

## Lent Schedule

Soup	Crackers/cheese	Vegetables	Clean-up
4/9 Horner/Stephens	Stephens	Sanders	-

Monday 4/7: 6:30p Sung Vespers

Wednesday 4/9: Last Lenten Soup Supper at 5p with  
Divine Service at 6:30p

## Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY (4/13): Divine Service 9a

Monday (4/14): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6:30p

Tuesday (4/15): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6p

Wednesday (4/16): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6p

MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/17): Divine Service 6p

GOOD FRIDAY (4/18): Divine Service 6p

Saturday (4/19): Matins *with Private Confession & Absolution following* 9a  
EASTER VIGIL Saturday 8p

EASTER SUNDAY (4/20): Sunrise Service with Communion 6a  
Easter Breakfast  
Easter Service with Communion 9a  
Easter Breakfast

## Announcements for April 6, 2025

*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.*

- ♦ **Bible Class:** Pastor Stephens will continue our study on the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Sunday School Classes are in session. Children should gather in Mr. Siek's room for Treats and Opening before heading to your separate classes.
- ♦ **Church Clean Up Day:** Saturday, April 12, 9a-11a supplies are available at church, but if you have your favorite, please feel free to bring them to make your cleaning help enjoyable. Remember – Many hands make light work! Thank you to all those who can come out and help!
- ♦ **Choir Rehearsals (immediately following evening Divine Service for 60min.):** Wednesday, Apr 9, *Wednesday, Apr 16 if necessary*  
**Services in which the choir will sing (meeting 30 minutes prior):** Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, Easter Octave (*Quasimodo Geniti*)  
*See Joel Stoppenhagen for any questions.*
- ♦ **Easter Flowers:** Please get your paid Easter Flower orders to Karin Horner as soon as possible. Thank you for your help with flowers, Karin!
- ♦ **Easter Breakfast:** Thank you, Karin, for organizing the breakfast. We know there are a lot of moving parts, so thank you to everyone for helping in any way.
- ♦ **Pop Tops** for Ronnie is an ongoing collection, thank you for your continued support!
- ♦ **Altar Flowers:** \*There will be no flowers the next few weeks during Lent\*
- ♦ **Collection for: Mar 30, 2025:** \$3,997.27. (Average needed each week~\$3,347.00)



## 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, which 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 not to sing it at the end of the *Nunc Dimittis*. But, again, its short-term removal serves to draw attention to it and highlights 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>9a</b>
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a
	Jordan/Jordan	
	SS: Opening/Treats/Class Promptly	After Service
	Bible Study	10:45a
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Sung Vespers</b>	<b>6:30p</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Greek Class	3-4p
	Catechesis	4-5p
	Children’s Choir/Youth Bible	5:35/5:40p
	<i>Lenten Soup Supper</i>	5p
	<b><i>Divine Service</i></b>	<b>6:30p</b>
	<i>Choir Practice</i>	<i>following DS for one hour</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Private Conf. & Absolution	11a-12n
	Church Clean Up Day	9a-11a
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b><i>Divine Service of Communion</i></b>	<b>9a</b>
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30a
(Apr. 13)	/Siek	
	SS: Treats/Opening/Class Promptly	After Service
	Bible Study	10:45a

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home readings for next Sunday: April 13:

**Palm Sunday - *Domine ne longe***

***Procession: Exodus 15:27-16:7 and Luke 19:29-40***

***DS: Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 26:1-27:66***

Pastor Stephens’ Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:30-noon.

*In need of Pastoral Care call/text anytime, day, or night (201)572-6832.*

\*Private Confession and Absolution available anytime by appointment.

Weekly/Monthly Announcements send to Rebecca Stephens by email at emmaus1923secretary@gmail.com or by phone/text at (201) 572-6962.