

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM
February 18, 2026



If you are a guest with us today, we extend a special welcome in the name of Jesus! If you have questions or prayer requests or want to get in touch with us, please sign the guest book in the lobby (or use this QR code) or email or call.



Children's Bulletins are available in the lobby.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day in the church year. This liturgy marks the beginning of a Lenten season of repentance which climaxes on Maundy Thursday. Originally, Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were preparing to be baptized at Easter. We, too, in this season of Lent remember our Baptism as we "pass over" with Jesus from repentance to new life.

The words spoken with the ashes, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. They are words of judgment. But ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment and cleansing forgiveness. May this service strengthen your faith in the sacrifice of Jesus which creates in us new and clean hearts.

For Those Who Desire to Receive the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. Paul in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion trays.)

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228
Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924
www.stpaulcatonsville.org email: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org
Pastor Gregory Alms Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Prelude:

Savior, When In Dust to You

Gerald Near
(b. 1942)

Address

Stand

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
- P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;

to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself;

to bless those who are instructed in the faith;

to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;

to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;

and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;

to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;

and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Concluding Collect

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes

The ushers will bring the congregation forward for the ashes.

Reception of ashes is voluntary. If you do not wish to receive

ashes, simply remain in the pew. When the imposition of ashes is

complete, the congregation sings the hymn.



Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession of Sins

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Kneel/Sit

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true**

obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

Stand

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Let us pray.
- C **Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Sit

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609



5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have



my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,



By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I
 And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my
 I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
 Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
 and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
 a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
 call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the elders;
 gather the children,
 even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
 and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,

and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51 (*selected verses, spoken responsively*)

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹**Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;**
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,**
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

⁵**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

**¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made himself to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem:

Have Mercy Upon Me, O God; Psalm 51:1-2

George Alexander MacFarren
(1813-1887)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness;
according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives',
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via this QR code or through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)



Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

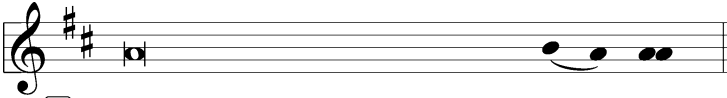
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



G 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;



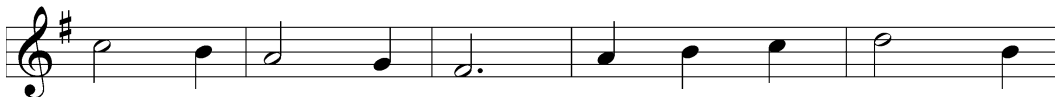
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

LSB 560



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing
 2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -
 3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing
 4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my
 bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with
 of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it
 sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855-1928

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838-96

Text and tune: Public domain

Lamb of God

LSB 550



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.



Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958 Text and tune: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

LSB 610



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
 Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt. domain

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591

Text and tune: Public

Stand

Post-Communion Blessing

Post Communion Cantic

LSB 937



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948 Tune: American Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

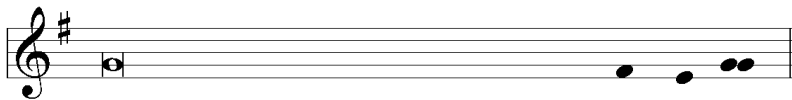
Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. . . .

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Christ, the Life of All the Living

LSB 420



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast tak - en on Thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur-round Thee, Treat - ing Thee with



death, our foe, Who, Thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on Thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 shame - ful scorn And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned Thee.



To the dark - est depths of woe: Through Thy suf - f'rings,
 O Thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst Thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace Thou, Lord, hast borne, That as Thine Thou



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–81; (sts. 1–2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, St. LouisTune: Das grosse Cantional, 1687, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

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LENTEN SERVICES

Lent Midweek Services Wednesdays -- 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Theme: “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”

February 25, 2026

March 4, 2026

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, March 29th 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 7 p.m. with Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, April 3rd, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise, April 5th, 7 a.m.

Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship,

April 5th, 10 a.m. with Lord’s Supper