:15 a.m.

Flowering of the Cross prior to the service;
Easter egg hunt following service

ADULT FORUM DURING LENT

Sundays at 9 a.m. in Room 131

Have you ever wondered what it might have been like to be one of Jesus' friends? To travel with him as he went around the countryside teaching and healing and feeding? Who were these people? What were their stories? How much of what we know about them comes from the Bible and how much comes from Christian tradition? What can we learn about friendship – and about what happens when we fail as friends – from these people?

During Lent, our Sunday Morning Adult Forum will look at four key people who surrounded Jesus:

Sunday, Feb. 26 – Peter

No Forum on March 5 for First Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, March 12 – Lazarus

Sunday, March 19 – Mary Magdalene

Sunday, March 26 – Judas

We hope you'll join us as we look to unravel their stories.

Upcoming Second Offering Partners

MARCH 2023

Women at the Well

APRIL 2023

The Faith and Grace Garden

MAY 2023

The FreeStore

JUNE 2023

**The Archdiocese of Western Equatoria,
South Sudan(Archbishop Peni)**





New Ladies Who Lunch fellowship gathering



Youth and families serving at
Central Iowa Shelter and Services



2023 Annual Gathering

THIS SPRING

Ascension Sunday + End of Year Picnic

Sunday, May 21

Our program year will wrap up with our celebration of Christ's ascension on May 21. As the school year comes to a close we will take the chance to celebrate our graduating seniors of the Class of 2023. After the service, we'll enjoy a time of fellowship together with a potluck picnic.

