



Christ THE LORD & Risen Today

Dear Beloved Members of St. Paul's Parish Family:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord of love and life!

As I write this letter to you, we're (finally!) on the verge of the breaking forth of new life in nature. The birds are singing. The huge deposits of snow are noticeably shrinking, and the water flowing. Soon the grass will green up, and the first hardy crocuses appear. It's a time when we're all caught up in the wonder of creation. We're also on the verge of the celebration of the breaking forth of new life in the Church Year. It's a time when we're all caught up in the wonder of *new* creation – the life that has come through the love of our Lord expressed in the momentous acts of Holy Week and Easter.

This year's Services at St. Paul's to mark Holy Week and Easter are listed on the reverse side of this letter. All of them are designed to help us experience the wonder of God's new creation in our lives. We're beginning Holy Week on Palm Sunday with Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:30 and 10 a.m., moving from the "Hosanna!" of the Procession with Palms to the "Crucify!" of the Dramatic Presentation of the Passion of Our Lord. The next three days in Holy Week have quiet, reflective Services in the evening: "Visio Divina" with the St. John's Bible and images on our screens on Monday; BCP Compline at our historic Midnapore Chapel on Tuesday; and the gradual extinguishing of the light at the Tenebrae Service on Wednesday – with our screens to help us see the Liturgy in the increasing darkness. Then on Maundy Thursday evening, we'll share a Solemn Eucharist, remembering the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love one another, with footwashing and the stripping of the Sanctuary of the symbols of our Faith. On Good Friday, we'll have our much-loved Service of the Stations of the Cross for children and their families at 9 a.m., followed by a special craft and refreshments. Then at 11 a.m. we'll share a Reserved Sacrament Holy Eucharist, focussing on Jesus' sacrificial love for us through the BAS Good Friday Liturgy. On Easter Eve, we'll welcome the congregation of All Saints' Lutheran Church as we gather at 8:30 p.m. for the Great Vigil of Easter, with the lighting of the new fire, renewal of Baptismal vows, use of (hypoallergenic) incense, and Holy Eucharist. On Easter Day, we'll gather at the Midnapore Chapel at 7:12 a.m. for a Sunrise Service of Morning Prayer. And lastly, as the pinnacle of our times of worship, we'll gather with full choir at 8:30 and 10 a.m. (who'll be singing anthems, as they'll have done throughout Holy Week) to share Services of Holy Eucharist that pour out our "Alleluias" as we celebrate the awesome truth that Christ is risen!

I invite you to come to as many of these Holy Week and Easter Services as you're able, and to invite others to come with you and experience for themselves the warmth and light of our loving and living Lord.

Along with Cyril, Norman, Bob, Charles, and our families, I pray for a most blessed Holy Week and Eastertide for us all.

God bless you all, always.

Your Brother in Jesus,