



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Christ Journeys This Road With Us**  
**ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message**  
**March 26, 2021**

We've just come through a 10-day period bracketed by horrific mass shootings. We're still in a pandemic. The world has been able to see the racial inequity in this country. There is violence all around.

But, as we approach Holy Week, as we begin with the Sunday of the Passion, where we hear of our Lord's commitment and obedience even to death on the cross, we spend time, then, on Holy Saturday at the tomb.

We know that this kind of violence that we experienced is not new, but it is also not invisible to God. All those who have been killed in these mass shootings — we had eight in this time period — all of those dying to gun violence, all of us who have suffered so much during this pandemic, none of us is lost to God. Precious in the Lord's eyes are the death of his saints. We can face this and work to bring peace, the peace that God has already brought us in Jesus Christ, because we know that Jesus is present in all of this suffering. And that the tomb was not able to contain him.

As we finish our Lenten journey, as we walk closer to the cross, as we face our own death and the deaths of others, as we confess the pain we have caused and the pain that others have caused us, we can do that with open eyes and even with hopefulness because Christ has walked this road and continues to walk with us.

Be well, dear church.