



The EPI SCOPAL CHURCH
of the HOLY SPIRIT



April 3, 2009

Dear Friends,

Target has recently advertised: “Easter is CHEAPER at Target!”— Cheeping chicks drive the pun home. But as the saying goes, you get what you pay for. I love bunnies, chicks, nests and all the symbols of the rites of spring, but they can’t reconcile me with God. They don’t give me the peace which passes all understanding or assure my sin-sick soul of eternal life. No amount of money can buy Easter. We just can’t afford it.

But with trusting and willing hearts we receive the gift of Easter believing God’s promise in the words of scripture and in the life of His Son, Jesus. We receive the gift which Jesus has bought for us with His life and death: the assurance of God’s forgiveness and love which makes us whole and gives us power to live in God’s presence forever.

There’s a great little children’s chant, “Going on a Lion Hunt,” in which various obstacles are met: mud, tall trees, a wide river, etc. One after the other as each obstacle comes up the refrain goes: “Can’t go over it!...Can’t go under it!...Can’t go around it!...Gotta go through it!...Then kids pretend to slog through mud, climb tall trees, swim the river, etc.

Can’t get around it...Gotta go through it... That’s the idea of Holy Week. Jesus came to Jerusalem knowing what he had to go through. The authorities wanted him dead; his disciples would abandon or betray him; he would be arrested, tortured and crucified; and yet He didn’t go around it, he decided to go through it -- for our sins and for our sake.

As my sister says, speaking of the strange and sometimes even offensive stories in the Bible: “It’s not a pretty story. But it’s *our* story.”

So many of us can say that about the stories of our lives. It isn’t all pretty. We aren’t proud of all of it. Some of it we are downright ashamed of. We may wish we didn’t have to go through parts of it. But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Jesus identified with us and made our story His story, so that we can follow Him and make His story ours, -- and that includes the end of the story: his glorious Resurrection! The price he paid wasn’t cheap. It cost him everything. The gift of Easter is all the more valuable therefore. We get what He paid for.

Endless love! Go through His story this Holy Week. Make His story yours, as He has made yours His. Receive the gift of Easter.

From all of us at Holy Spirit, with prayers for you and yours -- in our Risen Lord,

The Rev. Lucy Ann Dure