



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

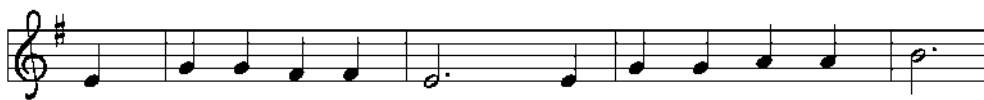
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;
from where is my ¹ help to come?

²**My help comes ¹ from the LORD,
the maker of heav- ¹ en and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your ¹ foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- ¹ er of Israel
will neither slum- ¹ ber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches ¹ over you;
the LORD is your shade at ¹ your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike ¹ you by day,
nor the ¹ moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you ¹ from all evil
and will ¹ keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your ¹ coming in,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reck-

oned to him as righteousness.”⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung to the tune of “Canticle of Turning”

Return to me, so Says Our God.

Return with broken heart.

Your sins, your guilt, your fears, your tears, will not keep us apart.

I am slow to anger, full of love, for sinners great and small.

Return to me with arms outstretched, I welcome one and all.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being

born from above.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

ELW#451



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: QUINETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,**

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

* Prayers are offered for the church, the world, and all creation.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN

CREATE A CLEAN HEART

ELW #184

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, h. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

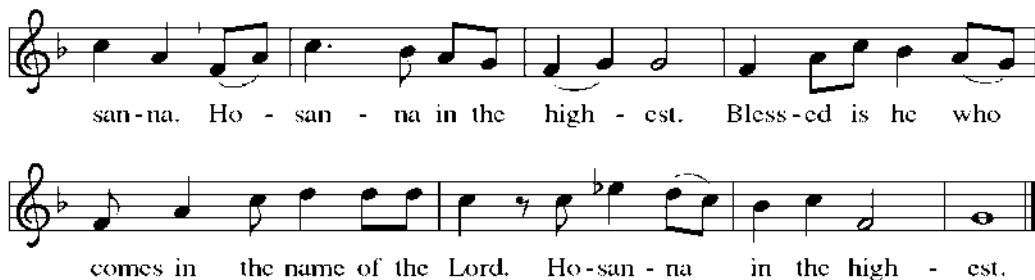
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness;
out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner;
among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

CONTEMPORARY SONG
HERE IS BREAD

ELW # 483**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Embodied God,
**at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts
 open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
 and touch the world with your love.**
Amen.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of
 rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.



Lift high the cross. the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

DURING LENT WE JOURNEY WITH ALL THOSE AROUND THE WORLD WHO WILL BE BAPTIZED AT THE EASTER VIGIL. IN TODAY'S GOSPEL JESUS TELLS NICODEMUS THAT HE MUST BE BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT. AT THE FONT WE ARE GIVEN A NEW BIRTH AS CHILDREN OF GOD. AS GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM, IN BAPTISM GOD PROMISES TO RAISE US UP WITH CHRIST TO NEW LIFE. FROM WORSHIP WE ARE SENT FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL THE WORLD.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, JUDY BARHOOVER,
MICK BUCHLER, TOM CHRISTELL, PAULA TONELATTO, MIKE SCADUTO,
NORMAN KOEFED, NANCY KIEL

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

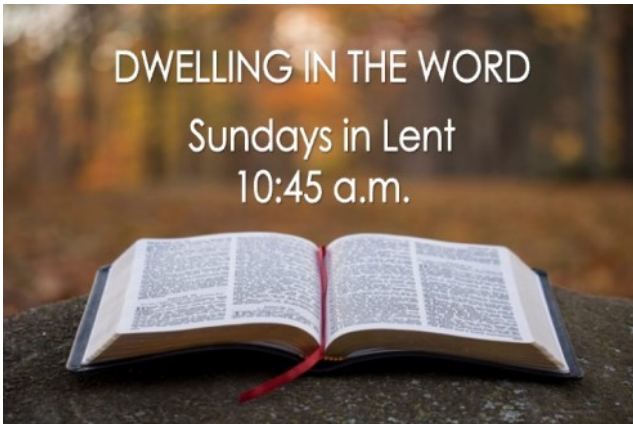
SUNDAY, MARCH 5	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM SUNDAYS@6—6:00PM—ZOOM DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION 11-11:30AM
MONDAY, MARCH 6	PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING—6:00PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 7	COMMUNITY SERVICE COMM. MTG.—5:30PM—ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8	FAITH FORMATION—5:30PM—IN PERSON LENTEN SUPPER—5:45PM LENTEN SERVICE—6:30PM CHOIR REHEARSAL—7:00PM
THURSDAY, MARCH 9	EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING—5:00PM—IN PERSON
SUNDAY, MARCH 12	IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 5:

PRESIDING: REV. MARY E. ZUPANSIC
ASSISTING MINISTER: BECKY HENDRICKS
MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK
USHERS: DOUG MCFARLAN, JOEL HENKLE
FLOWERS: TO THE GLORY OF GOD

CAMERA: JANET KOCIS
POWERPOINT: LINDA RICE
FELLOWSHIP: DORIS NOBLES



DWELLING IN THE WORD

THE EVANGELISM / FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN A TIME OF "DWELLING IN THE WORD" SUNDAY MORNINGS AFTER WORSHIP DURING THE SEASON OF LENT. WE WILL GATHER IN THE SANCTUARY AFTER WORSHIP (APPROX. 10:45), WE'LL READ SOME SCRIPTURE AND THEN DISCUSS THE

TEXT USING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS OUR GUIDE – WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE, WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, WHERE MIGHT THE SPIRIT BE NUDGING US THROUGH THIS TEXT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WATCHERS ON THE HILL

THE HILL CALLED GOLGOTHA WAS NOT EMPTY THAT FRIDAY. BESIDES THE CROSSES AND THOSE DYING UPON THEM, THERE WERE WITNESSES – WATCHERS ON THAT ANCIENT HILL. THIS SERIES ATTEMPTS TO OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THOSE FIRST-CENTURY CHARACTERS – SOME HISTORICAL, SOME FICTICIOUS – AS THEY WITNESSED THE DEATH OF OUR LORD. WITH THE CROSS AS THE FOCAL POINT AND THE FINAL WORDS OF JESUS AS THE COMMON THREAD, EACH DRAMA DRAWS US INTO THE REALITY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR SAVIOR'S DEATH, CELEBRATING, AT LAST, THE MIRACLE OF OUR SALVATION.



ALTAR FLOWERS

WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOWERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF A PERSON OR EVENT IN THE COMING YEAR PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS ON OUR WEBSITE IN THE MEMBERS' SECTION. FLOWERS ARE \$35.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS



EASTER FOOD BASKETS FOR SCHOOLS

IT'S TIME FOR PEACE'S ANNUAL COLLECTION OF FOOD AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS TO 30 FAMILIES AT BLACKHAWK ELEMENTARY AND JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOLS. THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GRACE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY, WE PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH A LARGE TOTE OF CANNED AND BOXED GOODS, A HAM, MILK, BREAD, EGGS, SNACKS AND PERSONAL ITEMS. YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS

PROJECT IN TWO WAYS: MAKING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS DESIGNATED FOR "HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS" AND/OR DONATING FOODS THAT WE'LL COLLECT ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: FEB. 26 AND **MARCH 5 -- CEREAL**; MARCH 12 -- CANS OF BEEF RAVIOLI; MARCH 19 -- CANS OF PORK AND BEANS; MARCH 26 -- CANS OF PASTA SAUCE; APRIL 2 -- JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY. **THE BASKETS WILL BE PACKED AND DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOLS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5.**

Pastoral
CARE

PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from **Pastor Mary** or you have a pastoral emergency please call pastor on her **cell phone** at **920.671.4338**. you may also leave a message on the office phone at 217.546.7646.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- OATMEAL, CEREAL AND PANCAKE MIX
- PASTA SAUCE IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- PASTA
- PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- INSTANT POTATOES
- CRACKERS
- TUNA IN A POUCH INSTEAD OF A CAN
- NOODLE SIDES
- STUFFING MIX
- CEREAL BARS, GRANOLA BARS, TRAIL MIX AND NUTS
- COFFEE

THANK YOU FOR BEING A NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBORS!

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Palm Sunday

WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.

On this day we wave palms in celebration Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and out-poured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday

WORSHIP AT 5:30 P.M.

We begin in the Fellowship Hall

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. On this night we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

Worship begins in the Fellowship Hall. Around tables we will share a meal, hear scripture, experience a 'ritual washing of hands', and share Holy Communion with one another. A procession will lead us to the sanctuary for the 'Stripping of the Altar & Chancel'.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Good Friday

WORSHIP AT 6:30 P.M.

Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. With scripture, prayer, reflection, and music we will recall Jesus' passion and death. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunday

WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.



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*Weather permitting
there will be an east-
er egg hunt for the
children.

LAST CALL!!!

Give a Hand

LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS
TO PREPARE A
MEAL
AT RONALD
MCDONALD
HOUSE

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PREPARE A MEAL FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE, PLEASE CONTACT AMANDA KIM.