



# All Souls'

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### An Update from the Rector

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ. As you know, the situation in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus continues to rapidly develop, and I'm writing to share some of the latest developments that concern our life together, especially in light of the Governor of Oklahoma's proclamation this week.

#### **Holy Week & Easter**

The Bishop of Oklahoma has now extended the temporary suspension of public worship services through Easter and beyond. This action is in line with those taken not only within the Episcopal Church and our Anglican Communion, but across the Churches. Once again, I would emphasize that these extraordinary measures are taken out of Christian charity for our brothers and sisters. In *temporarily* laying down our right to gather together, we are making a sacrificial effort for the common good.

I am grieved that the suspension of public liturgies will continue through Holy Week and Easter Day. Nevertheless, we will continue to offer thanks and praise to Almighty God in this consecrated place: as we have been doing these past Sundays, we will live-stream the liturgies of Holy Week on our [Facebook page](#) and at [allsoulsokc.com/live](http://allsoulsokc.com/live).

#### *Palm Sunday:*

The Altar Guild is preparing palm crosses for the parish to have on Palm Sunday. **Palm crosses and fronds will be available for curbside pickup on Saturday, April 4 between 10:00 and Noon at the undercroft entrance on the east side of the church.** Drive through the children's drop off area in the east parking lot any time during the appointed period to receive your palms.

If you cannot or should not leave your home, please let us know by responding to this email, and we will deliver or mail a palm cross to you.

**On Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m., we will live-stream the Palm Sunday liturgy.** Have your palms ready to participate in the Liturgy of the Palms!

#### *Weekdays in Holy Week:*

The prayer book traditionally appoints the Passion Narratives from the Gospels to be read over the course of Holy Week. Each morning during Holy Week, we will share a reading of the appointed Lessons with accompanying meditation by the clergy on our [Facebook page](#).

Monday through Wednesday in Holy Week the clergy will be celebrating Holy Communion in the Chapel of St. Mary at 5:30 p.m. While these are not public services, we are informing you of these times so that you can prayerfully unite yourselves in our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

*Paschal Triduum:*

We will live-stream the great liturgies of the Paschal Triduum according to the following schedule:

**Maundy Thursday (Thursday, April 9)**

7:00 p.m. – Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday (Friday, April 10):**

Noon – The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

7:00 p.m. – A Meditation on the Passion of Christ

**Holy Saturday (Saturday, April 11):**

5:30 p.m. – The Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter Day (Sunday, April 12):**

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

It will be difficult not to be together in person to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord this year. Indeed, I can scarcely believe I am writing these words. Nevertheless, when we are able to gather again, how much greater will be our joy!

**Church Offices Closed, Chapel Open for Prayer**

Finally, I have decided this week to close the church offices for the time being and to allow the church staff to work from home. I anticipate the office closure continuing at least through April 15, but we will continue to evaluate this week to week. For now, the best way to contact any of the church staff is through email; you can find the contact information for the staff on the parish website. I would emphasize that the work of the church continues.

The Chapel of St. Mary will remain open between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays for private prayer and reflection. The clergy, of course, will continue the daily round of prayer in the Chapel and our regular priestly ministry.

Though we are scattered for a season, we remain bound together as living members of the mystical Body of Christ. The time of the virus has made me ever more grateful for the communion and fellowship we share in our Lord Jesus Christ. “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

God bless you and keep you,

Chris\*

Fr. Christopher Yoder, Rector