

Welcome to
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector
Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday
1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242
stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Enriching Our Worship and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different life styles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

Today's Sanctuary Light is given to the glory of God by:

Dick & Janie Williams in memory of her father, L.F. (Jerry) Christesen on his birthday, March 28.

Bob & Patsy Gorczyca in loving memory of Bob's mother Stella for her birthday, March 29.

If you would like to donate for the Lent Sanctuary Light, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Preacher: Charlene Martin

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Anne Reeve (CW)

Lectors: Carol Foote & Christina Soria

Camera Acolyte: Joey Soria

Crucifer: Beth Elwood (CW)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Katie Howard

Sound: Dick Williams

Altar Guild: Bunmi Olowoyeye & Margaret Meyers

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Beth Elwood /Margaret Meyers

Designer Guild: None

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Janie Williams

Coffee Hour: Robert & Diane Elliott

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth &

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Prelude

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

by Lani Smith

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Entrance Hymn

(Standing)

Guide me, thou great Jehovah

Hymnal 690

Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S82

Celebrant

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy en - dures for ev - er.

Confession of Sin

Deacon or Celebrant then says,

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

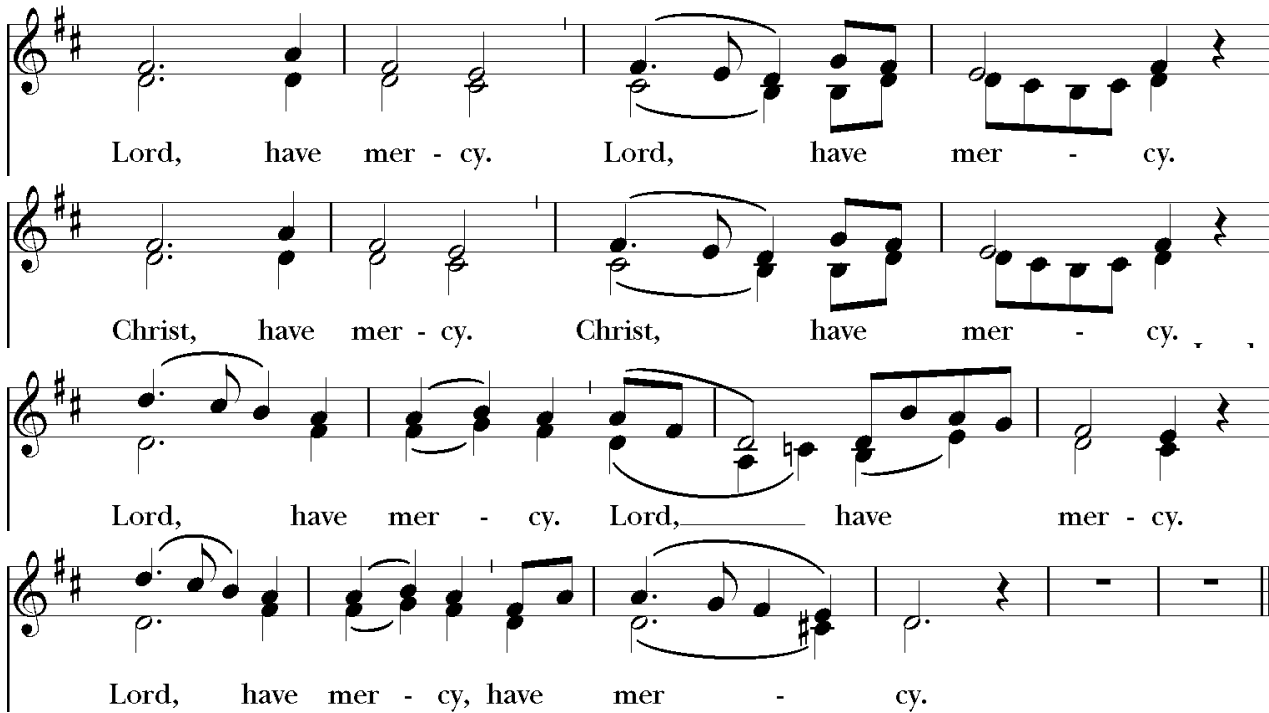
**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant continues,

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Kyrie *Stand as able.*

Hymnal S96



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated

A Reading from the Book of Joshua

Carol Foote

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. (*Joshua 5:9-12*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

Carol Foote

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Christina Soria

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world

to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

O Spirit of the living God

Hymnal 531

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" (Luke 15:1-3,11b-32)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Charlene Martin

Silence

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *Form I*

Anne Reeve

BCP p. 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our
souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity
of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to
the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, Lodi, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to
the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. John the Baptist and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings *All together,*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

Wilt Thou Forgive that Sin

Crisafulli, Peter

The Doxology

Praise to God (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (Standing)

Hymnal S120

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

(The priest will sing the Proper Preface.)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus *(Celebrant and People)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S-130

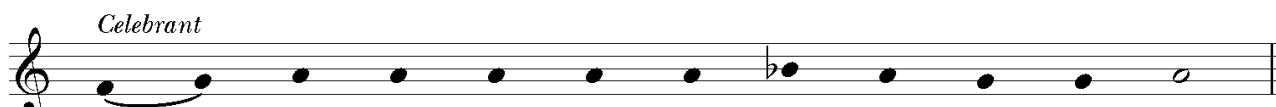
The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

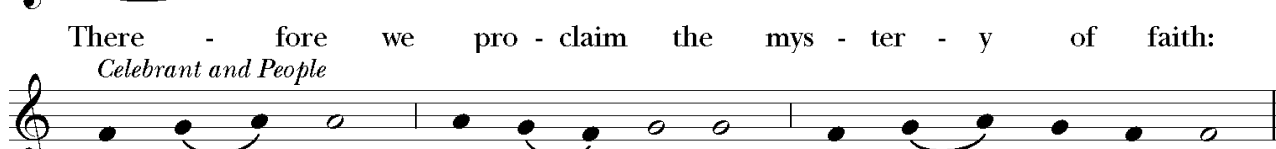
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant



There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

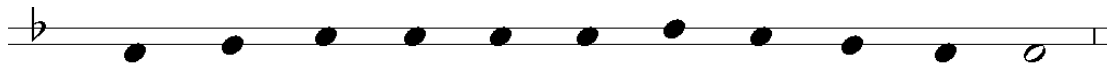
BCP p. 364

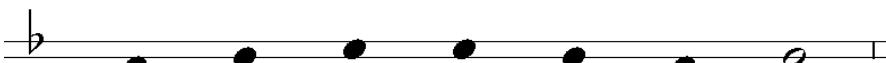
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S153

Celebrant: 
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People: 
There - fore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Hymn

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymnal S 164

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please form two lines in the center aisle. There are two standing stations. Please come forward immediately to receive communion. Gluten free hosts are available. You may receive just the bread or the wine or both. We offer the chalice to drink from, but due to practical considerations, do not allow intinction (dipping) of the bread in the wine. Thank you for your understanding. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.

Communion Music

Jesus, Remember Me

Taizé I

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your King - dom.

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Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer *(standing)*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

O bless the Lord, my soul!

Hymnal 411

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Little Prelude in G minor

by J.S. Bach

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You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website:

www.stjohnsoflodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at: [the "App Store"](#) or ["Google Play"](#) Or scan this code:



Announcements

March 31 - April 4: Rev. Betsy - Working Remotely.

Tuesday, April 1

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church

Wednesday, April 2

10:30 am, People of Faith, Nursery

12:00 noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

5:00 pm, Soup Supper, Narthex

6:00 pm, Lenten Study, Hospitality Room or Narthex

7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, April 3

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Join us every Wednesday at 12 Noon for Noon-Day Prayer in the Chapel.

Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 8:00 pm: Here's the link for the **Thursday, 8:00 PM, Compline service.** Topic: Compline Time: 8:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnNWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

Lenten Soup Suppers and Lenten Classes - Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 5:00 pm for a soup supper and at 6:00 pm for our Lenten Study Class. We are studying "Contemplative Gardening" by Pamela Dolan. Before Wednesday April 2, please read Chapter 4 of the book. See the Ministry Table for more information.

Holy Week - April 13 - 20, 2025

Sunday, April 13

9:30 am

***Palm & Passion Sunday**

Procession & Passion Reading

Tuesday, April 15

11:00 am

Chrism Mass & Renewal of Ordination Vows

St. James Cathedral, Fresno

Wednesday, April 16

12:00 Noon

Noon-Day Prayer

Historic Chapel

Thursday, April 17

6:00 pm

7:00 pm to Midnight

Maundy Thursday Foot washing

Eucharist, Stripping of Altar

Garden of Gethsemane Watch

Friday, April 18

12 Noon

4:00 pm

Good Friday

Passion & Prayers

All Ages Interactive Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 19

7:00 pm

Easter Vigil

Historic Chapel

Sunday, April 20

9:30 am

Easter Sunday

Holy Eucharist, **Reception & Children's Egg Hunt

***Palm Sunday Readers Needed** – We need readers for acting out “The Passion” on Palm Sunday. If you are able to help, please contact Penny in the office.

****Easter Sunday Finger Food Potluck Coffee Hour** – On Sunday, April 20th, please join us for a Potluck style coffee hour. Bring your favorite finger food to share. Debby Weberski and Katie Howard have agreed to set up and facilitate the potluck. We need 2 people willing to clean up after. Please see Penny in the office if you are able to help out. Thank you.

Toys Needed for Easter Egg Hunt on April 20 - Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for elementary school age children and younger will be held on the West lawn after the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday, March 31st. The office would appreciate donations of plastic eggs, small toys and wrapped candy for the hunt. Thank you!

More Easter Help Needed – We are in need of 2 to 3 people to oversee, set up and run the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 20. Please let Penny in the office know if you are interested in this fun job.

Garden of Gethsemane Watch Thursday, April 17 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. - After the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the church will be open all night for prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane created by the Designer Guild in the narthex. People are invited to sign up to pray one hour, reminiscent of Jesus' invitation to "watch and pray."

Flowers at Easter - At the back of the bulletins for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday we have a few pages dedicated for all people to dedicate remembrances or celebrations for the Easter Season. Please sign up at the ministry table. Last year's list is there and if you want the same as last year, just initial the entry. If you want a new entry, please fill out the orange form. Suggested \$25 donation.

2025 Vestry Members

Fran Bott, Senior Warden
Eric Goossens, Junior Warden
Andee Zetterbaum, Secretary
Beth Elwood, Clerk
Stacey Bagnasco
Bob Gorczyca
Katie Howard
Brad Huffman
Charlene Martin
Margaret Meyers
Christina Soria