

Brighton Lutheran Mission

brightonlutherans.wordpress.com

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Welcome to Brighton Lutheran Mission!

We are delighted to have you with us this evening to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea after the service. *If you are worshipping us for the first time and would like to receive Holy Communion, please speak to the pastor before the service.*

Palm Sunday & Sunday of the Passion 14 April 2019

In Our Prayers

St. Columba Lutheran Church, Pr. Ehlers; Pr. Roger and Emily Jones (health); Debbie Edge (recovery from surgery); Wendy Nicolson (cancer); Lutheran Church Australia; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Somali Lutheran Church, Pr. Mohamed Gurhan; Holland Road Baptist Church, Pr. Treneer

The Services of Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday	6.30 pm	Divine Service	Scout Hall
Good Friday	12 noon	Chief Service	Scout Hall
Holy Saturday	10 pm	Easter Vigil	Scout Hall
Easter Sunday	9 am	Easter breakfast	Scout Hall
	10.30 am	Divine Service	Scout Hall
Easter Monday	9.30 am	Divine Service	Scout Hall

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Celebrating Easter with Gusto!

Or: why we have should go all-out to celebrate the Resurrection

Bishop N.T. Wright

So how can we learn to live as wide-awake people, as Easter people? Here I have some bracing suggestions to make. I have come to believe that many churches simply throw Easter away year by year; and I want to plead that we rethink how we do it, so as to help each other, as a church and as individuals, to live what we profess. I am speaking here particularly from, and to, the church I know best. Those who celebrate in other ways will, I think, be able to make appropriate adjustments and take whatever they need to apply to their own situations.

For a start, consider Easter Day itself. It's a great step forward that many churches now hold Easter vigils, as the Orthodox Church has always done; but in many cases they are still too tame by half. Easter is about the wild delight of God's creative power; not very Anglican, perhaps, but at least we ought to shout Alleluias instead of murmuring them, we should light every candle in the building instead of only some, we should give every man, woman, child, cat, dog and mouse in the place a candle to hold, we should have a real bonfire, and we should splash water about as we renew our baptismal vows. Every step back from that is a step towards an ethereal or esoteric Easter experience, and the thing about Easter is that it is neither ethereal or esoteric. It's about the real Jesus coming out of the real tomb and getting God's real new creation under way.

But my biggest problem starts on Easter Monday. I regard it as absurd and unjustifiable that we should spend forty days keeping Lent, pondering what it means, preaching about self-denial, being at least a little gloomy, and then bringing it all to a peak with Holy Week, which in turn climaxes in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday...and then, after a rather odd Holy Saturday, we have a single day of celebration.

Easter week itself ought not to be the time when all the clergy sigh with relief and go on holiday. It ought to be an eight-day festival, with champagne served after morning prayer or even before, with lots of alleluias and extra hymns and spectacular anthems. Is it any wonder people find it hard to believe in the resurrection of Jesus if we don't throw our hats in the air? Is it

any wonder we find it hard to live the resurrection if we don't do it exuberantly in our liturgies? Is it any wonder the world doesn't take much notice if Easter is celebrated as simply the one-day happy ending tacked on to forty days of fasting and gloom?

We should be taking steps to celebrate Easter in creative new ways: in art, literature, children's games, poetry, music, dance, festivals, bells, special concerts, anything that comes to mind. This is our greatest festival. Take Christmas away, and in biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter away, and you don't have a New Testament; you don't have a Christianity; as Paul says, you are still in your sins...

If Lent is a time to give things up, Easter ought to be a time to take things up. Champagne for breakfast again—well, of course. Christian holiness was never meant to be merely negative.... The forty days of the Easter season, until the ascension, ought to be a time to balance out Lent by taking something up, some new task or venture, something wholesome and fruitful and outgoing and self-giving. You may be able to do it only for six weeks, just as you may be able to go without beer or tobacco only for the six weeks of Lent. But if you really make a start on it, it might give you a sniff of new possibilities, new hopes, new ventures you never dreamed of. It might bring something of Easter into your innermost life. It might help you wake up in a whole new way. And that's what Easter is all about."

From Tom Wright, *Surprised by Hope*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

This Week

Wed	10.45 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
Thu	6.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Divine Service
Fri	12 noon	Good Friday Chief Service
Sat	10 pm	Easter Vigil (Scout Hall)
Sun	9 am	Easter Breakfast (Scout Hall)
	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
Mon	9.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further Ahead

24 Apr	10.45 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	2 pm	Devotion at Willow Tree Lodge & Hartwell Lodge
25 Apr	<i>St. Mark</i>	
	1.10 pm	Bible study (Parsonage)
	6.45 pm	Bible study (Eastleigh)
28 Apr	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	3.30 pm	Bible study at Oxford Mission
	4.30 pm	Divine Service (Oxford Mission)
1 May	<i>St. Philip & St. James (Apostles)</i>	
	10.45 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	6.45 pm	Divine Service (St. Philip & St. James)
2 May	1.10 pm	Bible study (Parsonage)
	6.45 pm	Bible study (Eastleigh)
4 May	5.30 pm	Community Fun Night (Scout Hall)
5 May	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	6 pm	Youth Club

**God willing, the next service at Brighton Mission will be held on
12 May.**

**You can join the Bible studies held in Fareham & Eastleigh
via your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

**Simply go to *<http://www.oslc.org.uk/online-bible-study/>*
and click the link.**

Ask the pastor for details.