

From  
Pastor Jay



Wow! It's here, but the reality of SPRING has been with us for several weeks with sunny days, warm temperatures and an ever-flowering earth! PTL!

If you are like me, you probably can't remember another year when spring came so early. I love this time of the year. It's just a good time to be alive; to be basking in the love that God has for the present generation.

And thinking of His love brings me to the subject of this newsletter – all of the events marking Easter as a day on the calendar. However, it is more than just a day; it is a journey through time that remains timeless for those who are willing to set out and make the trek Jesus did to Jerusalem and the cross.

As Jesus neared the Holy City, He knew what was before Him. When the news came that He was at the top of the hill and about to make His entrance into the city, the crowd starting cheering in the OT fashion of hailing a conquering King returning home from battle: *"Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"*



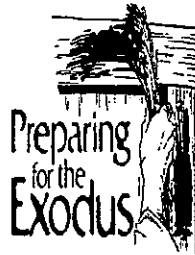
**HOSANNA!**

On Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, we can feel that same sense of revelry. We, too, will wave our palms and palm crosses. The traditional first Sunday of Easter week is called Palm/Passion Sunday, and for good reason. The focus is on the shouting of the crowd, but also we need to keep in mind that the praises are short-lived. Late Thursday night, Jesus will be arrested in the garden and Friday morning the crowd will be crying out for Jesus to be crucified.



**Holy Thursday**

To get us in the right frame of mind, we celebrate the Lord's Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. This is not so much about the Communion service we now celebrate on a regular basis, as it was then a dress rehearsal started hundreds of years earlier and known as the Passover Celebration.

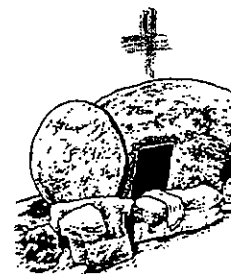


The roots of Passover go all the way back to the time when God delivered the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. On the night Pharaoh told them to leave, each Israelite family was to sacrifice a lamb, capture the blood in a basin and paint the lintels of the door with the blood. God told Moses to tell the Israelites that on that very night when the angel of death visited the Egyptian homes with death for the first-born of Egypt, He (God) would pass over the homes covered with the blood of the lamb.

This is our heritage as believers. Our Savior, Jesus, was thoroughly Jewish. When we get to the roots of our faith, it is all about the way God has meticulously grafted us in with the Chosen people.

You can identify with Christ and His walk to the cross on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. At 4:00 pm the churches of Cambridge will come together for the annual Cross Walk, which begins this year at St. Luke's UMC on Bradley Avenue. There will be several buses for those unable to complete the whole walk. At each stop along the way, we will enter the church sanctuaries to pray, to sing, and to hear a short meditation on the Stations of the Cross. Late in the afternoon Jesus has died and is placed in a tomb. Devastating for the disciples and those who loved Him, BUT...

Then comes Easter Sunday! Early Sunday morning the women, bringing spices and ointments to clean and prepare His body, discover an open tomb. The fact of Christ's resurrection is the bedrock of our Christian faith. God's power conquered death, hell and the grave! The celebration of Easter Sunday begins at 7:00 am at the foot of the Choptank River Bridge for the Sunrise Service. We have something to sing about—



*He is Risen, just as He said!*

*Hallelujah!*

We, truly have something to share. See you Sunday and on all these special days at the place where we can't stop telling people about JESUS!

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jay*