

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

April, 2025

Virtual Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Saturday, 12:00

2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

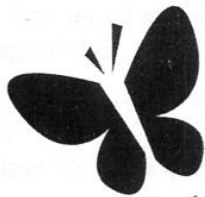
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Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

The symbols of Easter

Christianity has many symbols; the most recognizable is, of course, the cross. There are a number of symbols linked with Easter or the Resurrection: the butterfly, the lily, the pomegranate, the phoenix and the peacock.



The butterfly represents the Resurrection and eternal life. It emerges from its cocoon or chrysalis and gloriously rises into the sky in its splendid new body. Similarly, Jesus and his followers are born into a new life on Easter.

The lily is perhaps the most common Easter symbol because it's displayed during Easter worship services and blooms around this time each year. The lily's bulb decays in the earth, yet new life sprouts from it in the form of the flower — reminiscent of the new life that emerged from the tomb so many years ago.



The pomegranate is used as a symbol of the power of Christ and his Resurrection because of the many seeds that burst forth from the fruit. These seeds represent the many believers who follow Christ. They also represent the magnificence of divine grace and the fertility of the Word.

The peacock sheds his feathers annually. Each year the feathers grow back more beautiful and more brilliant in color. This renewal symbolizes eternal life or resurrection. There's also a myth that the peacock's flesh doesn't decay after death — immortality. (The peacock is sometimes used to represent human vanity, because of the way he proudly struts and displays his plumage.)



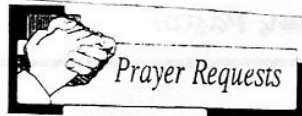
The phoenix was a mythical bird that lived in the Arabian Desert for five hundred years. It set its own nest on fire and perished in the flames. But on the third day it rose from its own ashes and ascended into the sky as a new and beautiful creature. It's easy to see why the phoenix represents immortal life and the Resurrection.



SPECIAL DATES

- 5th Sunday of Lent, April 6th
- Palm Sunday, April 13th
- Holy Thursday, April 17th
- Good Friday, April 18th
- Easter Sunday, April 20th
- 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 27th

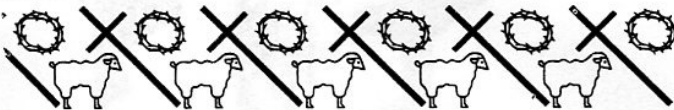
News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM.
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,
code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)
for information on joining



Follow Christ's command

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus got up from the table, poured water into a basin and went from man to man washing the feet of the disciples and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterwards, Jesus said to his friends: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NRSV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.

CHURCH CHUCKLES

A little girl was in church with her mother when she realized she was going to be sick. She tugged on her mom's arm and whispered, "Mommy, I need to leave right now! I'm going to be sick."

"Oh, dear, run down the hallway to the ladies restroom. You know where it is. When you're done, come back quickly."

The little girl scurried out and soon returned to the pew. "Well, that was fast," her mom said. "Were you sick?"

"Yes, mommy, but I didn't even have to go all the way down the hall. Right outside the chapel is a box labeled, 'For the Sick'."

"Reverend, I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"Well, is everything all right?"

"Oh yes," answered the embarrassed wife. "Joe has been sleepwalking for years now."

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Please join us at Saturday night's social and help our organizers, Adam and Eve, get things started.

- "Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play."

—Christina Rossetti

There's something better coming

This season of Easter is a special time for Christians to celebrate the ultimate reason for our hope: Christ is risen, and invites us to rise with him to new life.

- Easter is an invitation to try again with God's help to break that addiction we had given up all hope of ever breaking. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance to work at renewing the marriage we had given up all hope of ever saving. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors who, in our busyness, we neglect. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming. ...
- Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming. ...

—Homiletics

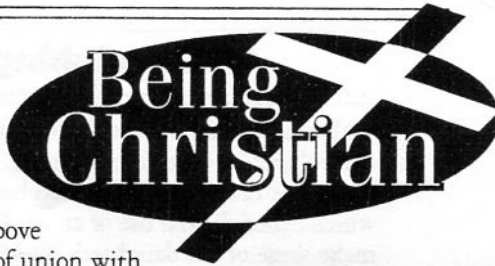
Worry is a conversation you have with yourself
about things you cannot change.

Prayer is a conversation you have with God
about things HE can change

Special
M • E • S • S • A • G • E

We can't do it alone

There are many things which a person can do alone, but being a Christian is not one of them. The Christian life is, above all things, a state of union with Christ, and of union of his followers with one another. Love of the brethren is inseparable from love of God. Resentment toward any human being cannot exist in the same heart with love to God. The personal relationship to Christ can only be realized when one has "come to himself" as a member of His Body, the Christian fellowship.



- "Dare we set our hope and hearts in the hands of a small-town Jewish carpenter? The answer rests in the Jerusalem graveyard. If Jesus' tomb is empty, then his promise is not."

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

- "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and hallelujah is our song."

—Pope John Paul II



"I dyed your scrambled eggs for Easter."

In our newsletters, we are sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. The financial reports for January and February were not available for this issue, but we're hoping they are not as grim as the past few months.

We're trying to cut corners as much as possible but we need the help of our members, former members and friends. Our insurance has gone up \$1,890.00 and our Con Edison bills are over \$1000 each month. **As a member, if you miss a week or two, please put your weekly offering in your envelope for that week and then bring those envelopes with you the next time you come to church. You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.**

Again, we thank our generous former members and friends who send us a donation, whether it's on a regular basis, occasionally during the year or during the holiday season. We really appreciate the donations, as well as hearing from you.

Our prayer is that we can continue to keep in touch with everyone and that will only be possible with your help.



"It is
finished."
John 19:30

One got out

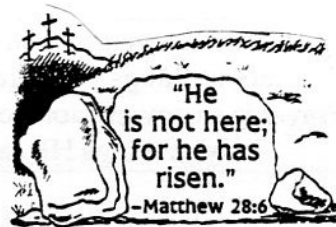
A father and son were driving past a cemetery, when the boy noticed a large pile of dirt beside a newly excavated grave.

He pointed and exclaimed, "Look, Dad! One got out!"

Adults know that in this world, no one "gets out," unless it's in a movie. Dead is dead. And yet on Easter Sunday we gather to celebrate the good news that One did get out. Jesus' resurrection from the grave makes all the difference.

We should be able to call in healthy...

"I'm not coming into the office today. I feel really good and I don't want to waste it on being at work!"



Be still,
and know
that I am
God.

Psalms 46:10



Relinquishing control

Marcia shared how she'd been struggling to relinquish control and let God direct her life. One day, amid this challenge, her daughter approached her for homework help, which called for the use of an iPad. As Marcia struggled to make sense of her daughter's question, the youngster kept swiping at the screen, zooming in and out and grabbing the tablet to turn it toward herself. "If you want my help," said Marcia in exasperation, "then let me help!"

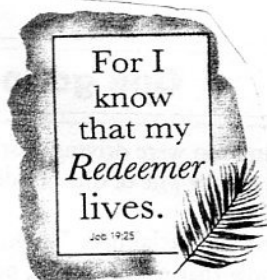
Suddenly Marcia had an a-ha! moment: Hadn't God been saying the same thing to her all the while? To truly benefit from God's help, she would have to stop trying to do everything herself, let go, sit back and accept his guidance.

- I've learned that if you're going to pray about something, why worry? If you're going to worry, why pray?

—Unknown



"This year I'm prepared with
my egg-hunting app."



- "Life is for service."

—Fred Rogers

- "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

—Scott Adams

- "Aging is not 'lost youth' but a new stage of opportunity and strength."

—Betty Friedan