

# March 17, 2024

- ♦ *A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee and other refreshments downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.*
- ♦ **Family Bible Class:** Pastor Stephens will continue our study on the Gospel of Saint Matthew –Next Week – . Sunday School Classes are also in session.
- ♦ **Voter's Assembly:** There will be a Voter's Assembly Meeting TODAY!
- ♦ **Palm Sunday** is next Sunday, March 24.
- ♦ **Additional Lenten Services and Soup Supers:** Throughout Lent, in addition to the regular weeknight services, a **brief, Divine Service will be available Monday and Friday mornings at 9:00a.** *Before* the Wednesday night Divine Service, please join us at 4:45p for fellowship while we sip some soup.
- ♦ **THANK–YOU:** Thank you, Matthew and Alyssa Horner for hosting the Homesteading Informational yesterday. It was full of helpful, useful, and practical information. The fellowship was lovely and the meal delicious! Thank you!
- ♦ **THANK–YOU:** Thank you, Ethan Phy, for taking time from your Saturday to clean the church carpets. Likewise, thank you, Cheryl Jordan, for procuring the carpet cleaner for this job to be completed. The floors not only look fantastic, but we are sure it feels wonderful to finally cross that task of the “To Do List”!
- ♦ **Movie Night:** Thank you, Rick Tribble, for organizing and hosting the Movie Night. Thank you to those who attended, it makes events like this fun! Keep an eye out for the next church function!
- ♦ **Altar Flowers:** Altar Flowers are not adorning the Altar this Sunday: Lent V
- ♦ **Collection for: March 3:** \$2,594.05 To meet our financial obligations, an average of \$3,314 is needed each week.

## Additional Announcements:

- ♦ **This is the Last Lenten Soup Supper:** *Thank you to everyone* who helped make soup, brought in cheese and crackers, veggies, desserts, set up/cleaned up, served, etc. for the Lenten Soup Suppers – Everything was delicious, and the fellowship has been divine.

**Wed. Mar. 20:** Soup Host(s): K. Horner/Kronewitter, Cheese/  
Crackers: Tribble, Veggies: M. Stuckwisch, Clean-Up: Pat Nering

\*Please be ready to serve at 4:45p, Thank you all!

- ♦ **Easter Flowers:** It's that time again! *Please consider bringing in one or many of any of these types of flowers*; just to name a few: Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Grape Hyacinths, Iris, Crocus, Azaleas, Easter Cactus, Daisies, Gerbera Daisy, Orchids, Cyclamen, Roses, Gladiolus, Lily of the Valley, Peony, Baby's Breath, Ranunculus, Prim Rose, Forsythia, Pansy, Viola, Lenten Roses, Alstroemeria, Carnations, etc. All of these are appropriate to adorn the Sanctuary for Easter.

~If you would like, Karin Horner has offered to do a bulk pick-up order of Lilies from Costco. If you would like her to pick some up for you, please have your order and money (checks payable to Karin Horner), **by Sunday, March 24**

**(this will ensure purchase by Saturday, March 29).** The height is standard, and the plant has three Lilies on it. **The cost is \$15.00/plant.**

**\*Please note, Karin is ONLY able to get Lilies.**

# Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**March 24:** Palm Sunday Divine Service 9a

**March 25:** Holy Week: Matins 9a & DS 6:30p

**March 26:** Holy Week: Matins 9a & DS 6p

**March 27:** Holy Week: Matins 9a, (NO CAT) & DS 6p

**March 28:** Holy Week: Maundy Thursday DS 6p

**March 29:** Holy Week: Good Friday DS 6p

**March 30:** Holy Saturday: Matins 9a (w/ Private Confession  
and Absolution following) and Church Decorating,  
& The Easter Vigil Divine Service 8p

**March 31:** Easter Sunrise Divine Service 6a,  
Easter Breakfast after Sunrise &  
Easter Divine Service 9a

**April 1:** Easter Monday DS 6:30p

**April 2:** Easter Monday DS 6p

**April 3:** (NO CAT) and Easter Wednesday DS 6p

**April 4:** Easter Thursday DS 6p

**April 5:** Easter Friday DS 6p

**April 6:** Easter Saturday DS 9a

(w/ Private Confession and Absolution following)

\*DS-Divine Service



## PASSIONTIDE

The final stage in our symbolic journey toward Easter is **Passiontide**. Passiontide begins with **JUDICA**, the fifth Sunday in Lent. There are no organ preludes or postludes. The crosses are now covered, triptychs are closed, and even the *Gloria Patri* disappears for a while.

A common question is: “Why do we drape and cover the crosses as we get closer to Good Friday, as our attention upon the last hours and the sufferings of Our Lord increases?”

We do this because we do not deserve to look upon them. We are not worthy of the Sacrifice. The Cross is our greatest and most cherished symbol. So it is partially taken away from us for a short time, that we might better appreciate it when it returns.

The crosses are not taken away completely. They are not removed. They are only covered. We can see outlines of the crosses, but their beauty and details are fuzzy. This symbolizes the reality that our grief prevents us from seeing clearly until the Good Friday liturgy and, of course, Easter. Faith always views the Cross in the light of the empty tomb.

The veiling also reminds us of Our Lord’s actions in response to the violence of the people in the Judica Gospel. There we are told that the Lord “Jesus hid Himself.”

The idea of removing the *Gloria Patri* is much the same. The Triune Name given at the Ascension is the fullest revelation of God’s Name given to men. To take away the *Gloria Patri* for two weeks is a bit jarring. It is particularly awkward to not sing it at the end of the *Nunc Dimittis*. But, again, its short-term removal serves to draw attention to it and highlight our privilege for the other fifty weeks of the year.

All of this is that we would learn to mortify the flesh and to depend more and more upon the grace of God in Christ. For never, even in our most somber of ceremonies, is the Church in doubt about the end. Jesus died, but He is not dead. Jesus lives. Easter is coming. Our Alleluias, *Gloria Patris*, crosses, fatty foods, and the like shall all return. But even better than that, we shall have them forever in Heaven when our own resurrections occur.



**Passiontide** extends through Holy Week and the *Triduum* (“three holy days” – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). At the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday Service the Altar will be stripped, the Sanctuary decorations will be removed. Even the Altar crucifix will be carried out. All that will be left in the Sanctuary are the immovable pieces of furniture, laid bare. On Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil,

even the normal responses and introductions are removed from the readings. The intensity builds from now until Holy Saturday when we finally arrive at the empty tomb but not at an empty Altar.

# Walking with Our Savior this Week

<b>TODAY</b>	<b><i>Divine Service of Communion</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	J&C Stuckwisch/Jordan	
	Voter's Assembly	10:45 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b><i>Brief Divine Service</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
	<b>Vespers</b>	<b><i>6:30 p.m.</i></b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Catechesis	2:30-3:45 p.m.
	Children's Choir & Youth Bible Study	4:15 p.m.
	Lenten Soup	4:45 p.m.
	<b><i>Divine Service</i></b>	<b><i>6:00 p.m.</i></b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b><i>Brief Divine Service</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
	Movie Night	7:00p
	Church Council Meeting	7:00p
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Church Cleaning Day	9:00 a.m.
	Private Confession & Absolution	11-12:00 p.m.
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
	<b><i>Divine Service of Communion</i></b>	<b><i>9:00 a.m.</i></b>
(Mar. 24)	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a.m.
	C&J Smith/Senne	
	Bible Study	<i>10:45 a.m.</i>

Pastor Stephens' office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 8:15-noon

\*Private Confession and Absolution also available by appointment

**Announcements** can be sent by email to the church secretary at emmaus1923secretary@gmail.com or text Rebecca Stephens at (201) 572-6962.

*Please have announcements submitted by 12n on Friday.*

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home:

The appointed readings for next Sunday: *Palm Sunday*

*Exodus 15:27–16:7a, St. Luke 19:29–40, Philippians 2:5–11, St. Matthew 26:1–27:66*