

# The Trinity Times

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 430 JULIANA ST., PARKERSBURG, WV 26101 • 304.422.3362 • TRINITY-CHURCH.ORG

**APRIL 2025**

## THE STAFF

The Rev. Geoffrey Mackey  
Rector

Marie Mallory,  
Dir. of Music Ministry

Julie Rathbone,  
Administrator

Bree Fleming,  
Dir. of Religious Education

Paul Miller,  
Treasurer

Jacob Miller, Sexton

## THE VESTRY 2025

Jeannie Gallagher  
Michael McKibben  
Mary Thomas

2026

Anne Deputy  
Katie Perrine  
Mickie Richardson

2027

Jennifer Currey  
Mark Edwards  
John Tharp

## TRUSTEES

2025

Denny Prather

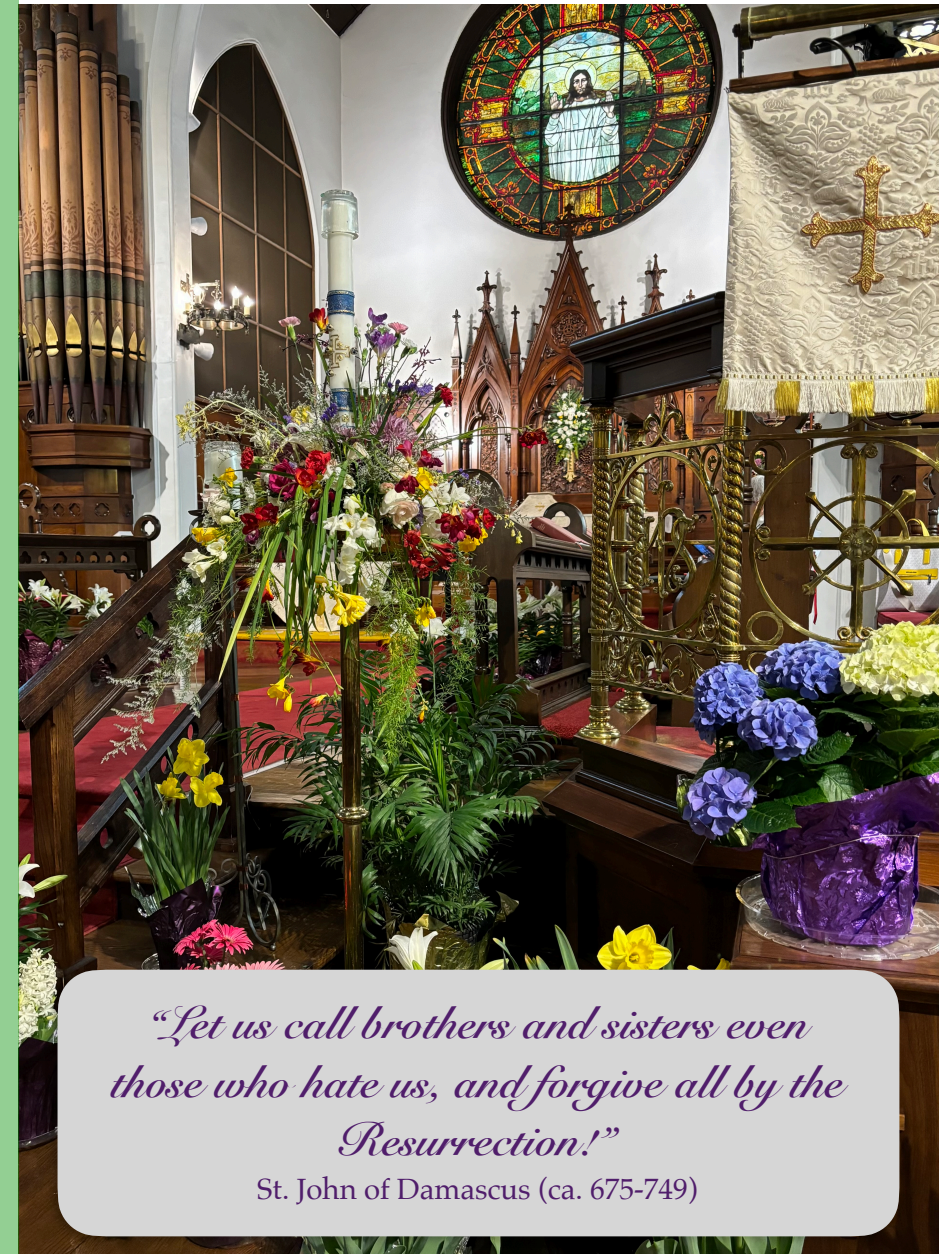
2026

Paula Sellers

2027

Tim Northrup  
Chad Mildren

*The Mission of Trinity Episcopal Church:  
We exist to love God and our neighbors!*



*“Let us call brothers and sisters even  
those who hate us, and forgive all by the  
Resurrection!”*

St. John of Damascus (ca. 675-749)

# A note from Fr. Geoff



Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Because Easter is so late this year, two thirds of April is taken up with Lent and Holy Week, and we arrive at the Paschal celebration only on the 20th. Whether we have been observant or lax, we still have time for our Lenten practices as we grow nearer to the day of the Resurrection.

In 4th century Syria there lived a deacon and theologian named Ephrem. (We commemorate St. Ephrem on June 10.) He is considered a “doctor of the Church,” and his theology is rich and profound. But it is not primarily found in prose or treatises so much as it is in his prayers and hymnody. (One of his hymns, in metrical form, is in our hymnal at #443.)

Lord and Master of my life:  
Take from me the spirit of  
indifference, despair, lust  
of power, and idle chatter.  
Rather grant to me, your  
servant, the spirit of  
Integrity, humility, patience,  
and love. Yes, O Lord and  
King, grant me to see my  
own sins and not to judge  
my brothers and sisters, for  
you are blessed now and  
ever and forever. Amen.

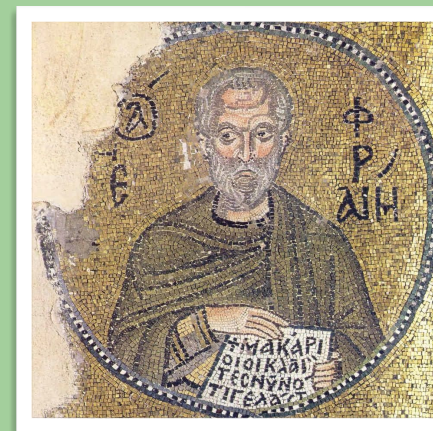
St Ephrem the Syrian  
(c. 306-373)

St. Ephrem’s best known prayer - sometimes simply called “*The Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian*” is often associated with Lent. His Lenten Prayer is treasured especially by Eastern Christians who use it throughout their liturgies and pray it privately three times daily. The Benedictine monk, Brother Victor-Antione d’Avilla-Latourrette, writes that this prayer

*encompasses the true spirit of Lent. It is like a check list of the virtues we ought to strive for during this holy season. The emphasis is on repentance and humility, the two essential elements of true conversion. In the practice of the Eastern Church, the prayer is accompanied by a deep bodily prostration after each petition... The faithful repetition of the prayer three times daily throughout the forty days, sustains us in our daily efforts to work out our personal conversion... I often think of Ephrem’s prayer as a mirror, wherein we can*

*look at ourselves honestly, with all of our daily failings and shortcomings, and yet take courage to continue the journey because we trust in God’s loving mercy.*

Though the great Paschal celebration will soon be upon us, we continue on our lenten Journey, just as we continue on our Christian journey throughout the whole of our lives. We have an opportunity to look at ourselves seriously, and take stock of our spiritual state. If this prayer resonates with you and you find it useful, I commend it. (Two different translations are given



11th century mosaic of St. Ephrem in the monastery of Nea Moni, on the Island of Chios, Greece

O Lord of my life, take away from me the spirit of laziness, faintheartedness, ambition, and idle talk. But grant me rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own sins and faults and not to judge my neighbor, for you are truly blessed forever. Amen.

St Ephrem the Syrian  
(c. 306-373)

here for your consideration.)

Christian growth is a striving (Luke 13.23-24). But it is not a striving to exalt ourselves or to “make ourselves better.” It is not a test of endurance for spiritual heroes. Rather it is, as French theologian Olivier Clement has said, “an effort based not on will-power, but on a ceaseless abandonment of oneself to grace.”

As Christians, what we strive to do during Lent - and throughout our lives - is to abandon ourselves to the grace of God, which alone can work in our hearts to bring about transformation. But we must be open to it. We are called to place our hearts open before our loving God who can bring us to true integrity, humility, patience, love and non-judgment.

May God who has called us, give us the necessary grace to grow ever more into his likeness, until at last we come to the glory of his Resurrection!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Geoff

# Trinity's Choral Scholar Program



Maddie Archer is a Junior at Parkersburg South High School. She is currently a member of the PSHS Chamber Ensemble, Madrigal Singers, Mixed and Treble A Capella, and the Concert Choir. She has also taken part in the WVACDA Chamber Choir, WVMEA All State Chorus, Southern Region ACDA conference in Louisville KY, and the National ACDA conference in Dallas TX. This is her first year as a Trinity Scholar. "I have really enjoyed being a part of the Trinity Choir, it has allowed me to continue my work with choral music and allows me to work with such amazing people from the community each week."



Jacob Dillon-Fontaine is a Junior at Parkersburg South High School, set to graduate May 2026, and a first year Trinity Choral Scholar. At Parkersburg South he is a member of the Concert Choir, Chamber Ensemble, Madrigals Singers, and Mixed A Cappella group. Outside of choir, Jacob is Parkersburg South's Thespian Vice-President and a member of the French Honors Society. "Trinity has been so welcoming to me, being a part of the choir is a nice experience and another place to focus on my love for choral music"



Noah Griffith attends Ohio University, working on two masters degrees, one in Euphonium Performance and the other in Conducting with a focus in Wind Band. He plans to teach high school band and applied lessons to tuba and euphonium players when he graduates. Noah says, "Besides singing in the choir, I've enjoyed the people at Trinity and Father Charles' thoughtful homilies on Sundays. I also enjoy in my spare time reading and cooking for my grandmother and myself."



Keilan Jagdmann is currently a junior at Parkersburg South High School. This is her first year as a Trinity Choral Scholar. She is currently a member of the PSHS Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Chamber Ensemble. "I have really enjoyed being at Trinity. It has helped me with my choral singing skills I need for auditions and gives me another way to express my love for music and choir."



Paul Smith is a current senior at Parkersburg South High School, and this is his first year as a Choral Scholar at Trinity. Aside from his position at Trinity he is an active member of his high school's Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and jazz band. Beyond his instrumental activities Paul is also a member of The Smoot Boys Ensemble and The Smoot 5<sup>th</sup> Street Boys; however, he is a formal member of the PSHS Chamber Ensemble, Madrigal Singers, and Concert Choir. Paul was selected to be a member of the WV All-State Band in 2024 and 2025 as well as the All-State Orchestra in 2025. He plans to pursue a degree in K-12 Music Education at West Virginia University this coming fall. Paul says, "I am forever grateful to be a member of this ensemble, and I truly enjoy the connections I have made due to my participation within the Trinity Choir."



Nathan Thornton is a first-year undergrad at Ohio University studying Music Education with a Choral emphasis. He is part of the Ohio University Singers, Singing Men of Ohio, and an a cappella group called s8. This past Christmas he accompanied the PHS A Cappella choir for one of their holiday concerts, as well as the anthem at Trinity's Christmas Eve service. "I enjoy singing at Trinity because the choir is filled with amazing musicians. The environment at Trinity is very welcoming and I'm thankful to have this opportunity."



Isabella Wolfe is currently a senior at Parkersburg South High School, this is her first year as a Trinity Choral Scholar. She is currently a member of the PSHS Chamber Ensemble, Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir, Mixed A Cappella, and Treble A Cappella. She plans to continue her education at West Virginia University, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Music. "I am so grateful to be a member of Trinity and that it gives me another way to express my love for music and choir. Being a member also has allowed me to improve my sight reading abilities and help me grow overall as a musician."

# Confirmation

On Saturday and Sunday, March 8 & 9, Bishop Matthew Cowden was in Parkersburg for his official episcopal visitation at Trinity. At the 10:30 Sunday liturgy, he confirmed Jacob Dillon-Fontaine and Erin Mackey and received Alexandra Mackey and Michael Dillon into the Anglican Communion. Later that afternoon, Bishop Matthew, Father Geoff, and Susie Fitcher visited Edith Newman, where the Bishop also confirmed her.



Jacob's Confirmation



Erin's Confirmation

**"Confirmation** is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." (BCP 860)

Those who have already been confirmed by a bishop in apostolic succession in another Church may choose to reaffirm their commitment in the Episcopal Church. In this case, they are not re-confirmed, but are **Received** by one of our own bishops.



Michael's Reception



Bishop Matthew visiting with Edith before her Confirmation



Father Geoff, Bishop Matthew, and Deacon Karen Klein, chancellor of the Diocese and seminarian at VTS



Alex's Reception

Photos by Melissa Cowden, Barbara Full, and Fr. Geoff Mackey.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL

APRIL 2025

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> 9. Fr. Paul & Beverly Hicks 19. Joan & Denis Ramsay 20. Fr. Geoff & Erin Mackey 29. Karen & Paul Miller	1 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)	2  12:15 — HE & Anointing	3  10:00 am — Bible Study	4  6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross	5 9:00 am-Noon — ECW Quiet Day 5:30 pm —Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA	
6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II	7  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	8 8:30 am — Men's Breakfast (First Lutheran) 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)	9  12:15 — HE & Anointing	10  10:00 am — Bible Study 11:00 am — Knitters	11  6:00 pm - G.H. Dance Club (Trinity Hall) 6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross	12  5:30 pm —Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA	
13 PALM SUNDAY  8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Movie Night	14  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry	15 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)	16  5:30 pm — “Holy Hike” and Eucharist	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY  10:00 am — Bible Study 6:00 pm — Holy Eucharist	18 GOOD FRIDAY  12:00 pm — Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm — Vespers of the Burial of our Lord	19 HOLY SATURDAY  7:00 pm — AA 7:30 pm — Great Vigil & First Mass of Easter	
20 EASTER DAY  8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II  <b>Discretionary Sunday</b>	21  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry  <b>Easter Monday Parish Office Closed</b>	22 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)  <b>Trinity Times Deadline</b>	23  12:15 — HE & Anointing	24  10:00 am — Bible Study	25	26  5:30 pm —Vigil Eucharist 7:00 pm — AA	
27 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  8:00 am — Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 am — Sunday school 10:30 am — Eucharist, Rite II 5:30 pm — Game Night	28 ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST  11:00 am — Feeding Ministry 5:45 pm — Trustees 6:30 pm — Vestry	29 8:00 am — Men's Breakfast 10:00 am — Clergy Bible Study 5:00 pm — Smoot Girls Ensemble (Trinity Hall)	30  12:15 — HE & Anointing	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b> 1. Jennie Brannon 2. Jennifer Swisher Julie Rathbone 4. Barbara Full 5. Kate Yi 9. Erin Mackey 10. Cara Bowen Lydia Welling 12. Jesse Paul Thomas 13. Charles Yates 14. Dianna Quick 16. Pam Gordon 17. Will Couch 17. Cathy Martin 18. Diane Hensley 20. Liz Ramsay 21. Gabriel Bookman 25. Debbie Poole 27. John Alkire Andy Thomas			28. Madison Brown 29. Nadia Yisa-Doko

## TRINITY BY THE NUMBERS FEBRUARY

### Attendance

Weekend Liturgies (5:30/8:00/10:30)

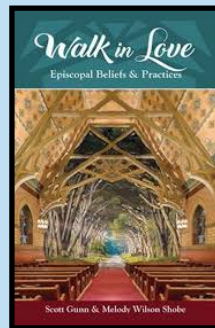
- Feb 1/2 — 14/11/57 (82)
- Feb 8/9 — 22 /8/46 (76)
- Feb 15/16 — 14/9/49 (72)
- Feb 22/23 — 15/11/57 (83)

Wednesday Liturgy (average) — 3

### Community Resources / Thrive

Number Served: 86

Utility Assistance: 0



## SAVE THE DATES: UPCOMING DIOCESAN BOOK STUDY

Join the Diocese of WV for an  
Eastertide book study & discussion of

*Walk in Love:*

*Episcopal Beliefs and Practices*

by Scott Gunn & Melody Wilson Shobe

Mondays April 28,  
May 12, May 19  
from 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
on Zoom.

Scan code to order book  
from *Forward Movement*



## ECW Lenten Quiet Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 9:00 am — noon

Join us for prayer, silence, and reflection as  
we contemplate the mercy of God  
in our prayer and fasting.



## March Vestry Highlights

- ◆ The Rector announced the ECW Quiet Day to be held on April 5 from 9:00-noon. Led by Fr. Geoff, it will include a time of prayer and reflection on the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer and fasting in contemporary life.
- ◆ The Rector talked about the schedule for Holy Week. There will be services on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- ◆ The Rector will be a team member at Senior Camp at Peterkin, July 6-12.
- ◆ The Treasurer reviewed the February financial reports. The Trust funds decreased in value by \$8,000 in February, but the church's financial position remains healthy.
- ◆ The Stewardship & Outreach Chair reported that the next Sidewalk Social event will be on Saturday, April 12, at the Parkersburg Easter Parade. A table will be set up at 16th & Market to hand out lemonade and cookies to parade participants.

## Stewardship Corner - Love will keep us together!

Our stewardship theme, **Living in Love**, includes loving **all** of us! We have to love not only those in the community and world who need help, but each other. We have to love every member of Trinity.

Trinity is not just a church, it is a family. And just like any family, work needs to be done to keep it strong. Communication, cooperation, consideration, participation are all important in making Trinity the best we can be. So how do we do that?

- *Communicate* - Talk to each other, share yourself with others. (5th Sunday Funfest is a great time to start!)
- *Cooperate* - Make an effort to work together, if your ministry overlaps with another in either location or work, reach out to the other group and see how you can work together to accomplish the goals for each ministry.
- *Be Considerate* - When using Trinity's space or supplies, replenish and clean up. Leave the space as good as you found it.
- *Participate* - Last month we talked about participation - participating in life at Trinity is being a good family member. So have you thought about it? There are still many ways that you can get involved! We are still missing a lot of signatures on the Fire Station cards. When this message was written, there were still 10 packages of cards that needed to be colored and signed. Signups for the March 5 Sunday Funfest are sparse as of this writing, Hmmm, there is definitely room for improvement in participation.

Let's see if we can improve and become more loving family members. This month and every month after, show your love for God, for your neighbor, for Trinity,

and all of your family! Participate, Be Considerate, Cooperate, Communicate. Invest fully in life at Trinity!

-Anne Deputy

Stewardship & Outreach Chair

*Use the sign-up sheets or respond to the Facebook posts to participate*



### Opportunities!

- Sign the fire station cards
- Donate cookies for the Easter Parade
- Help bag the cookies (4/10 @ 12pm)
- Help at the Easter Parade outreach (/4/12 @ 11am)
- Deliver fire station cards (4/14-4/20)



## *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

On Sunday, March 2, 2025 — the Last Sunday after the Epiphany — we welcomed Jacob Dillon-Fontaine as the newest member of the household of faith through **Holy Baptism**. The following week, he was among those who were Confirmed by Bishop Cowden. May God grant to his servant Jacob health, happiness, growth in the Spirit, and many blessed years!



*“We receive you into the household of God.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim  
his resurrection, and share with us in his eter-  
nal priesthood.”*

## *Holy Week at Trinity*

**HOLY WEDNESDAY (April 16)**

5:00 PM — “Holy Hike” with Holy Eucharist & Anointing

*Join us for a hike (location TBA) where we will meditate on some of the events leading up to Christ’s Passion and Crucifixion, receive Unction for healing, and Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist.*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 17)**

Holy Eucharist at 6:00 PM

*We begin our observance of the “Sacred Triduum” - the three holiest days of the Christian year - by commemorating the gift of the Eucharist, Christ’s washing of his disciples’ feet, and his betrayal. The “Watch” or Vigil before the Altar of Repose begins after this service and ends at noon on Good Friday.*

**GOOD FRIDAY (April 18)**

12:00 PM — Liturgy of the Presanctified & Veneration of the Cross

*On this most solemn day, we hear the Passion Gospel, pray the Solemn Collects, Venerate the Holy Cross, and receive sustenance from the Eucharist consecrated the evening before.*

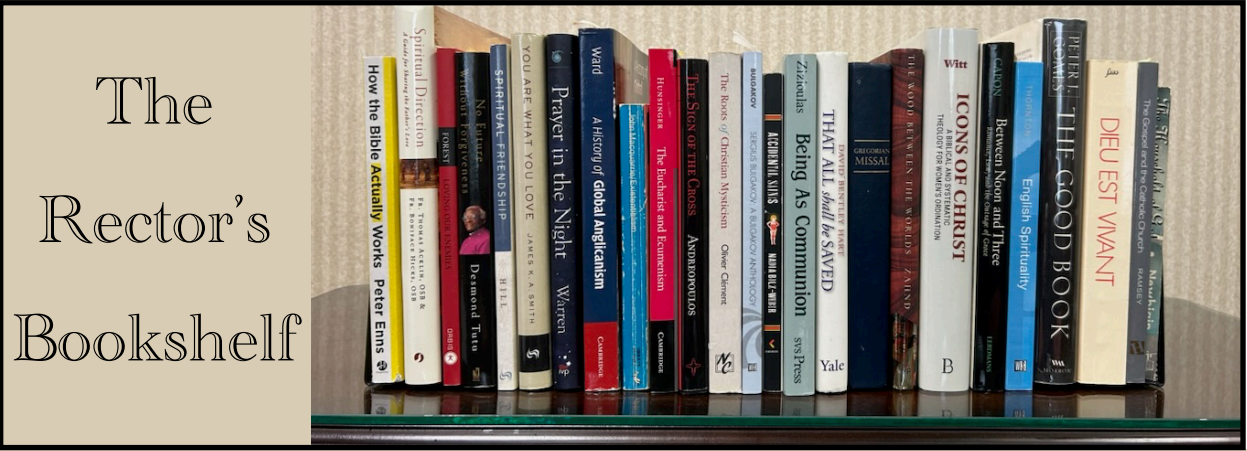
6:00 PM — Vespers of the Burial of our Lord

*This service consists of a Lamp-Lighting, readings from Scripture, Canticles, and the placing of the shroud (“epitaphios”) in the tomb for veneration and meditation.*

**EASTER VIGIL (April 19)**

7:30 PM — Great Vigil & First Mass of Easter

*The Lighting of the New Fire, the reading of Prophecies, renewal of the Baptismal Covenant, the First “Alleluia,” and the first celebration of the Eucharist for the Paschal Season.*



**Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus**

Wesley Hill  
InterVarsity Press, 2025

After forty days of being reminded of our sinfulness, fasting, remembering our impending death, and focusing on the final days leading up to Christ’s passion and death, Christians let out all the stops and celebrate Easter Day with great pomp and circumstance. But Easter - as we liturgical Christians understand - is not merely one day, but a full fifty-day celebration; it’s even longer than the season of penitence that precedes it.

As part of Esau McCaulley’s wonderful *Fullness of Time Series*, Fr. Wesley Hill - an Episcopal priest and professor at Western Theological Seminary (Holland, MI) - has given us a gift with his small book, *Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus*. These texts are short and accessible enough for a wide readership without a sophisticated theological background, but deep and engaging enough for seasoned Christians. Hill’s book does not disappoint.

Beginning with a description of his own first experience of an Easter Vigil liturgy at Durham Cathedral in the UK, Hill jumps off into a multi-faceted meditation on the meaning of the resurrection of our Lord. He first looks at the Easter narratives themselves from the four Gospels. These are not simply a recounting of the details of the story, but also teasing out some of the meaning behind the different perspectives. In Matthew, “Jesus, the one who is on the loose and goes ahead of his followers, makes himself visible to them.” In Luke, the Easter story concludes with the Ascension. In

John - “in many ways the most intimate and beloved of all four” - the story of Peter’s denial and restoration plays a central role.

But the story of Easter doesn’t end in first century Palestine. The Resurrection of Jesus is made real and applied to each of us in our baptism. As one would expect from a New Testament scholar like Hill, he turns to the theology of Paul to explain that “what happened with Jesus will also include us.”

After briefly describing the development of the observance of Easter (and the calculation of its date), he looks at some of the practices surrounding the celebration - festivities, not kneeling, sumptuous meals, and “stations of light.” The point here is that the season of Easter is a season of grace and grace produces joy and light.

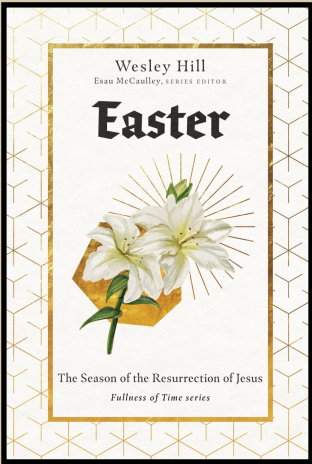


The remainder of Hill’s text is taken up with implications and conclusions drawn from the reality of Life himself conquering death. The reading of the Acts of the Apostles in the lectionary for Eastertide shows that the first Christians understood their paschal lives to be active ones. “Acts is the story of the aftermath of Easter,” he writes. Those who are united to Christ’s death and resurrection in baptism are called to Christ’s own mission and to proclaiming his victory. Finally, *Easter* briefly examines the much overlooked feast of the Ascension and finishes up

with an introduction to Pentecost - which will be taken up with the next book in the series.

Fr. Wes’ book is certainly a welcome addition to any Christian’s to-read list. It provides a concise explanation of the season and meaning of Easter which is both theologically rich and spiritually formative. While reflecting the best of New Testament scholarship, it is wonderfully accessible, beautifully written, and provides a warm invitation to rejoice in the universe-altering claim: “Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

(This review is adapted from from the April 20, 2025 issue of *The Living Church* magazine.)





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Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will  
come again!