

Spring is Rebellious

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Spring is sprung, the grass is riz; I wonder where dem birdies is?" So begins my favorite ode to spring.

I must have lived a somewhat sheltered existence, because I hadn't heard this little verse until I started dating Karen in my early twenties. It was a favorite in her family, especially her great uncle, who, in his later years, apparently had trouble remembering if he had eaten his last piece of toast, but could remember this little gem.

It is often attributed to Ogden Nash, was a favorite of both Spike Jones and Groucho Marx, and was one of the most popular Burma Shave jingles used for their iconic roadside advertisements. You may ask, "Who are Spike Jones and Groucho Marx, and what is Burma Shave?" If you ask those questions, you are most likely younger than me and I recommend you "Google" it.

Aurora is filled with signs of spring. The daffodils planted throughout town by volunteers have risen from their winter slumber. The Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival in Woodburn is open for business with its endless rows of majestic color. It is one of Oregon's most popular attractions.

I remember reading in High School History about the Great Tulip Mania of the early 17th century, one of the first recorded asset bubbles in history. People throughout Europe were going crazy for these magnificent flowers that had been brought to Europe from the lands of the Ottoman Empire. Everyone wanted them, especially the newly wealthy. Prices keep going up and

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April 1

Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10
Psalm 53

April 2

2 Kings 4:1-7
Luke 9:10-17
Psalm 53

April 3

Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians 2:19-24
Psalm 126

April 4

Isaiah 43:8-15
Philippians 2:25—3:1
Psalm 126

April 5

Exodus 12:21-27
John 11:45-57
Psalm 126

April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 7

Exodus 40:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-25
Psalm 20

April 8

Judges 9:7-15
1 John 2:18-28
Psalm 20

April 9

Habakkuk 3:2-15
Luke 18:31-34
Psalm 20

April 10

Isaiah 53:10-12
Hebrews 2:1-9
Psalm 31:9-16

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up and up. At the peak of tulip mania, a single tulip bulb could sell for more than 10 times the annual income of a skilled artisan. As another pithy little verse says, "All good things must come to an end." And it did. The tulip market crashed, and fortunes were lost. Kinda like "Beanie Babbies" in the 1990's but much worse.

After a few false springs and a major thunder storm that never really materialized, it feels like spring around here. The cherry blossoms are out, and my lawn is growing like crazy. Dormant for so much of the winter, it has come back with verdant gusto.

A couple of years ago, I decided to hire a lawn service to help me keep up with the yard. Across the street, my neighbor had used the same person for years. "New Life Yard Care", the sign on the truck said. Considering my vocation, I decided it was an omen and I hired them.

Looking out at my yard this morning, I think of an Easter Hymn.

Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth, many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat a rising green.

I really like this hymn, especially the tune. It is an old French Carol and I am attracted to it; how unlike other Easter Hymns it sounds. It isn't jubilant or triumphant like "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" or "Thine Is the Glory". There is a plaintive quality to the announcement that "Love is come again". It is not all triumph and glory. That grain of wheat has been with the dead. There has been some struggle to that Green Blade Rising.

As an undergrad studying Psychology, I remember learning how hard the season of spring could be for those who grappled with depression. All of those signs of the season like green grass, longer days, and flower blossoms, signs that give so many hope, were a painful reminder to

April 11

Isaiah 54:9-10
Hebrews 2:10-18
Psalm 31:9-16

April 12

Leviticus 23:1-8
Luke 22:1-13
Psalm 31:9-16

April 13

Luke 19:28-40,
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14 — 23:56

April 14

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

April 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

April 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

April 17

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1—19:42

April 19

Resurrection of Our Lord,
Vigil of Easter

April 20

Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 65:17-25
1 Corinthians 15:19-26

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those for whom the struggle was still real. Spring, not Christmas, has the highest incidence of suicide. (If you or anyone you love struggle with thoughts of suicide, please call the national suicide hotline at 988).

As we approach Holy Week, I invite you to remember not just the exaltation of the resurrection, but the entirety of the Passion Narrative. The triumphal entry; The foot washing and the Last Supper; The betrayal; The crucifixion, death, and burial; The seemingly hopeless waiting near the tomb; and only then the announcement that "Christ is Risen!"

Just as a blade of grass or wheat fights to reach the surface, resurrection is born of struggle. God in Christ rebelled against the seeming inevitability of death and shouted a rebellious "No!" Not this time! In the Apostles Creed, we profess that Christ "descended to the dead" (or hell). God knows this struggle and is with us in it, especially those for whom resurrection seems a promise unfulfilled.

Nevertheless, new life is coming. As Emily Dickinson once wrote,

*Hope is the thing with feathers,
That perches in the soul-
And sings the tune without the words-
And never stops-at all-*

Maybe that is where dem birdies is?

Peace!

Pastor Craig

April 21

Joshua 10:16-27
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 22

Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a
Revelation 12:1-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 23

2 Samuel 6:1-15
Luke 24:1-12
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 24

1 Samuel 17:1-23
Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 150

April 25

1 Samuel 17:19-32
Acts 5:17-26
Psalm 150

April 26

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

April 27

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

April 28

Esther 7:1-10
Revelation 1:9-20
Psalm 122

April 29

Esther 8:1-17
Revelation 2:8-11
Psalm 122

April 30

Esther 9:1-5, 18-23
Luke 12:4-

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**Aurora Emergency Preparedness Group A 501c3 non-profit
Invites you to attend this free, Community Wide training event**

**Aurora Emergency Preparedness presents
Individual, Household, and Community Readiness**

Greg Walsh, the Director of Marion County Emergency Management will give a one-hour presentation on everything we need to know about planning and preparing for the most likely emergencies we may face.



**Come early (5:45-6:30pm)
to view the Rotary Ready CERT trailer.**

A mobile communications trailer outfitted with power, internet, charging ports and other equipment to help the community in the event of a power outage or serious disaster.

When: Thursday, April 3, 2025

When: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

**Where: Christ Lutheran Church
15029 2nd St NE, Aurora**



Easter Morning Breakfast At Church

After a six year hiatus, Easter Breakfast before worship is back at Christ Lutheran on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m.

If you would like to help,
please contact Lance Lyon or Dan Harms.

Sunday Helpers

April 6

Reader: Lynn Ries
 Ushers: Lynn & John Ries
 Donut Host: Joy Schulz

April 20 Easter

Reader: Dean Pinto
 Ushers: Sue & Dale Williamson

April 13 Palm Sunday

Reader: Mike Boonstra
 Ushers: Dennis Lewis & Wyatt Akin
 Coffee Host: Helen David

April 27

Reader: Dan Harms
 Ushers: Dan & Lonnie Harms
 Coffee Hosts: Joy Schulz & Marvis Gilnett



- 3 Beau Will
- 5 Chris Fisher
- 6 Betty Gerhardt
- 9 Molly Gunther
- 14 Pastor Craig
- 14 Donna Coleman
- 15 Kiera Will
- 15 Dale Williamson
- 17 Kate Johnson
- 17 Scott Caufield
- 17 Barry McPherson
- 26 Doris Grider
- 27 Barb Bannister



Holy Week

Palm Sunday
April 13
10:00 am

Good Friday
April 18
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday
April 20
10:00 am



- 3 Bonnie & Bruce Johnson
- 26 Lorrie & Sam Dyr Dahl

Prayers for	Requested by	Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.	Kate	PC
Anna (Grider)	Jim & Doris	Kim	Lisa
Bankhead	Wyatt Akin	Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Beth Brandt	Mary W.	Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and	Laurie Boyce	PC
Bob and Sally	Doris Grider	Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie
Bonnie and	PC	Lorrie D	PC
Brooke	Heather W	Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker	Mark Kynsi	Wyatt Akin
Bud Richard	Kimberly	Marlene McDonald	Amy Elliott
Burt Aus	Judi Aus	Marvis Gilnett	PC
Carol Smith	Helen D	Mary Wolfe	PC
Chad Roberson	PC	Matthew Brown	Heather W
Charles G.	PC	Matt H	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W	Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Cindy Caufield	Susan W	Mike Harms	Dan and Lonnie
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber	Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Dennis	Mary W.	Misty Mann	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Dixie Scheehear	PC	Molly Fowler	Barb B.
Dyr Dahl Family	PC	Oscar D	Sam D
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyr Dahl	Patti Busse Family	PC
Eric Wechter	PC	Phyllis Murray, family of	Marie G.
Evie Berg	PC	Piper	Heather W
Gary Erb	Barb B.	Richard Dyr Dahl	Lorrie Dyr Dahl
Heather	PC	Robert	Jordain
Heide Hendrick	PC	Roy Steven	Joyce
Heidi Daniel	PC	Shannon Courtright	Heide H.
Hollinger Family	Kimberly	Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Howard &	Mary W.	Sylvia Peter	PC
Jan G	PC	Tammara Davidson	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.	Tom Haskins	Kim M.
Jerry McKenzie	Sharon G.	Traci	Barb B.
Jo Miller	Kimberly	Vi Anderson	Judi
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C	WilloDene Wilson	Lance Lyon
Joanna Painter	Dixie		

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you.*

- Those with memory care issues and those who care for them.
- Those receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Those who are in hospice care.
- Our loved ones serving in the armed forces especially those serving overseas.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
10 am Worship 11:15 am Endowment Team 7 pm AA	6:30-8:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	6 pm AA Meeting		6-8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group 6:30-8:00 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness Event		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 am Worship 11:15 am Endowment Team 7 pm AA	6:30-8:30 pm Aurora Emergency Preparedness	6 pm AA Meeting		10 am Backpack Buddies 6-8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group		5:15-6:15 pm AA Speaker Night
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 10 am Worship 11:15 am Council 7 pm AA		6 pm AA Meeting	3-5:30 pm Food Share	North Marion Pastors 1-2 p.m 6-8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group	Good Friday 7 pm Worship	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter 8:30 Breakfast 10 am Worship 7 pm AA		6 pm AA Meeting		6-8 pm Wellbriety Recovery Support Group		
27	28	29	30			
10 am Worship 7 pm AA	6 pm AA Meeting	6 pm AA Meeting				

Christ Lutheran Church
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COURIER



April 2025

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA

