

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER!

May 01, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Ministers of the Church

The People of St. Michael

Our Vestry & Staff

Zollie White II, **Senior Warden**
850-321-2817
Charlie Clark **Junior Warden**,
850-631-0780
Kimberly Douglas
Margaret Edwards, **Vestry Clerk**
Dr. Shaun Laurie
Laureatte Scott, **Treasurer**

Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial Secretary**

Monique Alleyne, Ivana Kenny Carmola
and Debralee LaSeur-Helfand,
Organists

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral Director**

John Grayson, **LEMS Co-Ordinator**
Elizabeth Humes, **Admin .Assistant**

Our Clergy

The Right Reverend John Howard
Bishop – Diocese of Florida

The Reverend Hugh Chapman, **Rector**
340-513-1123

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HOLY EUCHARIST- RITE TWO

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Monique Alleyne

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Processional Hymn

A289 v1&5 Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.	5. Let every creature rise and bring the highest honors to our King, angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.
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THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Celebrant says
Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

The people sit

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (9:1-6,[7-20])

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30 (Read responsively by whole verse)

1. I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up* and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2. O Lord my God, I cried out to you,* and you restored me to health.

3. You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;* you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

4. Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;* give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5. For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,* his favor for a lifetime.

6. Weeping may spend the night,* but joy comes in the morning.

7. While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.* you, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

8. Then you hid your face,* and I was filled with fear.

9. I cried to you, O Lord;* I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10. "What profits is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit?*will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;* O Lord, be my helper."

12. You have turned my wailing into dancing;* you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13. Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;* O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Glory be to the Father,

And to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,

Is now,

And ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

Reading from the Book of Revelation (5:11-14)

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

A400 v1, I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

MATSIKENYIRI

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeler **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to John (21:1-19)**

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the

same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?". He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

After the Gospel the Reader says:
The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn A440 v3, I Have Decided to Follow Jesus MATSIKENYIRI

3. The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

SERMON

Reverend Hugh Chapman

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have

no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Prayers of the People Form V

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Here and after every petition the People respond Lord, have mercy.

For **Justin**, Archbishop of Canterbury, for **Michael**, our Presiding Bishop, for **Samuel**, our Bishop, for **Hugh**, our Rector, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially **Joseph**, our President, **Kamala** our Vice-President, **Ron** our Governor, **Al** our Congressman, and **John** our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

For **St. Michael and All Angels'** congregation both present and absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For ourselves, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially our sick and homebound as well as those who are in need of prayers and healing:

For those at Home:

Fr. Laughton Thomas, Rosalyn Greene, Ella Woodbury, Sam Oliver Sr., James Manning, Toni Jarmon, Rev. Leslie R. White, Rev. Ralph Griffith, Leonel Jones, Charles Walton, Joan Jackson Taylor, Christine Seymour, Mary Ann Nottage, Kove Lawson, Cynthia Holland, Genevie Vaughn, Harriet Bowen, Livy Hitchcock, Sheila Gonzales, Sam & Sharal Jugger, Allan Johnson, and Fr. Terrance Rosheuvél.

For those in the care of the Doctor:

Dourest & Joann Robinson, Leslie Baker, John Melville, Williamae Jackson, Lauren Sapp, Dr. Derek Spencer, Marva Davis, Delores Brown, Hattie Olivia Scott, Alexis Shermise Brown, Jasmine Hartin, Shevette Newkirk, Rudolph & Marva Griffith, Delois Abraham, Stella Harris, Pamela Harris Williams, Klcey Scott, Erica Scott, Renrick Alleyne, Jeffery Adams, Mayleen Rosheuvél, Ena Mason, Darlene Sheppard, Merrick Winston Edwards, Devonia Sears, Landon Dyre, Brittany Lee, Herma Watson Taylor, Barbara Gruden, Carolyn Allen, Canon Nelson Pinder, Camilla Stapleton, Elijah Malone, Carl Maxwell, Ann Dupree, Al Lawson Jr. ,Bill Bush, Nohemy Reid, Luann Hickman, Fred Hickman, Harold Dickey, Sterling Rinks, Scott Allen, Deborah Coleman and Leslie Warren.

For those on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic:

Especially all doctors, nurses, scientists, and our own, Dr. Shaun Laurie, Dr. Nwamaka Onyeozili, Dr. Ross Howard McMillan, Dr. Ciara Grayson, Dr. Alaine Sharpe, Zuri A. White and Cheston Williams.

For those in the Military:

Linzie Bogan II, Clark Bogan, Brianne Edwards, Vashti Thompson, Thandi Williams and you may add your own petitions, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence.

Collect for Coronavirus Pandemic. Page 15.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and people

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Celebrant then says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE PEACE

May the Peace of the Lord

Nolan

May the peace of the Lord bring: Joy, Love, Comfort, Hope, Rest, Life

May the peace of the Lord surround you, May the peace of the Lord go with you. *Amen.*

Offertory Organ Interlude

Doxology **H380, Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Presentation of the Offering – prayer to be said

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit, a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A (remain standing)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel

Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by Faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn A256 v1&2, The Blood Will Never Lose It's Power THE BLOOD

1. The blood that Jesus shed for me
Way back on Calvary
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day
It will never lose its power
It reaches to the highest mountain
It flows to the lowest valley
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day
It will never lose its power

2. It soothes my doubts and calms my fears
And it dries all my tears
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day
It will never lose its power
It reaches to the highest mountain
It flows to the lowest valley
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day
It will never lose its powr.

Meditation Hymn

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Announcements

Recessional Hymn A258 v1, There Is Power In the Blood POWER IN THE BLOOD

1. Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Refrain:

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our worship has ended.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Meet and Greet Sessions

As promised before, fellow Episcopalians across the five regions of the Diocese, will be afforded the opportunity to meet the five candidates for Bishop. These sessions are open to all who wish to attend. Lay and clergy delegates are being strongly urged to be present. Here in Tallahassee, we will be able to see the delegates and listen to them at Holy Comforter Church on May 5th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 p.m. Those intent on posing questions, should have submitted their questions earlier in the month. Finally the Standing Committee asks that we keep all five of our candidates – Fr. Wiley Ammons, Canon Beth Tjoflat, Canon Miguel Rosada, Fr. Charles Holt and Canon Fletcher Montgomery in prayer as well as their families.

Confirmation Class

Bishop Samuel Johnson Howard will visit us here at SMAA the first Sunday of October when we conclude our 140th anniversary celebration. Whilst here, the Bishop will confirm, reaffirm, and receive those who are presented to him. Let the office know of your intentions. Classes begin on Tuesday May 3, 2022, via zoom.

<https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/7672517865?pwd=MEVOSW5ZeGRNaEpndzliUE5ENTRFdzog>

Meeting ID: 767 251 7865 Password: SMAA1882.

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

*We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, **include your home address, phone number and, if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please also add your e-mail address.***

***OUR VISION** is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.*

***OUR MISSION** is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.*



HOLY COMMUNION: All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive the real and living presence of Christ in Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer, you may leave the Bread on your palm for the person administering the chalice to dip into the Wine and place on your tongue. All persons are welcome to give thanks for God's blessings at the altar rail, simply crossing your arms at the wrist with fingertips extending upward towards your shoulders.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Leslie Warren (5/2), Roland Frazier (5/3), Nicholas James (5/4), James Fort (5/5), Winston Bogan (5/6).

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

140th Anniversary

As indicated previously, Alexis Roberts McMillan will chair the committee planning the aforementioned celebrations and she will be assisted by Darryl Tookes. Alexis is looking for lots of volunteers seeing that it will be a week-long celebration. Let her know how you plan to assist (850-224-5397).

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

STANDING BY ONE'S CONVICTIONS

I did have an interesting conversation last Tuesday with Leah Wiley, the Capital Area Justice Ministry's lead organizer. Leah is an effective communicator who advocates passionately for justice issues, and she did come to us well recommended by the D.A.R.T. governing body. Actually, we will be afforded the opportunity to hear her speak at SMAA when she visits with us on Sunday May 15, 2022.

The purpose of her visit was two-fold – 1. So we could together review the recently concluded Nehemiah Action held back on April 5th, and to decide on the format for our dialogue sermon on the aforementioned Sunday. We agreed that this first Action was successful beyond all expectations, occurring on a night when the heavens opened, and we were promised flooding and even tornadic activity. Yet some 627 persons showed up at the Old West Florida Enrichment Center, while close to another 200 watched the evening's proceedings via live stream.

A little surprisingly, some of the church leaders in attendance, complained afterward that they were not appreciative of the aggressive manner with which the questioners grilled the Mayor, the City Commissioners, and the State Attorney; with some actually suggesting that we should have been more respectful! Someone even ventured to suggest that St. Paul in writing to the church at Rome in the first century proffered how we Christians are to conduct ourselves in the presence of those in authority i.e. emperor etc, etc, etc.

There is no gain saying what Paul meant, but the question for us 21st century Christians, is – at what point do we find the gumption to hold those in authority accountable for their excesses or their failure to act for the common good? The truth is beloved, if we want Tallahassee to truly become the city our God intended it to be, then at some point we have to push back, hold to account those who by their very actions can make the lives of those whom they serve, more unbearable. The truth of the matter is, when we the church, begin to avoid conflict entirely, we must stop and look again at the gospel we proclaim, and ask, really ask ourselves, if Jesus had avoided conflict with the religious authorities of His day, whether we would have a faith at all!! Sometimes we have to stand up for our convictions or face the wrath of history – that is been remembered as compromisers and nothing more. Healthy tension, believe it or not is even good for our everyday relationships.

A final thought – saw this clip on TV where President Putin was holding a lit candle as he attended the Russian Orthodox Church's Easter vigil. I thought to myself the Patriarch had a wonderful opportunity to remind the Russian strongman of the symbolism of light for us Christians – the triumph of good over evil. It was definitely a missed opportunity we can all attest. So brethren let us always seek to stand by our convictions – for when we stand for justice and fair play our God is standing right there with us.

Fr. Hugh+

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Capital Campaign Prayer

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen.*

Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic

Almighty God, Heavenly Healer, we bring to you all who are affected by our present pandemic; for the infirm and infected, the anxious and afraid. By your power defend us and heal us. Let us see one another not as vectors of infection, but as opportunities for love and service, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Suggested daily Readings for third week of Easter: May 2 – May 7

Mon.	Exod. 18:13-27	Psalm 25	Matt. (1:1-17);3:1-6
Tue.	Exod.19:1-16	Psalm 26, 28	Matt. 3:7-12
Wed.	Exod. 19:16-25	Psalm 38	Matt. 3:13-17
Thurs.	Exod. 20:1-21	Psalm 37:1-18	Matt. 4:1-11
Fri.	Exod. 24:1-18	Psalm 105:1-22	Matt. 4:12-17
Sat.	Exod. 25:1-22	Psalm 30, 32	Matt. 4:18-25

Today Sunday, May 1

Acolytes:

Crucifer: Hollis Sams

Gospel Book Bearer:

LEMS: John Grayson

Lectors: Joseph Sams, Edith Onyeozili,
Margaret Edwards

Vestry: Zollie White II

Organist: Monique Alleyne