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“For the victory is to become one with Him — one with Him Who is All in All.”

Easter

from *The Inner Side of Christian Festivals*

by the Rt. Rev. C.W. Leadbeater

When the early Christians
met one another on Easter Day

one said to the other:

“The Lord hath arisen,”

and the reply was:

“He is risen indeed.”

Not from an earthly grave,
but from the grave of matter;
risen in truth and in splendid reality,
risen for evermore.

So in His victory we triumph too,
and in the joy of the Lord
His Church rejoices also.

“I am the Divine Flame within my heart”

A Prayer

The Rt. Rev. C.W. Leadbeater

(Bishop Leadbeater gave this prayer to his class in Melbourne, Australia for a daily meditation. Every word was thought over for many months: then thought out as to its connection with every other word. There is a deep occult significance in the combination of words, sentences and ideas, There should be a pause after each phrase with deep meditation.)

O Gracious Lord I enter Thy radiance, and approach Thy presence, bearing with me the service done in Thy name, and for Thee. I seek to become a more efficient server, and I open my heart and mind to the power of Thy Love, and Thy Joy and Thy Peace.

In Thy presence, Thy Love floods my being; Love which is gentleness, kindness and helpfulness. I must therefore be loving gentle, kind and helpful to all men.

In Thy presence Thy Joy pervades me; Joy which is light, radiance and eternal youth. I must therefore bear Thy Joy to those who are sad and depressed.

In Thy presence, Thy Peace enfolds me, and fills me with contentment, certainty, rest, stillness; Thy Peace which passeth understanding. I must therefore be a center of love, joy and peace in the world.

I place my hand in Thine with all love and trust and confidence, for Thou art indeed my Lord. From the unreal lead me to the Real, from darkness to Light, from death to Life Eternal. At Thy feet and in the Light of Thy Holy Presence, I strive to realize what I am. I am not this body which belongs to the world of shadows; I am not the desires which affect it; I am not the thoughts which fill my mind; I am not the mind itself. I am the Divine Flame within my heart, eternal immortal, ancient, without beginning, without end. More radiant than the Sun in all his noonday glory, purer than the snow, untouched, unsullied by the hand of matter; more subtle than the ether is the Spirit within my heart. I and my Father are One.

I worship Thee. I adore Thee; Thou my Life, my Breath, my Being, my All. I am in Thee and Thou art in me. Lead me, O gracious Lord, through Thine illimitable Love to union with Thee, and the Heart of eternal Love.

In Thy Love I rest for evermore.

Amen

“We have sprouted, been protected, and then evolved into the mature Christian who can represent Christ in his church”

The Three E's of Lent

By Rev. Richard Ellwood, Deacon.

What is Lent and what is it about? It is the time which we have been given the opportunity to explore, experience, and evolve in our own lives what it means to live in Christ. Alexander Schmemmann, a Russian Orthodox theologian, suggests: “For even though we are baptized, what we constantly lose and betray is precisely that which we received at baptism. Therefore, Easter is our return every year to our own baptism, whereas Lent is our preparation for that return, the slow and sustained effort to perform at the end our own passage into the new life in Christ.”

Each year Lent and Easter are, once again, the rediscovery and the recovery by us of what we were made through our own baptismal death and resurrection. As Paul so eloquently writes, “Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father so we, too, might walk in newness of life.”

What are some of the signs of walking in newness of life? Let me share with you the three E's of Lent.

The first “E” is Exploration. In the biblical story, after the baptism of Jesus comes the maturing experience of the wilderness. Hardly does Jesus have time to dry off from the Jordan River water when he is driven — some even say hurled — into the wasteland to live with wild beasts where evil spirits are free to roam and lay traps. Jesus has come to grips with just what his vocation is. These evil temptations start out slowly and the figure of Satan lures Jesus with one of humanity's basic needs, food: “You must be hungry; take these stones and turn them into bread.” Jesus quickly says, “One does not live by bread alone.”

Why is it such a terrible thing to give into the temptation of making bread? A possible theory is that Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness is analogous to the Jews' 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Jesus is enduring a test of deprivation of the common comforts of society, and attempting to live in a very un-human-friendly environment. Like Luke Skywalker isolating himself on the planet Dagobah to be trained in a hostile wilderness to become a Jedi, Jesus must learn not to be dependant on having his palate tickled with delicious food and drink in every mouthful. He had to learn to say no to himself, if that was what God was charging him to do.

The second temptation is to follow Satan. The promise is that all of the world will be his if he will just do that. Authority, power, and glory — acting as if the world is his to do with as he will — Satan wants to hand it over. Jesus responds, “Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.” Just think what humble ways are ahead for Jesus instead of kingly power.

Then he was placed on the pinnacle of the temple and tempted to throw himself down and miraculously live. The devil even quotes scripture, but Jesus responds, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” Like Jesus, we need to explore what it means to be the son or daughter of God. That gift which is given in our baptism to be the child of God by adoption cannot be lightly considered.

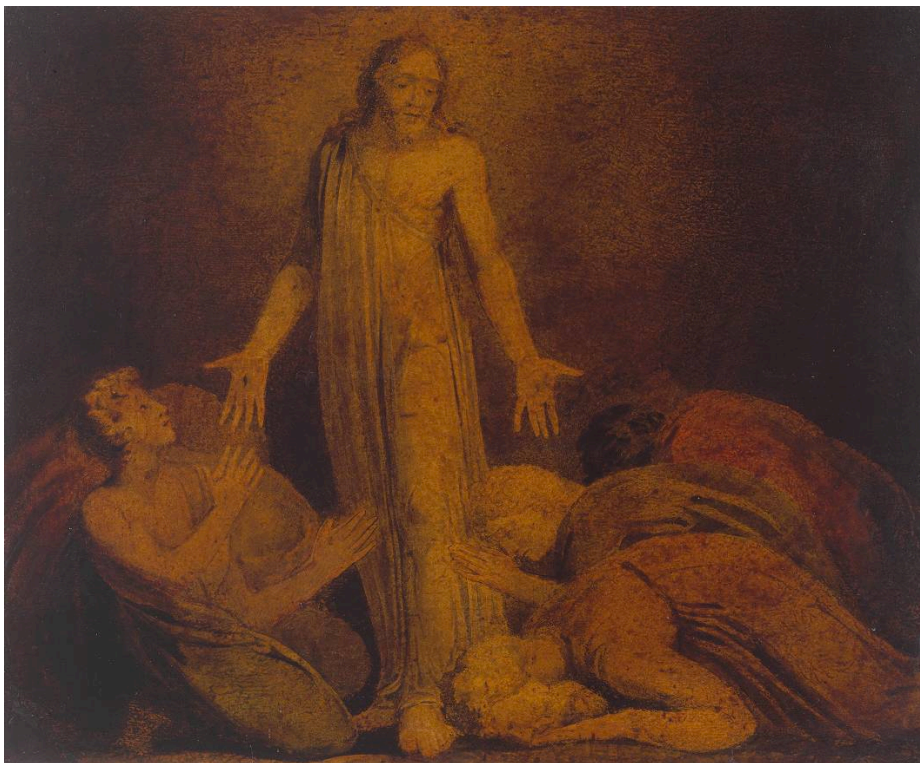
Are we aware of the daily temptations in our own life?

The second “E” is Experience. Walking in the way calls us into the very experiences of life, which will instruct us so that we may teach others and call them into this life with us. This means learning how to love. The word is near you on your lips and in your heart. Jesus came to fulfill the law which is at the heart of the Hebrew religion. In fulfilling it, he remarked that the first commandment was to love God; the second was to love our neighbor. In a sense, he called upon those who would follow the way to experience God’s unconditional love and to love one another unconditionally — a lesson indeed which is hard to learn.

Finally, the third “E”: Evolution. Fortunately, for all of us there has been given the time to evolve into the new life in Christ which we receive at our baptism. That evolution is the maturing process. Lent is such a time. Hindu literature contains a metaphor about persons reaching a mature state of inner ripeness that signals a profound shift in life, like growing up. The metaphor is expressed in the following way:

When the young plant is just sprouting out of the seed or is still weak and tender, it requires seclusion and the protection of a strong, thorny fence to keep off cattle that might otherwise eat it or trample and destroy it. But the same shoot, when it develops into a large tree, dispenses with such protection and itself affords shade, sustenance, and protection to animals and humans alike without detriment to itself.

We have sprouted, been protected, and then evolved into the mature Christian who can represent Christ in his church, bear witness to him wherever we may be, and according to the gifts given us, carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world, and take our place in the life, worship, and governments of the church.



“a labor of love ... for the glory of God”

A Rambling History of the Pipe Organ of St Gabriel & All Angels, Fairfield, Iowa

By Ann Bosold, organist.

The building that houses St. Gabriel and All Angels Liberal Catholic Church, in Fairfield, was erected in 1926 in gratitude for an answered prayer. Carved in stone on the frieze of this brick-and-concrete Roman temple-style structure is the legend “FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST”. Local folklore tells us that a prominent Fairfield matron, in the 1920s, had a comfortable life, but not her heart’s desire: a child. She prayed according to the principles of Christian Science, and promised to build a church if her prayer were answered. In time she became a mother, and built the church, with the support of her husband, an engineer at Loudon Engineering.

Alas, the church did not attract a Christian Science congregation, and the building had a checkered career. It changed ownership several times, serving as a pool hall briefly, and as a Protestant church for several years.

Also in Fairfield, Parsons College prospered as Flunk-Out U during the Vietnam War years, and then failed. In 1971, the campus was bought by Maharishi International University (now Maharishi University of Management), and a community of practitioners of Transcendental Meditation formed. Of the 10,000 people now living in Fairfield, around 3,000 are members of the meditation community, coming from all over the country and the world.

Meanwhile, also in the 1920s, the pipe organ was installed in a monastery in California. It served for many years, until the 1980s, when an earthquake destroyed the monastery. The pipe organ was salvaged by a TM meditator who moved it to a storage unit in Fairfield on a hunch, looking for church to adopt it in his new home town.

Another organ plays a part in this story. The campus of Parsons/MIU had a chapel with a pipe organ. Our congregation met in this chapel for its first five years (1985-1990) and enjoyed the use of this lovely organ, before moving off campus to the local senior center (old Wurlitzer). In the late 1990s, John Connet, the hero of our story, moved to Fairfield to join the TM community. A retired electrical engineer, John enthusiastically involved himself in civic projects, such as repairing the courthouse clock... and working on the chapel pipe organ. He apprenticed with an organ builder in Iowa City. When the chapel was razed in 2000, John oversaw the dismantling and storage of the chapel organ. Around that time he was approached by the California meditator to find a home for the monastery organ.

...Which brings us back to the Christian Science building. St. Gabriel and All Angels congregation, founded in 1986, bought and consecrated the building in 1993. To the untrained eye, it seemed to have a simple, boxy design. But when John went looking for a church to house the monastery organ, he saw what no one else did: the church had been designed with an organ loft, a booth behind the altar to hold a set of organ pipes, behind ornate wooden grillwork.

A few board meetings and work parties later, the many components of the monastery organ were delivered to St. Gabriel and Angels. Our shoestring budget did not allow any more than the most minimal funding of the project, but John was eager to put his skills to work installing the organ chest, the pipes, the console, the compressor, and all the myriad electrical wires that make up a pipe organ. He put in hundreds of hours, all volunteer, just as a labor of love. (I helped a little, showing up now and then to help with cleaning rust off electrical connections, and general extra-pair-of-hands jobs.) Just in time for Christmas 2002, our organ was ready to play for the glory of God. It is a joy to play and to listen to.

PS: (John's voluntarism was just getting warmed up, as it turns out. The chapel organ found a home in 2010 when Fairfield Arts and Convention Center was built, and John again stepped up, to install the organ in the Sondheim Theater.)



*St Gabriel & All Angels, Fairfield, Iowa
Easter season, 2012*

*Ann Bosold can be seen at the console of the organ on the left side of the photo.
Organ pipes are behind the grillwork behind the altar.*

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Kathleen Clute and Parish Correspondents

News from the Presiding Bishop

Effective February 26, 2013 the Presiding Bishop and Mrs. Wale relocated to the Province of France. They will be living at the “Chateau” and the Office of Presiding Bishop will be as follows:

The Most Reverend Graham Wale
 Prieure Saint Alban
 Chateau de Bois Rabot
 41300 Pierrefitte Sur Sauldre
 France

Bishop Wale’s temporary email will be lccpb@gmail.com.

Retreat Announcement

Order of Our Lady, New Mexico

The Order of Our Lady in New Mexico will hold our second retreat this year, returning to the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque in mid–October. Although the dates are not yet finalized, we anticipate beginning on Friday evening and concluding after the celebration of Holy Eucharist on Sunday at Our Lady Queen of Angels.

We would like to invite all women in our Provincial churches to join us. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact me at herself@ackc.name. Our first retreat last year was spiritually refreshing and we look forward to deepening our connection with our Lord Christ, our Blessed Mother Mary, and all our sisters from across the country this autumn. Please come!

Kathleen Clute

Parish News

The Church of St. Francis, Villa Park, Illinois

Greetings from the Church of St. Francis in Villa Park, IL. Our Holy Eucharist is every Sunday at 10:00 am. If you are ever in the area, please stop by and celebrate Eucharist with us. In addition to Sunday Eucharist, there is a Healing Service led by Fr. Daniel Provost on the first Wednesday of every month, and The Ray Rosary on select dates. We also have a pancake breakfast after Holy Eucharist on the 5th Sunday of the month. We offer books, small gifts, and hand assembled 7 Ray Rosaries for sale. Our newsletter is published 7 times per year, and is very informative. Please email us for more information. Check us out on Facebook, search “Church of St Francis”.

We’ve had a fairly mild winter in the Chicago area, but of late, we have gotten a little bit of snow. We enjoyed a beautiful Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Fr. Daniel and Dawn Regnier decorated the walkway in front of the church with glowing luminaires. See our Facebook page for a picture.

Activity wise it has been a quiet period for St. Francis. We are continuing with our adult education video series on Lost Christianity, in the Great Courses collection. We also plan to watch the movies “What Dreams May Come” and “The Life of Pi” together. The 2nd incense making workshop was great fun. The participants got their hands dirty as we learned the skill of cone making. The next class will teach the technique of hand-rolling incense sticks.

Our organist, Rabbecca Collin, and Thurifer, Dawn Regnier visited St Raphael and All Angels in Milwaukee on March 10th, to celebrate Eucharist with Fr. Henry. They enjoyed their visit very much.

On March 23rd, we will be hosting what we call “An Ecumenical Day of Rest and Relaxation,” where several alternative healers will be available for guests to experience the different healing modalities.

We were all excited when we received the news that Bishop William will be visiting us during Holy Week, and are busy making and finalizing plans. We are also looking forward to seeing our TLCC brothers and sisters at the retreat in Dubuque, Ia. As of this writing, 10 of us are going. We will bring rosaries, incense, and books for sale. Can't wait to see you there.

Lastly, Frank Pepich has really outdone himself with our Easter newsletter. If you don't yet subscribe to our digital newsletter, email sfrancisvillapark@hotmail.com.

Rebecca Collin

Our Lady & All Angels, Ojai, California

Our most significant news-worthy event occurred last Sunday, February 24. Douglas Bess, a member of the clergy of the LCCI, joined our church and received baptism during our Eucharist. We're very happy to have him with us! He came with his wife, Tamara, and his son, Keegan.

Rev. Richard Ellwood



Keegan, Douglas & Tamara Bess

Our Lady Queen of Angels, Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Our Lady Queen of Angels had 33 people participate in the Seder Supper on Holy (Maundy) Thursday in Rio Rancho, NM.

People walked into the Fellowship Hall to a huge open square table that was covered in royal blue and white table cloths. The blue sections of the tables had white plates and utensils while the white tables had the royal blue plates and utensils. Each set of three place settings shared one of the ritual plates that held horseradish, matzoh, bitter herbs (cilantro and romaine), and charoset - a combination of apples, pecans, lemon juice and a touch of sugar. There was also a small wine glass at each place setting.

People had a choice of cooking — no reimbursement — or paying \$5 per head. One family smoked a beef brisket that was absolutely wonderful. The lamb was so tender it wanted to fall apart. It also had a marvelous flavor. We had three types of potato dishes, one of mixed squash, onions and bell peppers with a balsamic vinaigrette, tossed salad, cauliflower, and Tzimus. Tzimus is a combination of potatoes, carrots and prunes that surprised all who tried it with the rich flavor. Dessert was a flour-less chocolate cake that was extremely rich.

The Haggadah was shortened considerably from the traditional format. The Exodus story was only told once, not six times. Fr Milton Shaw spoke the role of Father and Pastor Sharon, from St. Paul's United Church of Christ, spoke the part of Mother. Fr Tim Donovan narrated the story with side comments about how Christianity grew out of Jewish history with an explanation of specific ties between the Passover Seder and the Christian Holy Eucharist.

Complin followed the Seder meal and was led by Deacon Durrall Carroll with Fr Shaw giving the sermon and Fr Tim administering Communion.

After Complin, the cleanup crew had as much fun as the party had during dinner.

Mary Donovan

St Gabriel & All Angels, Fairfield, Iowa

LCC Spring Retreat coming up soon! What better place to be, what things to do than to be in service to God! “The Service of God” is the theme of our next retreat on April 5-7 at the Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque, Iowa. We invite you to join us in welcoming Bp. William Downey and our fellow LibCats from around the U.S. as we fellowship and serve God together.

“Liberal Catholic Church retreats are spaces of stately worship, lovely music, holy silence, and warm fellowship. Open to all, they are good times for quiet reflection, making transformations, and spiritual refreshment. For this retreat, we will be at a beautiful retreat center in the hills in Dubuque, Iowa. Our meals will consist of delicious, mostly-organic vegetarian food. Gluten free available. The wonderful ceremonies of the Liberal Catholic Liturgy will be the centerpiece of our spiritual nourishment during this refreshing weekend. Please join us!”

For more information and to register for the retreat, please visit www.stgabe.org.

Campus Ministry This ministry continues this Spring in the Maharishi University of Management Chapel with a discussion group on the Mysteries of Mary in the Light of Maharishi Vedic Science. The group is led by Sylvia Richards. The MUM Chapel was established last year by Liberal Catholic Cheryllann Wilson, then president of the Cultural Committee of the Student Government. The discussion group was organized by Cheryllann and current president, Samira Abdelrahman.

In these discussions, the group explores events in the lives of Jesus and Mary (the Mysteries of Mary) with the theme of “Incarnation for the purpose of Divine Union.” The discussions cover the role of Jesus in history and the spiritual development of Christians, and include stages of life, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and higher states of consciousness. The Mysteries of Mary are simple and profound, intriguing and illuminating. They reveal the Christ consciousness growing within us.

CROP Walk St. Gabriel and All Angels, along with several other churches in Fairfield, participated in the Fall 2012 CROP Walk, organized by Cheryllann

Wilson. The CROP Walk is an interfaith, nation-wide endeavor to help raise awareness and funds to combat hunger, both locally and globally. Why walking? “Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence.”

Sylvia Richards



Soar we now where Christ hath led,

Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head.

Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise,

Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

Alleluia!

~ Charles Wesley, 1739 ~

Illustration Credits

- Page 1* Easter altar 2012, Church of St Francis, Chicago, Illinois.
Page 4 *Christ Appearing to the Apostles after the Resurrection*, William Blake, c.1795.
 Tate Gallery, London.
Page 6 St Gabriel & All Angels; picture supplied by Lucinda Hall.
Page 8 Photo supplied by Rev. Richard Ellwood, Our Lady & All Angels.
Page 9 Photo collage by Lucinda Hall, St Gabriel & All Angels.

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