

Rev. Trevor J. Hahn, MDiv., B.A. HRM  
Ordained, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.)

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 57; 2 Timothy 4:6-11, 18; Mark 1:1-15  
Commemoration: Mark the Evangelist

*There is no time to bask in the cool water, to enjoy the celebration of one's baptism for Jesus. We hear that immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. The image of the wilderness is likely not the image of our workplaces and homes. Yet, we can be like Jesus, alone in a wilderness, attacked, hungry, tempted. The Gospel points out that Christ was first baptized before the Spirit acted and sent him out. Before beginning your week, look to the Catechism, to the morning prayers, and be prepared. In our baptism we are joined to Christ and therefore we will endure, but how well the experience goes will depend upon our preparation in the Word.*

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Jonah 2:1-10; Matthew 12:38-42; Psalm 114

*The Lord is present. When reading the scriptures, especially in these busy and fearful contemporary times, especially as we romanticize the past, it is important to remember that the Lord is present with us always. The people ask for a sign in Matthew, wishing for the sign of Jonah, as the allegory of the fish tells us how it spat Jonah out at God's command. The movement in time for believers has been a flow from cause and effect (i.e. "we're good, do good to us, God" and "we've been evil, please don't punish us, God") to one of co-creative love and joy with God. We have been given the gifts of the Spirit by God's grace and so no sign is necessary, simply belief. Christ assures us in Matthew and the psalmist demonstrates it in 114.*

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

*"Although you have not seen him, you love him."*

*Are you an island in a sea of disbelief and confusion? The Epistle, First Peter, is understood to be pseudonymous and cannot be attributed to Peter the Apostle because of time of writing and the type of language. However, it is clear that the author is trying to reach scattered followers of the Way, the early Christians, with a message of hope. We repeatedly throughout Eastertide are reminded that we do not always recognize Christ, nor do we see him physically. Yet, we believe. To disbelievers and those who would ridicule faith, we seem fools. As believers, we know in our hearts that our Lord lives, walks, breathes, and cares for us. We love Christ for the salvation we receive through him by God's grace and we follow Christ, assuring one another, Christ's salvific love continues. Christ is our boat, our anchor and our storehouse on the open sea. Take hold!*

Friday, April 28, 2017

Daily Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

*The prophet Isaiah writes: "Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace - in peace because they trust you." It can be difficult to trust, can it not? We must trust bus drivers, teachers, doctors, nurses, contractors, politicians, ourselves. A healthy society cannot be strong without trust and*

*so Isaiah speaks of a strong Judah - strong because of trust. We must take heed of where that trust is placed. The prophets did not put trust in the rulers, in the leaders, but instead wrote and preached trust in the Lord, trust in the Holy One who is actually worthy of our trust. Many continue to distrust the Lord, shrugging off the creation that allows us to live, hating the very people God has provided to care for all people, fearing the work that we do as people engaged in a relationship with an active and loving God. Faith is trust and putting faith forward in your life allows for a strong, trusting society, which leads to peacefulness. Trust in the Lord and know peace.*