



# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Helen Toman, visitation pastor • Bob Thaler, preacher • Syd Hills, pastoral assistant  
Gywin Murray, director of music • Jill Merner, parish secretary • Brian Racho, sexton

Lent 5 + April 10, 2011

## PASTORAL LETTER

Grace and peace to you.

A day or two ago, Pastor Bob Thaler wandered into the office. He was wondering about Palm Sunday. (The formal title is *Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday*.) Bob is preaching and we have a processional Gospel, with the accent on the journey into Jerusalem, together with longer and shorter-version just-before-the-sermon Gospels which narrate the entire passion of Jesus. “Where do you place the accent?” Bob asked. “Palms or Passion?” “Journey or destination?”

The answer we offered was two fold. “You’re the preacher; you’re welcome to choose.” and “We tend to focus on the journey and we get to experience it through the services of Holy Week: entry into Jerusalem; last supper; crucifixion; desolation; resurrection.” The instinct to “journey with Jesus” is very old, as anyone who’s ever experienced or observed the *Stations of the Cross* will tell you.

At Trinity, we have embraced the tag “faithful journey” for our ministry of recent years. In the main, the living of a Christian life, the living out of our baptismal promises, the living out of Jesus’ command to love our God and love our neighbour—these are about the journey and not the destination. What will heaven look like? No idea. Will everyone be saved? That’s our hope, but it’s not up to us. (And that’s likely a good thing.) And so on.

So what’s our faithful journey all about? Glad you asked!

The faithful journey is about making the life of Jesus of Nazareth our own. It’s about interpreting his life, his teaching and his example for our time. It’s about attending to God and to our neighbour. It’s about drawing the circle larger rather than smaller. It’s about welcoming people; forgiving people; supporting people; helping and healing people; loving people.

From Palm Sunday though Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and into Easter we make Jesus’ life our own; we make *his faithful journey* our own. While there’s a sense in which we do that all the time, Sunday to Sunday (or try to), we do it with a particular intensity between Palm Sunday and Easter. And we do it together. *We make the life, death and resurrection of Jesus our own.*

Won’t you join us?

The schedule of liturgies, from Palm Sunday though Easter, is set forth in TRINITY DOVE. The Holy Week journey—together with the more intense pilgrimage of the Great Three Days (Maundy Thursday into Good Friday; Good Friday into Holy Saturday; and Holy Saturday into Easter)—will serve to anchor our community for the faithful journey we make the rest of the year. Please join us!

Blessed Holy Week. Blessed Great Three Days. Blessed Easter.

Anne Anderson and André Lavergne,  
Pastors in the community of Trinity Church