

# Easter Season Worship

at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church

339 West Lexington Avenue, Danville, 236-3565

## *Palm Sunday, April 9*

Features a Processional of Children waving palms, and music by the Preschool Choir, Children's Choir, and Adult Choir; also a song by Nicole Nordman, "Why?" sung by a vocal trio of Megan Rice, Ervin Farmer, and Philip Quinn. 10:45 a.m.

## *Maundy Thursday Service, April 13*

Communion Service with music; a time for reflecting on Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. 7:00 p.m.

## *Easter Sunday, April 16*

Features the Adult Handbell Choir, Brass and Percussion Instruments, Adult Choir, children's sermon, and an Easter message from Dr. Tommy Valentine. Music includes: "Christ the Lord is Risen" (arr. Cherwin), "I've Just Seen Jesus" (arr. Hayes), and "Hallelujah Chorus" (by Handel). 10:45 a.m.

## *Sunday after Easter.*

*April 23*

Features a violinist from New Orleans, Amy Thiaville, concertmaster of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. She will play during the 10:45 morning worship service and at a concert at 7:00 p.m.



# Holy Week 2006

Reflections on the Easter Story

A Gift from the Members of  
Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, KY

## *A Word From Our Pastor*

The devotionals for Holy Week 2006 are a gift for both our neighbors and our community of faith. This booklet, distributed to the neighbors and friends of LABC, is a symbol of our friendship and our love for you in Christ Jesus. The devotionals are written by people like you and me whose life's journey is filled with joy and sorrow, celebration and sadness, challenges and opportunities. As the writers reflect upon these scripture passages they do so through the lens of their particular life and through the lens of the Holy Spirit. I am confident that you will find a word from God for you in these pages.

If you do not have a church home, let me extend to you a personal invitation to worship with us on Easter Sunday or any Sunday you can be with us. A schedule of our Holy Week activities is included for you. Please feel welcome to worship with us.

Use this week to deepen your relationship to God and discover in that relationship the fullness of life offered through Jesus Christ.

Thanks for taking the time to enrich your experience of Easter this year.

In Christ,  
*Tommy Valentine*

See back pages for information on  
**Children's Easter Celebration**  
Saturday, April 15  
&  
**Holy Week Midday Lunch and Devotion**  
Monday-Thursday, April 9-13

# Palm Sunday, April 9

## *It's All Good!*

by Landon Berry

Scripture Reading: John 16:33

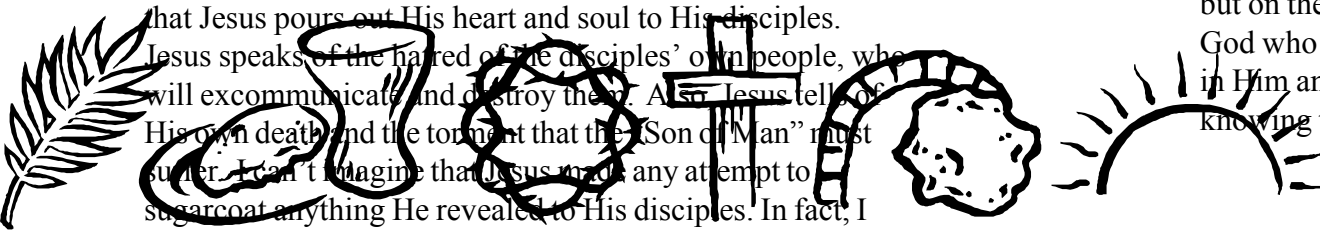
*These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have conquered the world.*  
(John 16:33)

Not long after the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus—surrounded by adoring fans and dedicated followers—takes His disciples into a quiet room to prepare them for the grueling events to come. It is in this quiet moment, away from the fanfare, far gone from the celebrity-like attention, that Jesus pours out His heart and soul to His disciples. Jesus speaks of the hatred of the disciples' own people, who will excommunicate and destroy them. Also, Jesus tells of His own death and the torment that the "Son of Man" must suffer. I can't imagine that Jesus made any attempt to sugarcoat anything He revealed to His disciples. In fact, I believe that Jesus intentionally spoke with a tongue of suffering and lips of despair.

So why would He, the greatest personification of love, speak with such darkness and destruction? Because Jesus knows that that's life. Nowhere in any of His teachings did Jesus promise His disciples an easy existence. It would have been nice if He did, but in my opinion, Jesus promised His disciples something much greater—Hope. Jesus promised that no matter what the disciples would go through, Jesus Himself will have already gone through it. He promised that

when the world lashes out against everything the disciples stand for, He would be there to grant them peace.

You see, life most certainly isn't easy. I've been in this world for eighteen years and I already know that life can be cruel and misfortunate. However, I cling tight to the promise of hope that Jesus gives to all those who believe in Him. I have a saying, a life motto if you will, that I like to say often, "It's all good." I say it and live by it because I believe that it's true. Now, you may look around at the world and tell me, "Landon, what are you thinking? The world is a mess; there is no way that everything is ALL good!" Well, I will retort by repeating Jesus' promise of hope found in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have conquered the world." You see, on the surface life may seem cluttered, perverse, and sometimes fully evil, but on the scale of eternity, it truly is all good. We serve a God who is in control, and He is a GOOD God. If we trust in Him and his promises, then we can live with peace in knowing that He *has* conquered the world.



# Monday, April 10

## *Pain and Joy*

by Dianne Stillwell

Scripture Reading: John 16:16-24

*So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.*  
(Mark 16:22, NRSV)

“Anything you want,” was Keith’s answer to me when I asked which scripture passage he would like for me to reflect upon. Anything I want? Hhmm.

As I began rereading the scripture passages for Holy Week, I found myself wanting to skip right over the horrible parts. Perhaps the triumphal entry or the beautiful resurrection would be much easier to reflect upon. That’s when it hit me in the face! I can’t skip over the unthinkable parts of the story. I have to reread, meditate, imagine, reflect, and agonize over the betrayal, humiliation, and death of Jesus. As horrible and unbelievable as it was, it is necessary. There is no way around it. It is part of history! I don’t like to think about the details, but I must.

I was one of those people who did not go to see The Passion of the Christ because I knew I wouldn’t be able to handle it. I don’t like violence or gore. What makes it even harder for me is realizing that it happened to a real man—my Savior!

Slowly, I made my way through the familiar but graphic details;

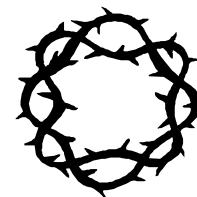
- Judas’ betrayal with a kiss,
- the arrest of Jesus,
- Jesus before the High Priest,

- Peter’s denial,
- the binding and beating of Jesus,
- Jesus before Pilate,
- his sentence to death,
- Jesus’ flogging,
- the crown of thorns placed on his head,
- the mockery,
- nails, a cross, and a hill,
- division of his clothes and casting lots for his tunic,
- his weeping mother standing near the cross watching her son die,
- darkness,
- and a tomb.

Finally, I found myself elated to make it to chapter 20 in John—the Resurrection of Jesus. There was the happy ending; the reason we celebrate as Christians!!

I think life is often like my experience. We each tell a story. Our life stories are filled with prayers, agony, adoration, blessings, denials, trials, devotion, disappointments, sorrow, pain, love, joys, and so much more. Some experiences are a delight to us while others are down right unbearable, it seems. But all of them make up our stories. Our stories are not complete without them.

Because of Christ’s sacrifice for us, we have been given a joyous reason to celebrate! He has given us our own happy-ever-after endings!



# Tuesday, April 11

## *He Will Come Back*

by Jason Kilby

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:36-44; 28:6

*He is not here, for he has risen, just as he said.  
Come; see the place where He was lying.  
(Matthew 28:6)*

As I read this verse, something stands out to me. The promise Christ made, “he would rise again”, just as he said, “I know that Christ promised he would come back once again to get us. I wonder what that day will be like, will I be able to hear, see, and feel Christ as he returns. This prayer was developed off this thought:

*Father, I heard a loud siren in the background as I was driving. At that moment, I notice that some cars are pulling off the road, so I do the same. Pulling off to give way to an emergency vehicle. Looking into my rearview mirror, I see the ambulance as it approaches. The sirens are getting louder and louder. Soon it's so loud I have to roll my window up. As I watch the ambulance pass by and then go off into the distance, the siren is becoming very faint. I begin to wonder, “Lord, what will it be like when your trumpets sound loud and clear for all to hear when you return for me? What will it sound like? Will everyone hear it? Will I be able to recognize it? Will people just ignore your trumpet sound, just*

*like the ambulance? Will they act like they did not hear the sound to get ahead of everyone else in life? Or will we hear the sound of glory loud and clear and pull over to follow you to our promised land?”*

*Lord, please let me have a true heart so my ears can hear loud and clear for that day when your trumpet rings for all to hear. Amen.*



# Wednesday, April 12

## *Dirty Feet*

by Jennifer Valentine

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17

A few nights ago, I was giving Kate a bath. The time came to wash her feet. It had been a warm day and she had spent most of it barefooted. The dirt was not only on the surface, but was in each little crevice and between each little toe. The bottom of her feet were stained with the soil from the many places her feet had traveled that day and I knew it would take some scrubbing to get all the dirt off. “My feet are really dirty,” she said, “Are you going to wash them?”

Peter posed the same question to Jesus in these scriptures, although his tone was one of astonishment and objection. The task of washing feet in a household was given to the lowest of the low. It was only done by Gentile slaves, wives and children. Even the Jewish slaves did not wash feet. Jesus humbled himself even further by taking off his outer garment and wrapping a towel around his waist. He took the water bowl and began to wash his disciple’s feet.

I am sure they were all astonished and in awe of Jesus’ actions. But here is Peter, maybe saying out loud what the others are thinking. However, he did not understand. Jesus told Peter he must be washed by him to be a part of him. “Well, and then wash all of me,” Peter replies. Again, Peter misunderstands and Jesus is patient and continues to teach Peter. Jesus questions Peter, “Why would I wash all of you when you have had a bath?” Jesus only needs to wash his feet because that is the only part that is dirty.

John is my favorite gospel writer over the other three because he portrays Jesus as a human, being tired, sad, and frustrated. He also stresses Jesus’ relationships with individuals, like Peter. Most importantly, John repeatedly calls us to faith.

Peter needed much faith the day Jesus washed his feet. I wonder what went through his mind that evening as he pondered the events of the day. Peter’s faith would be tested in the days to come but God still uses him to build his church.

Peter only needed to be washed where he was dirty. Dirt gets into many crevices of our lives. Each and every day Jesus needs to wash the dirt from our lives so we can be ready and able to serve him with no barriers in the way. So we can have a fresh faith to stand on. Have you had your feet washed today?



# Maundy Thursday, April 13

## *Frame of Mind*

by Preston Wright

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:48-49

*“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”*

*Then everyone deserted him and fled.*

(Mark 14:48-49, NIV)

Jesus was visiting a place called Gethsemane during Holy Week. He took some disciples with him. Prayer was what was on his mind. Very personal prayer. Troubling prayer. Jesus expressed “sorrow to the point of death”.

It’s now or never. — Time to ask for a pardon from my Father?

Was that a “NO”?

Let me make sure the disciples are keeping watch.

Asleep! How discouraging.

I’ll pray again. Another “NO”.

Let me check with those disciples I asked to wait for me.

What? All asleep again just like the first time!

I’ll pray to my Father a third time.

Same results.

It’s time to accept my Father’s plan.

Not a rebellion.

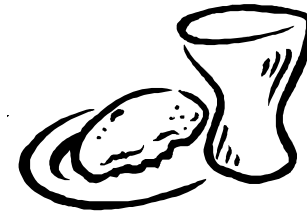
Not what the government wants.

Not what the Jews want.

Not what my followers want.

Not what I want.

Let us hear in our hearts and minds what Jesus has to say. It may not be easy or happen the first time we try. Don’t flee. Desertion is not an option. Running will not get you away from yourself or the truth. If we strive for the right frame of mind from our Father, we will be enabled to do our Father’s will. Jesus told us so.



# Good Friday, April 14

## *A New Beginning*

by Kitty Baird

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:43; Mark 16

As a child, I remember Easter Sunday being very special. I always had a new dress for Easter and new shoes, the ones I would wear to church every Sunday until the first day of school in September. I always think of Easter as a time of new beginnings. My wedding anniversary will be Easter. We chose Easter for our wedding as a time for a new beginning in our lives and although Easter does not always fall on the same date, it is on Easter that we celebrate our anniversary regardless of the date.

It was also a new beginning for the disciples of Jesus as they started the day in mourning for the friend and leader for whom they had left jobs and family to follow. Then the most amazing thing happened. While they were hiding to prevent the same fate to themselves, Mary, Salome, and Mary Magdalene who had also followed Him, went to the tomb to take spices to embalm His body when they learned from the angel that He had arisen. They hurried to the hiding place of the disciples to tell them, “He is not dead. He has arisen, and He is going now to meet with you in Galilee.” They thought: “How can this be? We saw Him die. He was on the cross for a long time. He forgave a criminal who died on the cross with Him.”

Yes, He forgave the robber and promised that He would be with Him in paradise because the robber recognized and accepted Him for who He really was. WOW! What a new

beginning it was for that man! And what a new beginning it was for all of us when we accepted Him as the Son of God and the Lord of our lives. We know that by His grace we are forgiven and His spirit lives in us. Now it is our responsibility to be His hands, feet, and voice to the poor, the weak, the unsaved, the lonely and yes, even the robbers among us. Let us pray that Easter will be a new beginning for each of us and each morning—a new beginning of service for Him.



# Saturday, April 15

## *Walk and Remember*

by Joanna Kirby

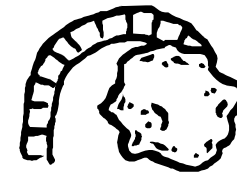
Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:13

*I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.*  
(Philippians 4:13, NIV)

It is early morning (as the stone is rolled away), a time of silence and reflection (seeing Christ on the cross). A fellowship with God begins as you walk the journey of the day (looking into the empty tomb for Christ). As you walk, ask for compassion in your heart towards others (“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”). Look for the face of Jesus in someone else’s eyes (Judas). Have the ability to love one another without question, only with faith. Please quiet your needs and ask to see the needs of others (Mary weeps); to help by opening a door or to *BE* the open door so that others may glimpse Christ in you. Your path will be narrow and your way slow. You only need to reach out to Jesus by helping another.

Lord, give us strength that we may walk with you this day and everyday. May our door be always open as we walk with you. As you journey through Holy Week bring your awareness closer to God. Ask him into your heart, take him to work with you, ask him to *BE* with you even at your meals, invite him to a sports event and let him sit with you and your friends, share his stories with your family as you spend time together. Remember what “Holy” means as we

prepare our lives and our hearts on this sacred day. Allow God to be with you and listen, listen for his voice as he invites you to come with him on this journey. Remember the cross, remember Mary, remember who you are in God’s eyes and let him be a part of your life.



# Easter Sunday, April 16

## *Good News*

by Nina Mallory,

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

*On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.*

Luke 24:1 (NRSV)

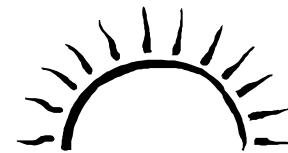
How exciting it is to me as a Christian older woman to know my Savior was responsible for giving women a place in society they deserved. So it is understandable why the gospels tell about women who were Jesus' close friends. They were at the cross as recorded in John. They were concerned and curious about His body after the crucifixion and were compelled to go to the tomb. Where were the disciples?

Women seem to have an instinct of wanting to know the "particulars" of a situation. The women of our scripture were not satisfied with what they had been told of Jesus' burial. Gene is very cautious about sharing incidents with me because he knows there will be lots of questions. A biologist could not confer that there is brain matter in a male or female to verify this difference, but others have written about it and there is even a movie, "Men are from Venus-Women are from Mars."

We are told the women courageously went to the tomb very early to care for Jesus' body. The empty tomb caused fear but the angel told them to "look among the living". They *remembered* what Jesus had said.

In their joy they ran to remind the disciples of what Jesus had promised. Peter believed but the others seemed to ignore them.

Thank you, Jesus, for loving and forgiving all of us, even when we are not lovable.



# Children's Easter Celebration







**Saturday, April 15**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church**

*Children of all ages, including our neighbors, are invited to join us for ...*

 **Easter and Springtime Activities**

-  Recreation
-  Mural painting
-  Birdhouse decorating
-  Flower planting

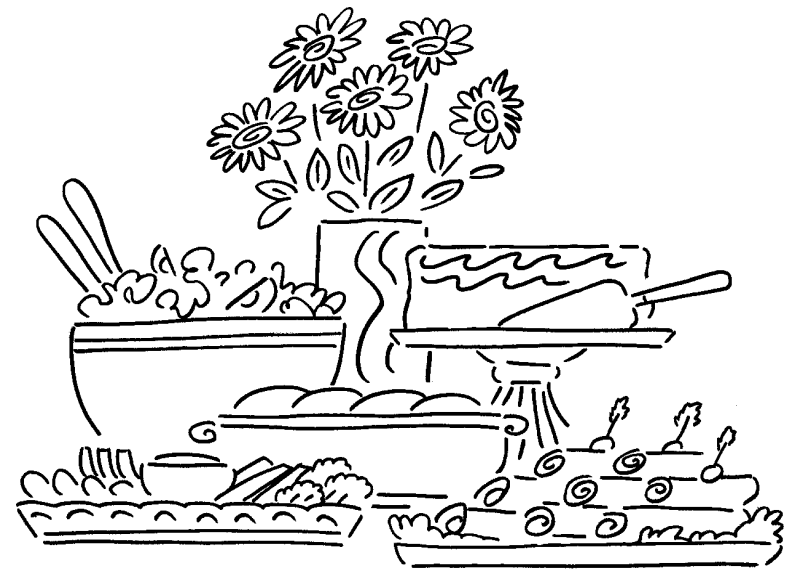
 **Easter Story**

 **Easter Egg Hunt**

*Bring your Easter basket or bag!*



# Holy Week Midday Lunch and Devotion



**Monday through Thursday**

**12:00 p.m. Daily**

**April 10-13**

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall