

St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
119-15 135th Avenue
South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am
Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

An Easter Message from
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

I try to imagine what it must have been like on that first Easter morning when there wasn't the knowledge of the resurrection. When, instead, it was all about death and disappointment. And I imagine Mary Magdalene coming to the tomb in order to care for Jesus' body, to prepare it for burial. The story was over. The hope was gone. And then someone shows up in the garden, and Mary can't recognize him. Thinking that he's the gardener, she says, "Sir, tell me where you've taken the body so that I may bring it back here."

Imagine a woman, literally, thinking that she could carry the deadweight of a man. All of that grief, the heaviness of that physically as well as spiritually, and just then Jesus speaks her name. "Mary," he says, and her eyes are open. And she can see Jesus because she has been seen by Jesus. Her name has been called by the risen Lord, and now she is part of the resurrection story that happens for all of us in baptism. Jesus has called all of us by name and knows every one of us. And we too now are part of the resurrection story. Her mourning was turned into dancing.

I'm going to leave you with this hymn from our newest worship resource, All Creation Sings, about the transformation of Mary's grief into joy. Happy Easter, dear Church.



The Messenger
April 2021 Edition

Woman, Weeping in the Garden

1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the

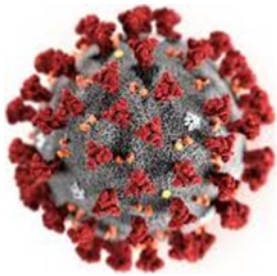
pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,
joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he

bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
"Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

Woman, Weeping in the Garden
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Music by Thomas Pavlechko, © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission.



Maundy Thursday Devotional at 7 PM
Good Friday Devotional at 12 noon
Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM
SouthOzoneParkChurch.org



Coronavirus & the Church

At the writing of this message, the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases in **South Ozone Park, Queens is 9.76%** for March 22-28, 2021—that is almost 1 in every 10 persons tested positive for the virus.

Our immediate neighborhood is still under attack and our neighbors are literally in the fight of their lives. Please get vaccinated as soon as you can and do not let your guards down as you continue to dwell amongst the living.

We have **suspended our in-person worship** until further notice and will continue with a 10 AM Zoom broadcast every Sunday. The Worship Services uploaded to our website and YouTube channel—thanks to our tech wiz, Matt Khargie!

The **Zoom link** for joining the Sunday Worship is: <https://zoom.us/j/3941718778>
You can also join the broadcast by **dialing 646-558-8656** and enter meeting ID: **394-171-8778 #**



Join us on **Easter Sunday, April 4, around 10:30 AM** for a time of fellowship via Zoom—It's been a long time since we haven't seen many of you in-person, and we hope that you can stop by to say hello and reconnect with Church family.

The **Zoom link** for the fellowship 1/2 hour is: <https://zoom.us/j/3941718778> You can also access this service by **dialing 646-558-8656** and enter meeting ID: **394-171-8778 #**.



We would like acknowledge and thank everyone who continued to contribute their offering towards the ministry of our Church.

For those of you who are wondering how to make your contributions, you may:

1. Mail in your Offering Envelopes to the Church.
2. Drop off (please, Checks only) your Offering Envelopes in our mail slot on the side door, or
3. Contribute via PayPal at: <https://www.paypal.me/StJamesStMatthews>



Special Note:

Our 2021 Easter Memorials will be dedicated to replacing our almost 30 year-old roof. We will continue to gather memorial gifts throughout the season of Easter.



And please keep in touch with us: <https://www.facebook.com/St-James-St-Matthews-Lutheran-Church> “like us” on Facebook to get these updates when posted. Also, please communicate your pastoral care needs with Pastor Dabee.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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