

Soft Light

Night's dark soul stirs. Chips of life tug at its ear. Just the smallest candle of light peeps through its shadows.

This is the balance-point of time.

Resurrection.

Good Friday had tempted us to guilt—about his wounds, about our sins. About his arms, branded by hurts. He uses them today to hold us, to enfold us. His wounds know somehow the shape of our small selves. Mothering Christ.

At Easter Vigil the cantor sings:

O certe necessarium Adae peccatum
quod Christi morte deletum est!

O felix culpa,

quae talem ac tantum meruit habere Redemptorem!

Oh truly necessary sin of Adam,
blotted out by the death of Christ!

O blessed fault,

which won so great a redeemer!

Singing in praise of sin? Even though Christ's death has taken their sin away, is it right to rejoice about sin? Original sin was not really a good or blessed event. Nor is our selfish penchant for misdeed.

Yet we rejoice. Without sin the reason for Christ's coming would have been absent. With it, Christ's healed arms can sweep us up, comfort and absolve and hold us. So we are blessed beyond words.

In its midst, night carries the promise of light. In their revolt, sins carry the pledge of forgiveness.

O truly blessed night,
in which earth is wedded to heaven,
and humans to God!

The light is coming. Several rows of people have their candles lit. Over there, several more. Soon half the church awakens to Christ's gentle light. Then all. Morning has eased their faces into daylight, into the soft, humble glow.

Christ became the night. Christ is the light.

John Foley, SJ

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 12, 2020

St. Stephens Indian Mission

www.saintstephensmission.com

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Blessed Sacrament & St. Josephs

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Please view the Diocese of Cheyenne website dioceseofcheyenne.org as they have added a link that includes information on the Church's response to the coronavirus outbreak. There is also a link to view Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Steven. The link is very helpful and provides many, many resources to join in prayer, especially during Holy Week.

Reminder there is no daily Mass, no Sunday Mass, or Adoration and all public meetings (including AA and Bible Study) normally held on the Mission grounds are also suspended until April 30th. The gift shop is also closed. The office is closed to the public as we encourage everyone to stay home. You may call 851-2912 in an emergency otherwise calls to the parish office will be returned as soon as possible. These restrictions are necessary as it is imperative we are responsible and act in solidarity for the common good. Bulletins will be posted to the parish website at www.saintstephensmission.com.

Please remember the church is open for private prayer every day from 8am-7pm. Continue to pray for the end of this pandemic. God Bless!

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Come in seeking; come in wondering; come in hurting. Come into this house of companionship and compassion. Come in. You are welcome here. Our faith Family opens its doors to you and in the name of Christ, bids you Welcome!
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The purpose of St. Stephen's Indian Mission, the presence of the Roman Catholic Church among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho, is to grow into a strong community of believers, sharing our lives in the Holy Spirit, forming one welcoming People of God, who are committed to Jesus Christ, His gospel and mission.

Readings April 13th through April 19th:

Mon: Acts 2:14, 22-33, Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tue: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wed: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thur: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Fri: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14
Sat: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15b, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sun: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Father Hugo is celebrating a PRIVATE Mass every day so the Mass for the scheduled intentions are still being celebrated. Please feel free to call and leave a message if you have an intention. God bless.

Mass Intentions this week

4/11: Saturday	Those who are struggling
4/12: Sunday	Tyler Brown on his birthday
4/13: Monday	+Edward LaMorte
4/14: Tuesday	+Weasel Mann
4/15: Wednesday	+Harold Ouray
4/16: Thursday	Rosalie Jacobson & Family
4/17: Friday	+Paul Jacobson
4/18: Saturday	Jolene & Vern Scheer
4/19: Sunday	+Donna Antelope

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He Is Risen!

The churches at St. Josephs and St. Stephens are open daily from 8am-7pm for private prayer. No more than 10 people are to be in the church at one time.

As you likely know, on Friday, April 3, 2020, Governor Gordon extended the prohibition of gatherings of more than ten people and other social distancing measures through April 30.

Consequently, the suspension of public Masses in the Diocese of Cheyenne, as well as the other directives in the March 20, 2020, Policies and Procedures Document, are extended through April 30, 2020. The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Mass while the public celebration of the Mass is suspended.

If you need a refresher of the March 20 directives, go to: <http://dioceseofcheyenne.org/covid19/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-policies-and-procedures-FINAL.pdf>



My dear friends in Christ,

May the Lord's peace be with you! Though we are in troubling times, I nonetheless hope you have found cause for consolation. During this Easter season, let us recall how God has been active in our lives.

We remain an Easter people, though our experience right now feels like we are in the upper room with the disciples. Even though it is not the account for this year's celebration of Easter, I encourage you to read Luke 24:36-49. In this passage, we see Jesus appear to the disciples in Jerusalem. As we read this passage, we receive insight into what God continues to do for us even though we cannot celebrate sacramentally.

During this account of the resurrection, we see that the disciples are afraid. Jesus recognizes this fear and this isolation because he experienced something very similar when he was alone on the cross. To help ease this fear and shock, he gives them the gift of peace. At this time, let us find creative ways to grant each other this same gift of peace from our risen Lord!

Christ was transformed through his resurrection from the dead. He still had the marks of his suffering and death, but they could not constrain him. In the same way, our God is bigger than our present adversity. God continues to call to us as his Church, and we still remain transformed by the grace we have celebrated together in the sacraments.

We remain the Church because of what our Lord has done for us. It might still feel like we are in the upper room, but just as the disciples received new life from their encounter with the risen Lord, so shall we. In these trying times, God still asks us to live as the mystical Body of Christ, into which our sacraments have transformed us.

Please remain open to communications from me, from the parish, and from the diocese as we find new ways to encourage each other in faith, hope, and love. As from the beginning of our current crisis, the COVID-19 webpage for the Diocese of Cheyenne has helpful prayer resources, activities for families, models for worship at home, and updates from Bishop Steven. You can find those at dioceseofcheyenne.org/covid19. Join me also for Mass there each Sunday.

God's grace is real, and we can look to the transformed, risen life of Christ as evidence. God's grace is at work among us at this very moment, just as God remained active and alive while Jesus was in the tomb.

Please pray for me, as I continue to pray for each of you. In the words of Julian of Norwich, remember, "all shall be well, all shall be well, in all manner of things all shall be well."

In the Lord's friendship,

Father Jim