



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for April 3](#)

[Link to Randy's Easter Day Sermon "Not Your Resurrection."](#)

[Link to Ms. Diana Gustafson's Easter Eve Sermon "Je Suis Jesus"](#)

[Link to The Rev. Deacon Kate Siberine's Good Friday Sermon.](#)

[Link to Javier Ocampo's Maundy Thursday Sermon "The Last Thing Christ Really Wanted Us to Know Thursday."](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)

Calendar Highlights

Friday, April 1

6pm Movie Night, Undercroft Commons
6pm Couples in Recovery, Chapel

Saturday, April 2

9am Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft Commons
11am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel

Sunday, April 3

21st Century Thoughts on the Resurrection

"Rather than focusing on 'what happened',... focus... on the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus in the New Testament. What did it mean for his followers in the first century to say that God raised Jesus from the dead? Believe whatever you want about whether the tomb was really empty, whether you are convinced it was or uncertain or skeptical— what did Easter mean to his early followers? The answer to the question of meaning is clear. In the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament, the resurrection of Jesus has two primary meanings: 'Jesus lives' and 'Jesus is Lord'.

"...the first meaning of Easter is that Jesus was not simply a figure of the past, but one who continued to be experienced as an abiding reality in the present. Such experiences happened not only in the first century. Many Christians in the centuries since have had experiences of Jesus— some in dramatic visions and mystical experiences, others in quieter ways. If we were to discover the bones of Jesus, would we then need to say that all of these Christians were mistaken?

"Second, he was experienced not simply as a continuing presence, but as a divine reality, as 'Lord', as 'one with God'. This feature distinguishes experiences of the post-Easter Jesus from other experiences of somebody who has died. Surveys suggest that about half of surviving spouses will have at least one vivid experience of their deceased spouse. Such an experience might lead them to wonder whether their spouse is still in some sense alive. But it would not lead them to conclude that their spouse was now both Lord and God.

"But there was something about the experience of the risen Jesus that led beyond 'Jesus lives' to 'Jesus is Lord'. 'Jesus is Lord' means that Jesus has been vindicated by the God of Israel, the creator of heaven and earth, and raised to God's right hand. 'Jesus is Lord' means the lords of this world, including the ruler of the empire that executed him, are not supreme. To affirm "Jesus is Lord" systematically subverts all other lords, including the lords of culture.

"Thus Easter is about much more than whether a spectacular

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
8:15am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
9am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
9am Godly Play, Room 6
9am A Joyful Path, Room 11
10:15am Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, Chapel
11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel
11am Godly Play, Room 6
11am A Joyful Path, Room 11
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
3pm Confirmation Class, Room 3
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, April 4

6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
7pm Listening Heart Community, Library

Tuesday, April 5

6:30pm Spanish Class, Ascension House
7pm Education for Ministry, Library
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Room 1
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

Wednesday, April 6

10am *Grounded* Book Group, Library
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal, Main Church
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Chapel

Thursday, April 7

10am Yoga, Chapel

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, April 3

miracle happened on a particular day a long time ago. It is also about much more than surviving death, for Jesus or for us. It is about who is Lord. Is God as revealed in Jesus Lord? Or is somebody or something else Lord?

“All of the above is why I think the question of the factuality of the empty tomb is irrelevant. Focusing on the empty tomb reduces the meaning of Easter to a spectacular event in the past. It makes the resurrection of Jesus vulnerable to skepticism. Do things like this really happen? And only to Jesus? Can I be a wholehearted Christian if I have doubts about this?

“This alternative way of understanding Easter sees the Easter stories as parables— parables about Jesus. That is, it understands these stories metaphorically. Parable and metaphor are about meaning. The story of the empty tomb means that death could not hold Jesus, could not stop what he had begun. The powers killed him, sealed him in a tomb. But that was not the end— he continued to be known, and known as Lord. The angels at the tomb ask the women who have come to anoint his body, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen’ (Luke 24: 5). In other words, ‘You won’t find Jesus in the land of the dead’.

“The stories of his appearances make the same point, and more. When Jesus appears to two of his followers on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24, he is experienced as a stranger who travels with them, and then is recognized as Jesus in ‘the breaking of the bread.’ In John 20, he appears to Thomas, who needed, yearned, hungered for his own experience of the risen Jesus, and also blesses those who have not had such an experience and yet believe. In John 21, the commands of the risen Jesus are ‘Feed my sheep’ and ‘Follow me’ (vv. 17, 19). Would the parabolic meanings of these stories be invalidated if the tomb had not been empty? If we discovered the bones of Jesus, would that mean that Easter is not true? Is Easter about much more than something happening to the corpse of Jesus? According to the New Testament, it is. The powers killed Jesus. But that was not the end. Jesus lives and is Lord.”

From Marcus Borg, *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored*, (pp. 110-114). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Announcements
(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[April Movie Night](#)

[Support After School Programs at Gaithersburg Elementary](#)

Preachers: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, The Rev. Cindy Baskin at 11:15 am

Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens, Eliane Dunn-Johnson

7:45 AM Reader/Prayers: Jean Cohn, *Chalicians:* Enid Cole, Sharon Hayden, *Healing Prayer:* Meredith Horan, *Acolytes:* Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Don Cohn, Jean Cohn, *Altar Guild:* Enid Cole, Mardia Dennis

9:00 AM, Readers: Susan Ahalt, Diana Gustafson, *Prayers:* Barbara Mansfield, *Chalicians:* Doty Pfadenhauer, Margaret Tellu, *Healing Prayer:* Javier Ocampo, *Acolytes:* Kofi Kwamena-Poh, Kayleigh Yankie, Sam Mendimasa, *Welcome Team:* Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma, Josephine Clarke, *Altar Guild:* Margaret Joseph, Dorett Sutherland, Sari Stoddard

11:15 AM Reader: Alex Langley, *Chalicians:* Peg Ruppel, Laura Shay, *Healing Prayer:* Diana Gustafson, *Welcome Team:* Page Salazar, Clark Didavi, *Altar Guild:* Georgana Maines

Eucharistic Visitors: Meredith Horan, Barb Mansfield

School

Youth Sunday, April 10

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Godly Play, April 3

A Joyful Path, April 3

Yoga at Ascension

Education for Ministry

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Listening Heart Community at Ascension

Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

WORSHIP

Worship Rosters, April-June, 2016

Bulletins for Tablets Link

Calling all Altar Guild Members

SERVICE

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

Gaithersburg HELP

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Pledge Thank You Luncheon

Ascension's Adventure Group

Ascension Softball

Living with Serious Illness Group

Linen Laundering

Keeping the Feast

Spanish Classes

ESOL Classes

Prayer Request Updates

PUBLICATIONS

Link to the Annual Report and the Vestry Candidate Questionnaire

March Ascendant

Together We Shine

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Chapel of the Annunciation, Church House, Chapel of the Episcopal Center for Children, Episcopal Center for Children, Rosemount Center, Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Brad, Carol, Kirk, Betty, Heather, Marguerite, Warren, The Scheiner Family, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Given by Steve and Hollis King, in celebration of their anniversary.

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