

Evangelist May 2014

Many thanks to the St. Luke's choir and handbell ensembles for their tremendous work at each of the Holy Week services and on Easter Sunday. The Holy Triduum and Easter are the both the highest holy days of the liturgical year and also the most exhausting for church musicians and clergy alike. The services are lengthier and more complex than weekly liturgies and require much more special music than typical Sundays. Few may realize that preparation for the Triduum begins immediately after Christmas with the drafting of music lists and the reading of new music. These giant repertoire lists are worked through in addition to the regular repertoire preparation for services each week by our singers and bell musicians. It requires diligence, patience, and much commitment, but the results are tremendously rewarding in service to the sacred liturgy, which requires our utmost dedication as the sacred mysteries of salvation are made manifest liturgically before us each time we gather to worship. It is indeed a serious undertaking -- important work in the life of any parish. I have served as organist/choir master for several parishes in my 30+ year career in sacred music, yet nowhere have I ever experienced such profound, conscientious dedication of musicians as I have here at St. Luke's, nor have I experienced such an overwhelming love for all music by any congregation where I have played. The Spirit of God is certainly alive and working here, inspiring souls for the praise of our Creator -- for that is in fact why we were created: that we might render to him the praise he is due. This Paschaltide, let us be grateful for the gifts we have been given by God to serve him and one another, foremost of which is the Holy Spirit whose working within us makes our praises perfect. The music department of St. Luke's wishes you all a Blessed Easter and Joyous Pentecost. Veni, Sancte Spiritus!