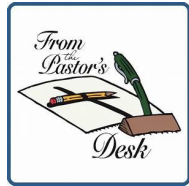

April
2022

GRACE NOTES
YOUR ACCESS TO
GRACE CHURCH
NEWS & EVENTS



*Sermons
for April*

*Lay
Leader
Report*

*Meaning of
the Easter
Lily*

*An Easter
Prayer*

GRACE NOTES

The Recognition of Sacred Texts

The process of canonizing the Scripture is complex, divergent and long. As I have mentioned, there was no committee, no chairperson of that committee and no recording secretary. Sacred texts were written in different places by different people who were not historians.

Sacred Texts of the early church were written and collected by many first believers from various loci. Once the Sacred Text was created, the early Christians circulated it among many churches in Asia Minor, Greece and North Africa. It was hard to determine which documents should be included as Canon by whose authority.

It is fortunate that there were some key individuals who knew the importance of those documents and eventually acknowledged them as essential texts for the Christian community. Their citations and comments on sacred texts became significant milestones for the canonization of all valuable documents. At least five names are to be mentioned.

1. **Justin Martyr** (c. 100-165 CE.): Justin was born in a Greek-speaking town in Judea within the Roman Empire. After he converted to Christianity, he wrote "The First Apology," between 155-157 CE, which was addressed to the Roman Emperor Antonius Pius. This piece of writing defended the philosophy of Christianity and gave a detailed explanation of contemporary Christian practices and rituals.

Justin's introduction of many of Jesus' words, his interpretation and defense of the usage of the OT, and his presentation of the early church practices are significant in understanding early Christian worship and theology.

His two writings, the *First Apology* and the *Second Apology*, laid the earliest foundation of the canonisation of the Scripture.

2. **Irenaeus of Lyons** (c.130- c.202 CE): Irenaeus was a Greek bishop known for his role in guiding and expanding Christian communities in the southern regions of present-day France. He was the first to regard all four of the now-canonical gospels as essential and referred to the NT writings as Scriptures.

Irenaeus argued that the four canonical Gospels and other unspecified NT literature, along with an unspecified collection of OT writings, were the normative Scripture for the churches. He ambiguously called these writings “Scripture” and after him, the practice of accepting Christian writings as *Scripture* became widespread.

He is recognized as a saint in the Catholic Church. Pope Francis declared Irenaeus the 37th Doctor of the Church on January 21, 2022.

3. **Clement** of Alexandria (ca. 150-215): Clement was probably born in Athens to pagan-parents, converted to Christianity, and went to study under Pantaenus, the director of the catechetical school in Alexandria. He eventually succeeded his teacher as director of the school (ca. 190-200). During the persecutions of Septimus Severus (Emperor 193-211), Clement fled Egypt and finally settled in Cappadocia.

Clement often referred to the four Gospels, Acts, fourteen Letters of Paul, 1-2 John, 1 Peter, Jude and Revelation. Clement’s scope of sacred Scriptures appears to have been much broader than that of Irenaeus. It is very obvious that he was informed by a broad selection of literature.

4. **Tertullian** (ca.160-225): Tertullian was a well-educated native of Carthage in Africa and is often called the ‘Father of Latin Theology in the church.’ Like Irenaeus before him, he acknowledged all four gospels and cited thirteen Letters of Paul, Acts, 1 John and 1 Peter, Jude and Revelation. Yet, he did not produce a closed or fixed list of NT scriptures. Perhaps because of his conversion to Montanism, he included in his collection of Scriptures the *Shepherd of Hermas*, but later dismissed it with scorn.

5. **Origen** of Alexandria (ca. 184-254): Origen was born and spent the first half of his career in Alexandria. As one of the most influential but controversial figures in early Christian theology, he wrote roughly 2000 treatises. Origen was able to produce a massive quantity of writing because of the patronage of his close friend, Ambrose of Alexandria, who provided him with a team of secretaries to copy his works. (He is not Ambrose, the bishop of Milan!) During the Decian persecution in 250 he was tortured for his faith and died three to four years later from his injuries.

Like Clement of Alexandria, Origen drew from the four gospels, fourteen Letters of Paul, 1 Peter, 1 John, and Revelation. His NT canonical list is very likely a creation of Eusebius and Refinus in the fourth Century, a hundred years after the death of Origen.

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Those five intellectuals' words, citations and commentaries during the second century made remarkable progress to the final form of the NT around the year 200. Thanks to their advocacy of essential writings, two of the most important documents were produced. One is the Muratorian Canon and the other is the Eusebius' Catalogue of the New Testament. These two made a big step toward the finalization of the canon of the Scripture.

Pastor Kyu

Sermon & Services in April

- April 3:** "Jesus Anointed at Bethany "
- April 10:** Palm / Passion Sunday
- April 14:** Maundy Thursday Service at Grace UMC
- The Last Supper Reenactment -
- April 15:** Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Danville UMC"
- April 17:** Easter Celebration

*** Lay Leaders Report ***

I have been really enjoying several different collections of readings for Lent. Each reading has supplied me with great Scripture as food for thought leading up to Easter. Today, one reminded me that we, as followers of Christ, are blessed that we might bless others. We've been saved so that others might hear the good news and be saved. We are forgiven so that we would offer forgiveness. And we are loved enormously so that we might extravagantly love the people we encounter. The amazing event of Easter is a treasure but not one meant to be hidden or kept to ourselves.

Easter is getting closer, why not offer an invitation for worship in the next few weeks? Share the love, share the blessings, there's more than enough to go around.

An Easter Prayer

God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring, And to behold Your majesty in every living thing -

And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower The Hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power -

And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts,

And give us ears to hear, dear God the Springtime song of birds With messages more meaningful than man's often empty words

Telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair-"Be like us and do not worry for God has you in His care.

The Meaning of the Easter Lily

The meaning of the Easter lily is tied to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The trumpet shape of the Easter lily represent the trumpets that announced his resurrection. The Christian feast day of Easter is the perfect time to reflect on the Easter lily meaning, as these beautiful, symbolic, flowers are frequently found during this holiday season. The Easter lily meaning is to serve as a reminder of the purity, innocence and virtue of Jesus. They also represent his sacrifice, and are a symbolic representation of his resurrection. The meaning of the Easter lily is also a reminder to have hope that miracles can happen, as is evident from Jesus's resurrection.



April 2022

March 2022							April 2022							May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

- Anniversaries
- Church
- Birthdays
- US Holidays
- Untitled
- Found in Mail
- Pastor's Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Dale Goyet UMCOR Sunday - 10:30 AM 4th Sunday in Lent	28 New Event Sandy Turman - 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	29 Ray & Jeana Desilets	30 - 12:00 PM Cooking Class with Stacy Thrall	31 Linda Perkins - 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	1 April Fools' Day	2 Beginning of Ramadan
3 - 10:30 AM 5th Sunday in Lent	4 Lisa Wood - 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	5	6 Kay Ellis - 12:00 PM Cooking Class with Stacy Thrall	7 - 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	8 Don Bostic	9 - 12:00 PM
10 Palm Sunday	11 Shawn&NicquellTimson - 9:00 AM Monday of Holy Week - 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	12 - ... Monday of Holy Week	13 - ... Monday of Holy Week - 12:00 PM Cooking Class with Stacy Thrall	14 Holy Thursday - ... Monday of Holy Week - 7:00 AM Prayer & - 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service at Grace	15 Mary Anne Hamilton Good Friday Passover - ... Monday of Holy - 7:00 PM Good Friday	16 Carlyle & Terry Pierce Holy Saturday Jolene Geiger - ... Monday of Holy Week
17 Easter - 10:30 AM Easter Sunday Worship	18 Patrick Merrill Tax Day - 9:00 AM Pastor on - 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	19 Brian Keith Bernie&SuzanneTimson - ... Pastor on Vacation	20 Durward Ellis - ... Pastor on Vacation - 12:00 PM Cooking Class with Stacy Thrall	21 - ... Pastor on Vacation - 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	22 Amy Bedor Earth Day - ... Pastor on Vacation	23 - ... Pastor on Vacation
24 Orthodox Easter FestivalofGod'sCreation - ... Pastor on Vacation - 10:30 AM 2nd Sunday of Easter	25 World Malaria Day - ... Pastor on Vacation - 11:00 AM Community Luncheon	26 - ... Pastor on Vacation	27 - ... Pastor on Vacation	28 - ... Pastor on Vacation - 7:00 AM Prayer & Share	29 - ... Pastor on Vacation	30