

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Our Lenten journey is about it take its traditional turn through Holy Week to Easter. The Festival of Palm Sunday begins on the festive note of our Palm Sunday Parade, which captures the joy that accompanied our Lord's ascent to Jerusalem. However, by the time we make it to the Gospel reading, the mood has changed, and the direction of our focus has changed, too. It becomes apparent why Palm Sunday is also called *Passion* Sunday. For what began as the occasion of excitement and anticipation turns to a mood of foreboding and fear. Expectations for an early coronation give way to the story of crucifixion. There will be no Easter without Good Friday. That is the Gospel truth. Good Friday reveals the truth about who God is and what God's love has compelled Him to do for us and our salvation.

With our Seder on Maundy Thursday we will try to recapture the ancient story of hope that is told with remembering God's promise to set His people free. Jesus' own disciples wondered at that Last Supper whether the time had finally come to usher in the reign of God's kingdom. We share their hopes in many ways. We would love to get to Easter without going through Good Friday. We love all the frills of Easter morning – colored eggs, with candy inside, lovely Easter bonnets, majestic pageantry, sounds of triumph, the promise of life after death, all so glorious, if only we could fast-forward through the suffering that accompanies God's love on the Cross. But Jesus doesn't take that route when he leaves the Upper Room, and, while walking through the Garden of Gethsemane, he heads to the courtyards of the powerful, not as a leader, but as their prisoner, soon to be condemned, sentenced to die, and crucified.

At Noon on Good Friday, we begin to walk in the *Via Dolorosa* with our Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service, hosted by our North Canton Ministerial Association in the Chapel at Walsh University. This service walks with Jesus through the fourteen stations that lead through the final hours of his life, inviting us to see the transformation that turns the *Royal Son of David* into the *Suffering Servant of God* as described in Isaiah. Our evening service at Zion, the historic Tenebrae, an 8th century medieval rite, compels us to enter into the shadows of the Cross as we ponder the awful consequences of our sin and the magnitude of our Savior's sacrifice. These are two powerful services that make every effort to shatter illusion with hope, replacing happy thoughts of cheap grace and an easy faith with a clear view of the cost of discipleship.

Christianity has struggled throughout its history with the challenge of responding to what role the Cross needs to play in how we understand the meaning of Jesus' ministry and our own. In the first generation of believers, the miracles were so much more attractive, both to insiders and outsiders alike. St. Mark created the very form of Gospel to make the Cross central to Jesus and inseparable from faithfulness. Before Mark, it was Paul who argued for the centrality of the Cross in understanding all things Christian. *Jews demand signs, Greeks desire wisdom; but we preach Christ Crucified, scandal to Jews, sheer folly to Greeks, but to those who believe, it is the wisdom of God's ways and the power of God's love.* Churches still struggle with the choices we must make between seeking the usual signs of success that come with accommodating the ways of the world around us, or following Jesus, emboldened by his witness, to take up the Cross with our willingness to speak out and stand up for the good God desires and commands.

THE END OF LENT AND HOLY WEEK AT ZION

March 29, Sunday	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Lent 5 , Holy Week will soon arrive Dinner hosted by the Youth of Zion The Passion Narrative of St. Mark
	5:30 p.m.	
	6:15 p.m.	

HOLY WEEK ARRIVES WITH PALM SUNDAY

(Sunday, April 5)	8:00 a.m.	Our Traditional Liturgical Service The Palm Sunday Parade at 8:00 a.m. The Choir will sing <i>Palm Sunday</i>
PALM SUNDAY	10:30 a.m.	We feature our Children’s Easter Play <i>The Easter Pageant that Almost Wasn’t!</i> Zion’s Praise Team leads our Worship

(Thursday, April 9)	12:00 p.m.	A Service with Prayers for Healing Holy Communion, with <i>The Ragman</i> Stripping the Chancel with Psalm 22
MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	Our Traditional Seder (with full meal) Our Choir will sing <i>The Upper Room</i> We will need reservations for this one!

(Friday, April 10)	12:00 p.m.	Our Ecumenical <i>Stations of the Cross</i> The Chapel at Walsh University North Canton Ministerial Association
GOOD FRIDAY	7:30 p.m.	Zion’s Historic TENEBRAE Service Special Readings & Special Music The Choir will sing <i>Were You There</i>

(Sunday, April 12)	8:00 a.m.	Our Traditional Festival Worship The Choir will sing <i>Easter Alleluia</i>
EASTER	9:15 a.m.	Zion’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt Great Fun for Kids of All Ages!
	10:30 a.m.	Blended Service of Heartfelt Praise Zion’s Praise Team leads Worship

HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

March's Council Meeting was another in our long series of well-attended meetings: Carol Rossbach, Dave Palumbo, Jayne Schrader, Mark Votaw, Tina Beaber, Dale Jacobs, Betty Tracy, Mary Humbert, Linda Lancashire, and Pastor Sherwindt. We read Brian Walters' meditation from our *Daily Devotional Guide* to open our meeting.

While we were able to use our carry-over surplus from 2008 to hold our own in January, February's continued pattern of high heating bills and snow plowing expenses left us with a substantial operating budget deficit. Expenses-to-date have exceeded income-on-hand by \$3,468.38. This is slightly less than the deficit we were facing at this time in 2008. So, we remain hopeful that we will get back on track with a generous March and April. Lent and Easter have historically displayed the power to increase attendance and giving at Zion.

We are confident that we will maintain the strong financial position we have enjoyed for several years now; but we are equally sure that the wider economic woes affecting the country as a whole will take its toll here at Zion, too. We truly do thank you for your very generous support of the operating budget, the HVAC Fund, and so much more!

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS: FEBRUARY

February Income	15,544.03
February Expenses	<u>23,847.53</u>
February (Deficit)	(8,303.50)
Income thru February	42,830.31
Expenses thru February	<u>46,298.69</u>
2009 YTD Deficit	(3,468.38)
2008 YTD (Deficit)	(5,609.33)

We thank you for your generous support!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Worship Ministry: Dale Jacobs sees the connection between food for the spirit and food for the body at Zion. Worship during Lent always involves food with our Sunday Evening Lenten Programs, and again this year with our scheduling of our Maundy Thursday Seder. This is a full dinner, so we will need reservations to prepare for this gourmet liturgical experience. The food is truly delicious. Our cost is usually in the neighborhood of \$10 per adult. This year's Seder will include more music, just to keep the focus on the religious character of the evening. We look forward to your joining us. Bring your friends. All are invited!

Property Ministry: While Chris Thomas was enjoying a cruise to the Hawaiian Islands, we took a closer look at our heating bills, and it looks like our new HV/AC system is providing some efficiencies that are keeping our heating expenses a little lower this year. It will take several heating cycles to know for sure, but we are happy with what we are experiencing thus far. The recent visitors in Luther Hall (the cast of characters in our Nativity scene) will be receiving a make-over this year under the direction of resident artist, Carol Rossbach.

Learning Ministry: Tina Beaber reported that this year's program for Vacation Bible School will be *Studio GO! Game Show*, a program that takes kids on an interactive, biblical journey with people from the Bible who were told to GO and do something for God. Not only are the stories biblically strong but they also relate to kids' everyday lives. *Studio GO! Game Show* is sure to be full of fun and excitement, in a way that will tie into the biblically based lessons as well as teaching kids about GOing out into their world and serving God!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Life Ministry: Linda Lancashire deferred to husband (and softball legend) Bob in looking ahead to the Coed Softball season. Bob led a meeting and discovered that there are questions about the ability of churches to field coed softball teams under the present rules. We will need to poll our players about interest in this year's softball team, and then take this information to our next meeting, which is scheduled for April 1st at Zion.

Resource Ministry: Mark Votaw reported that our Audit Ministry has been busy making sure that our books are in order, which they are. We continue to receive contributions for the HV/AC Fund, and we encourage those who can pay sooner rather than later to do just that. It's still too soon to determine how we're doing relative to our Operating Budget. The shortfall is substantial; but we should have more to report at the end of April.

Caring Ministry: Mary Humbert continues to make sure that our Clothing Closet and Food Pantry run smoothly in our desire to maintain a strong commitment to local outreach. Betty Tracy, as Social Outreach Ministry Elder, has more to do with the financial commitments we seek to maintain in making sure that we are supporting programs and people in need of our help and generosity. So far, so good.

Witness Ministry: Our Witness Team has made some very real improvements to our website ministry. We have a long way to go in keeping up with what other churches are doing to stand out with their websites; but we are sticking with our vision to remain current, and up-to-date, with information that is accurate and compelling. We look at ways to keep our name and our ministries in the public eye through advertising, and we are happy that visitors find us welcoming, caring, and friendly. That pretty much covers it.

A NEW CRAFT SHOW

The Youth Missions Craft Show is under new management. Connie Frank will be heading our efforts in organizing *Zion's 2009 Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest*. One of the first changes she has initiated is pursuing registrations in March, rather than waiting until August. We have good reason to believe that we will rent between 70 to 80 tables this year, rather than the 40 tables we've rented in past years. That is partly due to how good we have been in running our smaller craft show. Mostly, it is due to the fact that Northwood Elementary has decided not to have a craft show this year, and many of their crafters are open to registering at Zion's craft show.

The date for our *Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest* is **Saturday, October 17th**. Producing a larger event means that we will need to be more aggressive in all phases of preparation. We will need to advertise more widely, recruit more effectively, and organize more efficiently. We are happy to have a person with Connie's experience and interest leading our effort, but she cannot do it alone. This year will require the interest, support, and involvement of our entire community if we are going to be successful in responding to the opportunity that we have helped to create for ourselves.

In addition to these new challenges we will face, there are still the old standard bearers that fill the day, like the Sunday School Raffle Baskets, the sale of German dinners, donations for our bake sale, along with an expanded menu for our concession stand. There's a lot to think about, and even more to plan for. While we have no formal planning meetings on the calendar, please begin thinking about ways in which you can help to make Connie's job, if not easier, then a whole lot of fun because of broad-based support.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, March 29: Youth of Zion host our Lenten Dinner and lead our Lenten Service

Saturday, April 4: Children's Easter Program Dress Rehearsal, 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon

Palm Sunday, April 5: Children's Easter Program during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 12: Children's Easter Egg Hunt for all ages during Sunday School

ZION'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR DURING LENT & EASTER

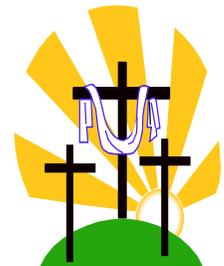


Congratulations to the Children's Choir for doing an awesome job on Sunday, March 22, with both of their songs: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* and *God Will Make a Way*. We really enjoyed hearing their beautiful voices and seeing their smiling faces! Thanks to Megan Meyer for the great job she is doing with the kids! As a reminder, the Children's Choir practices Sunday from 9:10 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. in the Choir Room, with children heading to their Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m. Don't forget, your support is a big part of a strong program.

THE CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM AND OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

We look forward to this year's presentation of the Children's Easter Program, which is entitled *The Easter Pageant that Almost Wasn't!* This program is about a play director who struggles to put on a pageant telling the Easter Story. We will see the Easter bunny, butterflies and even the Three Wise Men. It is a fun program that helps our children to tell the Easter Story in new way! The kids are working hard learning their parts and we know they will deliver another terrific program. There will also be some short lessons about Easter, along with some Easter crafts this month!

The children will perform their Easter Program on Palm Sunday, April 5, at the 10:30 a.m. service only. This has worked very well for us the last several years. We will have Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, April 4, at 11:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal will be followed by a Pizza Party to celebrate all of the children's hard work. We are looking forward to another great performance by Zion's amazing kids!



Also, we will have our Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 12, during Sunday School. Children of all ages are invited to go on an Easter Egg Hunt for over 500 eggs filled with goodies and surprises. They will hunt for eggs all over the church, and outside, too, if the weather permits. Please have your children bring their Easter Baskets on Easter morning. We will meet in the Narthex at 9:15 a.m.

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ZION

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THRU THE SIXTH GRADE

During the month of April, we will go back to our regular Sunday School schedule. Teachers will continue teaching important stories from the Bible with crafts, games, snacks and much more. The Children's Choir will begin their morning in the Choir Room at 9:10 a.m., and will head to their respective classrooms at 9:25 a.m., with classes concluding at 10:20 a.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS CONTINUES THROUGH EASTER

Renee Schrader has been doing an outstanding job in preparing our catechumens for the Rite of Confirmation, which traditionally falls on the Festival of Pentecost. Maddie Reffel and Lauren Mathie are now prepared to step forward to affirm the faith in which they were baptized. We are proud of these two young women for the effort they have invested. We thank their parents for their faithfulness to promises made with Baptism. We thank God for the grace that makes new life in Christ possible. We thank the church community for offering opportunities to grow in our knowledge of God's grace and our enjoyment of Christ's love alive among us.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YOUTH LENTEN DINNER

We extend a very special thank you to Dale Jacobs, Tina Beaber, and Steve Ross for taking the lead in helping to organize this year's Lenten dinner for the Youth of Zion. We are very grateful to everyone who stepped forward to lend a hand, including Renee Schrader, John Rhodes, Jayne Schrader, Lorin Beaber, Linda Ross, and Todd Cizek. We also thank our youth, plus Jim Fidler (as Peter), Dale Jacobs (as Judas), with Mason Meyer on organ and Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt at the keyboard, as our whole cast did a great job in making our dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative in Mark's Gospel a moving reminder of what will soon arrive with Holy Week.

WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

We have chosen our theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. The kids will spend a week at the *Studio Go Game Show* where they will experience real teamwork, real service and real fun. The daily themes will be: *Go Lead*, *Go Risk*, *Go Tell*, *Go Obey* and *Go Serve*. There will be great music, games and lessons along with food, crafts and service projects of course. Our Vacation Bible Schoolers will also meet some great characters throughout the week – Wade Winalot, Coach Armstrong, Professor Wordsmart and Cooper, our canine friend who returns from last year!



We have not yet chosen the date for VBS as we are checking everyone's calendars. As soon as we set the date, we will let you know. As always, we will need plenty of volunteers to make our VBS a success. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433. If you are not able to volunteer during VBS week, there are still many other ways to help out. Starting in May, we will put out donation cans, sign up sheets for food and supplies needed for the week and work days to do all of the prep work for VBS. We truly appreciate the support Zion's family always gives for this great event!

THE WOMEN OF ZION

For such a time as this! The study of Esther continues as we explore the hidden hand of God present in the witness of loving loyalty offered through such servants as Ruth, Daniel, and now Esther. In the last session, King Ahasuerus selected Esther as his new queen, while the King's Chief-of-Staff, Haman, plotted to harm Esther's cousin Mordecai. This is not so much a story about cleverness as courage and *hesed*, loving, extravagant loyalty. The key verse is Esther 4.14: "For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance may rise for God's people from another quarter; but you and your family will perish." The challenge presented with this text calls to mind what philosopher Edmund Burke once said: "All that is necessary for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing." A famous quote from Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran Pastor in Nazi Germany, is even more to the point: "When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist. When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat. When they came for the trade unionists, I remained silent; I was not a trade unionist. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak." You are welcome to join the Women of Zion in their monthly ***Bible Study*** on ***Tuesday, April 21***, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. The conversation is lively; the coffee will be ready; and we'll keep a seat warm, anticipating your decision to join us.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, which will be April 9 & 23, at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. We enjoy coffee, conversation, and the satisfaction that comes with knowing that we are helping others through the good that we do. You are invited to join us.

ODDS 'N ENDS AT ZION

CHANCEL FLOWERS: We love to adorn our Chancel for our Sunday Services. As of May 1, these flowers will now be \$17.50 per vase. We can have up to four vases each Sunday. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service, or, if you prefer, you can leave them for the sick, shut-in, or hospitalized, in which case, the Chancel Guild will deliver them. Vases can be reserved in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, or in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in reserving a vase, please call Susan Heyard at 330-499-9858. You may get an answering message, but rest assured that your request will be processed and your flowers reserved.

STEVE ROSS WINS CROWN!

The Fourth Annual Great Chili Cookoff, hosted by the Lutheran Men in Mission of the Canton-Massillon Conference at St. John's Lutheran Church in Canal Fulton on the morning of Saturday, March 28, was won by our own Steve Ross, in a close but highly contested cookoff involving several talented Zion contributors, with Mark Votaw, Chris Thomas, and Dale Jacobs throwing their weight behind Steve's delicious entry. It was a nice surprise to see Zion overcome the *host congregation* advantage in returning gourmet greatness back where it belongs. All the Men of Zion thank you for your support, for your prayers, and for your cast-iron stomachs!

Please plan to join the Men of Zion on April Fools Day – no fooling – when we gather in Luther Hall for our monthly meeting, which begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Actually, dinner is the meeting, not the beginning of our meeting. We do, however, have important matters to discuss, with the Mother's Day Breakfast right around the corner in May. In the meantime, there's lot's of work to do, inside and outside the church. As many know, we can use all the help we can get!

Our Rick Riffle Update: Rick made such nice progress at the Cleveland Metro Health System that he has moved to a better place for the rehab he requires, a place called *Select Specialty Hospital*. Its specialty is rehabilitation therapy, which is just what the doctor, the family, and the patient ordered! He's got quite a ways to go, but he is making progress, and responding more and more to the support so many have offered. If you would like to know where to send your *Recover Quickly* card, the following address should do nicely: Rick Riffle; Select Specialty Hospital; 400 Wabash Avenue; Akron, OH 44307.

THANK YOU'S TO ZION

Men of Zion and Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Lutheran Men in Mission for the Northeastern Ohio Synod, I want to thank everyone who helped in any way to make our *Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner* a success. We served one-hundred-and-two dinners, of which twenty-four were carry-outs and seventy-eight were enjoyed in Luther Hall. The truth is that we ran out of corned beef about 6:00 p.m., which meant we sold everything we had. So we shut down and were all cleaned up and gone by 7:30 p.m. Food items that were left over were taken to the Salvation Army, and we gave some items that were not open to Zion's Food Pantry.

On behalf of Lutheran Men in Mission, I especially want to thank Zion Lutheran Church, Pastor Sherwindt, and the Men of Zion for hosting this event for us. The results were both delicious and fantastic. Receipts totaled \$801. Expenses were \$216. This means that we were able to raise \$585, plus whatever Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match! All I can say is thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Sincerely,
Dick Spall*

P.S. Those who gathered in the Sanctuary for worship on March 22nd, the Sunday after this March 17th St. Patrick's Day Dinner, learned of Pastor Sherwindt's leap of faith in hoping that Zion's members would help cover the cost of the twenty-five donated tickets that were given to families that use our Food Pantry. It is always our desire to make sure that folks who might not be able to afford these special dinners can dine at our expense. Pastor Sherwindt was not disappointed. Thank you all for helping us to share another great dining experience with friends in need.

EVEN MORE THANK YOU'S

Dear friends and members of Zion,

While I am thinking about the many reasons to give thanks, donated dinner tickets is just the beginning of a long list that includes the Women of Zion, the Men of Zion, the Senior Choir & Praise Team, our Church Council, and our youth leaders. Each of these groups offered some exceptional selections of soups, breads, submarine sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, salads, and desserts in hosting our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinners. Your dedication to good food was clearly the key to enjoying some very nice meals together, and some really great evenings of worship.

In this regard, I must extend my special thanks to Zion's Senior Choir, Praise Team, Choir Director, and our musicians for a series of exceptional evening services: Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt, Joyce Gibeaut, Vicki Givler, Helen Heller, Beth Heller, Dale Jacobs, Flo Jensen, Phil Lehenbauer, Mason Meyer, Megan Meyer, Darlene Milavickas, Brian Walters, Kelly Walters, and Suzanne Walters. It was enlightening and fun to experience the music of Taize, and to learn more about the new Lutheran hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. While springing forward to daylight savings time isn't quite as cooperative with the Service of Light as Eastern Standard time, our evening services still brought a Lenten tone to the month of March.

In addition to our special music, the dramas we enjoyed also uplifted and enlightened. Thank you to Jim Fidler for his masterful portrayal of Peter, and to our many members, young and old, who made our dramatic reading of St. Mark's Passion Narrative memorable and impressive. So, on behalf of our Worship Ministry and the entire Zion family, I say, "Thank you all – for your dedication, faithfulness, and generosity!"

STILL MORE THANK YOU'S

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and Zion Friends,

Your Lenten devotional booklet was a welcome and much appreciated surprise. Anything that gives me a closer connection to Zion is very special. The messages are always inspiring and this year's booklet was especially so because I was able to relate to the issues concerning walking and mobility, stemming from my struggle with polio beginning in 1955, major spinal surgery three years ago, and continuing problems today. I'm very thankful for skilled care and God's healing, both of which have given me the ability to keep walking – slowly!

The explanation of "why everyone loves Zion" also precipitated lots of reflection on my part. Zion will always be my church home.... Thank you for staying in touch and extending your loving friendship and care. I'm thankful for all of God's dedicated servants at Zion and for His continual blessings, enabling Zion to reach out to so many, as well as sustaining those within the flock.

*In Christ's love,
Shirley Yoder*

[If you have been inspired by our *Daily Devotional Guide* for Lent, whether it's the work of some particular reflection or the sum total that comes with staying in touch, please let us know. *FYI: Our Daily Devotional Guide* offered reflections for each of the forty days of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 25 and concluding with the Easter Vigil on April 11. Sundays are not counted among the forty days of Lent, but we decided to include the selected readings and prayers for these days, the last of which is offered on the next page. Again, we hope you enjoyed your copy, and we encourage you to let us know what inspired or moved you the most.]



Easter Sunday, April 12: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Scripture, 1st Corinthians 15.1-11 (the proof is in the witnesses, and there are many):

“Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which you also stand, through which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

“Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. I am the least of all the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.”

Scripture, Mark 16.1-8 (believer and nonbeliever alike believe the tomb was empty):

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’

“When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Prayer: God of mercy – We no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

