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Easter Breakfast

Announcements for March 30, 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.
- Choir Rehearsals (immediately following evening Divine Service for 60min.): Wednesday, Apr 2, Wednesday, Apr 9, Wednesday, Apr 16 if necessary

- Easter Flowers: See Karin Horner about the purchase of the Easter Flowers: Lillies, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Hydrangeas, Grape Hyacinths, and other types of flowers that you typically purchase for the Altar and other Sanctuary areas. Thank you for your help with flowers, Karin!
- Easter Breakfast: See Karin Horner as she is organizing the breakfast. Thank you, Karin, and all those who help 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, the exception is Laetare*
- Collection for: Mar 23, 2025: \$4,056.22. (Average needed each week~\$3,347.00)



Our liturgical preparation for Easter takes place through three distinct periods or steps. The first was Pre-Lent. The second is Lent, which is the time between Ash Wednesday and Judica. The final step is Passiontide and Holy Week.

ASH WEDNESDAY takes its name from the ceremony of ashes. We begin our journey by mourning for our sins and setting our faces toward Jerusalem. The Sundays are all given Latin names. Those names come from the first word or phrase of the Introit assigned for the day.

The first Sunday is called **INVOCAVIT**, which means "He shall call." It comes from Psalm 91: "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him." The Gospel is Our Lord's temptation in the desert and the Psalmist gives voice to Our Lord's prayer as He faces Satan in order to deliver us from evil.

The second Sunday is called **REMINISCERE**, which means "remember." It comes from Psalm 25: "Remember, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving-kindnesses." The Gospel is the account of the Canaanite woman's terrible battle with Our Lord for her demon-possessed daughter. The woman holds Our Lord to His Word. She insists that He remember His promises and be the Messiah.

The third Sunday is called **OCULI**, which means "Mine eyes." It also comes from Psalm 25: "Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net." The Gospel recounts the healing of a deaf and mute man. His eyes were rightly on the Lord.

The fourth Sunday is called **LAETARE**, which means "rejoice." It comes from Isaiah 66: "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem and be glad with her: all ye that love her." The Gospel is the feeding of the five thousand who had ample cause for rejoicing. The fifth Sunday, **JUDICA**, is the beginning of Passiontide.

In Lent, we continue to abstain from the "Alleluias" and Greater Gloria. The color is violet to signify mourning for a monarch. Flowers no longer adorn the Altar and the zimbelstern will be silent. The Litany will be used for the Prayer of the Church on Sundays and for the Preparation in the midweek services. The Thanksgiving after the Holy Communion changes from "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy endureth forever," to "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup: you do show the Lord's death till He comes," and a second Post-Communion Collect is added in the midweek services. The Crucifixes and Cross, however, remain unveiled and we retain the *Gloria Patri*. We also add the Collect for Ash Wednesday to every Service. As is the case with all fasting in Christendom, we give things up to subdue our flesh and to enhance our joy in them when they return. For the time comes, indeed, when we shall fast no more.

This season is meant to order our hearts and minds upon not only on the terrible cost of Our Lord's gracious sacrifice on our behalf but also on His willingness to be our

Savior and to reconcile us to His Father. So also, the entire season, as even our entire faith and persons, is observed in the sure and certain knowledge of the Resurrection.



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TODAY	Divine Service of Communion Coffee & Refreshments	9a 10:30 a
	M&A Horner/Jordan SS: Opening/Treats/Class Promptly Bible Study	After Service 10:45a
	Blole Study	10.43a
MONDAY	Sung Vespers	6:30p
WEDNESDAY	Greek Class	3-4p
	Catechesis	4-5p
	Children's Choir/Youth Bible	5:35/5:40p
	Lenten Soup Supper Divine Service	5p 6:30p
SATURDAY	Private Conf. & Absolution	11a-12n
NEXT SUNDAY	Divine Service of Communion	9a
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30a
(Apr. 6)	/	
	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 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent & First Sunday in Passiontide – *Judica* Genesis 22:1–19* / Hebrews 9:11–15 / John 8:46–59a

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.