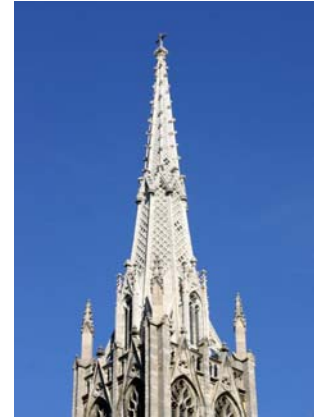


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Holy Week & Easter Services](#)

[Sunday Forum in Eastertide](#)

[Epistle E-news goes on recess](#)

[Parish Prayers](#)

[TONIGHT!](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your 2016 PLEDGE](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)

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SERVICE TIMES for Holy Week and Easter Day



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Holy Week & Easter 2016



Dear Friends,

If I could arrange a meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope, I would suggest they talk together about a new system for fixing the date of Easter. Let's just say that every year Easter shall be on the second Sunday of April. With a little luck we might even get the

Orthodox churches to play along with us. Think about it: if Easter were always on the second Sunday of April, we'd stand of better chance of the temperature's being warm outside. Nobody would be on Spring Break. Even the magnolia tree in the Grace Church yard would have time to get in bloom and proclaim, in its own way, that the Lord is risen indeed.

Alas, we follow the decision of the Synod of Whitby, which met in the year 664. For the first six centuries of Christianity, the date of Easter was anything but uniform, with various regions celebrating the Resurrection according to completely different schedules. "The Paschal Controversy" was finally put to rest at the Synod of Whitby, when the gathered leaders of the church decided that Easter should be on the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the Spring equinox, "a date which is fixed in accordance with an ancient ecclesiastical computation, and which does not always correspond to the astronomical equinox." In short, this means that Easter can occur anytime from March 22 to April 25. My guess is, the Synod of Whitby will stand. The ecclesiastical higher-ups have more important things to consider. What is more, there is something fitting about a date for Easter that jumps all over the place. We dare not try to domesticate God.

So here it comes, Easter Day, the highest feast of the Christian year, this Sunday, March 27th 2016. If the date is sneaking up on you, and you feel that you won't be quite ready to shout

ANGLICANISM: Are we in crisis?

The Sunday Forum Resumes on April 10th (details under "Coming Soon")

WE GIVE THANKS

to all who supported the Easter flower fund, including our special thanks to Ellen McElduff, head of the Flower Guild. The generosity of all will be in magnificent evidence, to the Glory of God, on Easter Day!

The Epistle E-news goes on recess next week...

Please see the worship schedule for Sunday, April 3rd below, or on our [website](#). The next Epistle E-news will arrive in your inbox in time for Sunday, April 10th.

Please pray for...

"The Lord is risen, indeed!" you still have time to prepare. The Maundy Thursday service is tonight at 7 pm, Good Friday is tomorrow, the Easter Vigil is Saturday, and then the great day will be upon us. See the schedule below.

Behold, the magnolia tree is working hard this year to be in bloom for Easter. It's coming out earlier than I ever remember. Come see it. See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector

Holy Week continues, please join us.

**(Tonight!) MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 24
7 p.m. in the Church**

Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar

Preacher: The Rev. Gretchen S. Ratterree

Music by *Durufle, Farrant, Tallis*, & others.

The Adult Choir.

**(Service times for GOOD FRIDAY and HOLY SATURDAY,
visit our website [HERE](#).)**



those who suffer

Marc & Victoria
Greenberg
Bill Nave
Greg Gillies
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence
Paul Tillotson

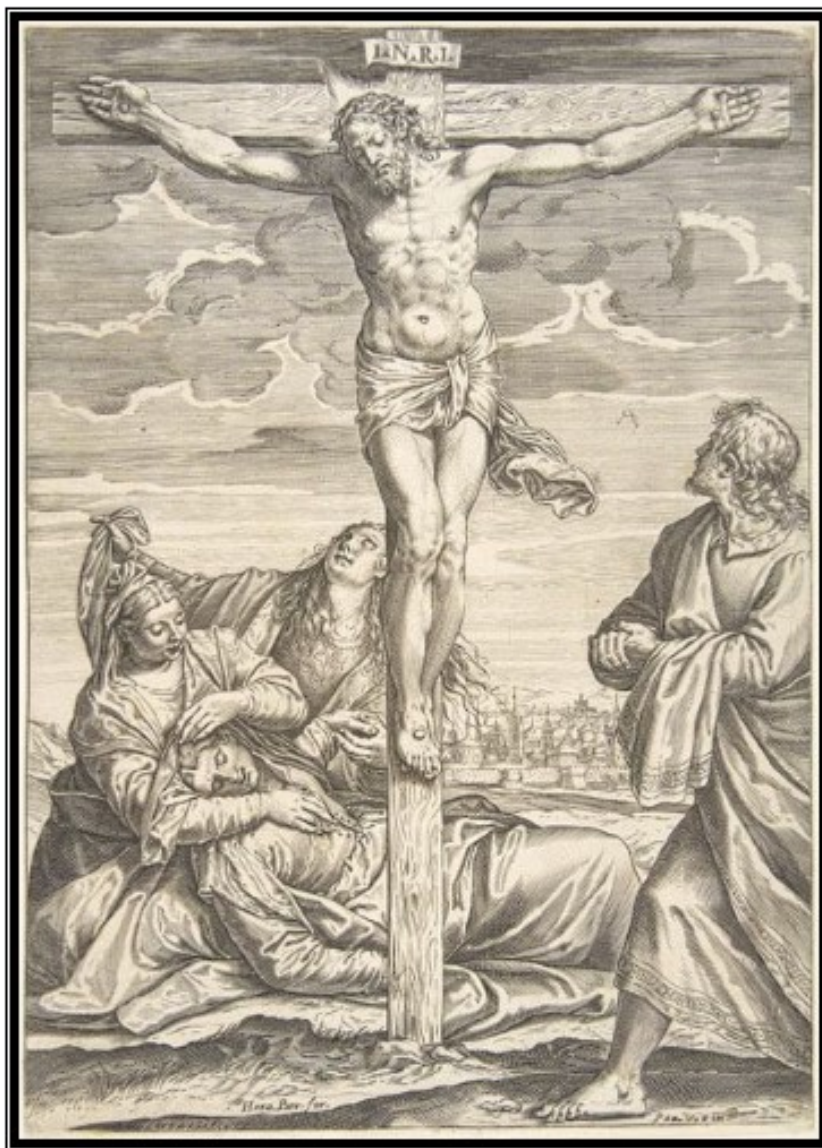
and those who have died.

April 23 & May 21



Come and build!

(Click image)



Agostino Carracci_ after Paolo Veronese _Paolo Caliari_ The Crucifixion

This Sunday, Easter Day, March 27th

All services in the church.

9 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Rev. J. Donald Waring.

Music: The Combined Choirs of Grace Church

11 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music by *Batten, Byrd, Noyon/Hancock, Parker* & others.

The Combined Choirs of Grace Church with
Brass & Tympani.

4 p.m. Organ Music for Easter Day

Music by *Bach, Handel, Pachelbel & Widor.*

6 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend J. Donald Waring.

Music by *Batten, Byrd, Noyon/Hancock, & others.*

The Adult Choir.

***Coming Soon***

MAR 28 – The Church and Parish House are closed on Easter Monday.

APR 10 – ANGLICANISM IN THE PRESENT: ARE WE IN CRISIS? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Today we begin a series of Sunday Forums in which we will discuss the state of the Anglican Communion past and present, with special focus on the status of The Episcopal Church USA (TEC) after decisions made during the Primate's meeting of Anglican Archbishops. How might it affect our community at Grace Church, and the Episcopal Church at large? The Revs. J. Donald Waring and Stephen Holton provide context. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

APR 10, 17, 24 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES – Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. A light lunch will be served. Sundays, April 10, 17, 24, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room.

APR 10 – EXCERPTS FROM PART III OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH @4 PM – The Adult Choir with the Parish Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from Part III (the Easter Portion) of *Handel's MESSIAH*.

APR 17 – ANGLICANISM IN THE PRESENT: ARE WE IN CRISIS? PART 2 – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. The Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D., Professor of Church and Society at the General Theological Seminary, will provide a global perspective on the work and status of the Anglican Communion.

APR 23, MAY 21 – COME AND BUILD WITH US! Grace Church is overjoyed to be partnering with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in Laurelton, Queens for a family in need. Our next build dates are April 23 and May 21. To register and sign up, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact the Rev. Stephen Holton [HERE](#).

APR 24 – HOW WE GOT HERE: ANGER AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE 2016 CAMPAIGN – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Grace Church parishioners and political commentators Margaret Hoover and John Avlon will lead a spirited discussion on the bruising 2016 presidential campaign.

APR 29 – THE ANNUAL SPRING CHOIR CONCERT with the Combined Choirs of Grace Church: Men and Boys, Girls, Adult and Parish Choirs takes place on Friday, April 29th at 7:00 pm. Music by E.C. Bairstow, Malcolm Boyle, S.S. Wesley, Louis Vierne and others.

Next Sunday, April 3rd

The Second Sunday of Easter

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

The Epistle E-news is on recess next week, but will return to your inbox in time for Sunday, April 10th. Happy Easter!

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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