

## **Faith Notes from Pastor Ron for Friday, April 1, 2022**

**We are all very concerned about the war in Ukraine.** How should we pray? Pope Francis is inviting Christians to unite in prayer in the loving heart of Mary, Mother of Our Lord. We pray with them that unity in prayer will bring unity to people divided by religion and ideology and so not only bring the war to an end but bring a just, lasting peace. The Daily Lectionary for today (Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 1145: Friday in Lent 5 Year C) includes Isaiah 43:11—“I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour.” Isaiah 43 may inspire and guide our prayers for peace among nations.

**“I am very sorry.”** Pope Francis spoke these words today to the delegation of First Nations and Inuit leaders and promised to deliver a more formal apology on First Nations lands soon. Those assembled were cautiously hopeful that Pope Francis’ personal apology may initiate a new relationship of justice and forgiveness between Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the Roman Catholic Church. Today’s Scriptures express our hopeful prayers with them: “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy” (Psalm 126:5). May Psalm 126 help us pray for truth and reconciliation in Canada.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has not ended.** While I was sick, 5 people died in Saskatchewan from complications related to this disease. The third reading for today, Philippians 2:19-25, includes a paragraph that speaks directly to our anxieties. Paul has announced he is sending his trusted assistant, Timothy, to visit the congregation in Philippi. Then he decides to send his assistant Epaphroditus along too, and for a surprising reason: “he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow upon another. I am the more eager to send him, so you may rejoice at seeing him again and I may be less anxious.” How good it is when we hear that voice: “I’m OK, thanks for worrying about me, but I’m OK!”

The only prayer I know that touches on all these concerns begins, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name....” Let us pray.

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

### **SERVICES AT ZION**

All are welcome to participate in any of these events. Please contact Zion office for the Zoom link information for each event.

**April 3      The Fifth Sunday in Lent. Passion Sunday.    SCS 9:15, worship 10:30**

**Wednesday, April 6    7 ELCIC Congregations' Evening Service on Zoom 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 7    Lutheran Seminary Chapel on Zoom. Pastor Ron preaching.  
10:00**

**April 10      Palm/Passion Sunday. Children's Parade with Palm Branches.  
Dramatic Reading of the Passion According to the Gospel of John. 10:30**

**Monday, April 11    Holy Week Devotions by Zoom 10:00**

**Tuesday, April 12    Holy Week Devotions by Zoom 10:00**

**Wednesday, April 13    Holy Week Devotions by Zoom 10:00**

**Thursday, April 14      Maundy Thursday Service. Stripping of the Altar. 7:30**

**Friday, April 15      Good Friday Service. Reverence at the Cross. 11:00**

**Saturday, April 16      Holy Saturday Devotions by Zoom 10:00**

**Sunday, April 17      The Resurrection of Our Lord! Easter Sunday!**

**Easter Breakfast sponsored by the Sunday School. Time TBA.**

**Celebration of the Resurrection Communion Service. 10:30**

Are you ready for...

**...the SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER BREAKFAST 2022!**

“Pastor Ron, why can’t we have an Easter Breakfast if we can all go out for breakfast at a restaurant?” the Sunday School parents asked.

We can! Not exactly like pre-pandemic, when we could all line up and self-serve buffet style. It will be a lot more work for the servers, so they need some extra volunteer support, and we all have to call or email Kaylyn in the office so they can prepare for the right number of people. And we will encourage masking when moving around the room, and take some care to separate tables and family groups like restaurants still do. So let Kaylyn know you’re planning to participate so we can plan for both safety and celebration! When we have a better idea of numbers, we will let you know if its going to be in the Heritage Hall or in the Gymnasium.

If you are willing to help serve, even if you aren’t a Sunday School family, please let the office know or talk to Kerri Schaffel or Pastor Ron at church.

But wait! I have a question too! Would it be OK if we have an Easter Egg hunt at the church...??