



WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10

The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville

5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road

Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937

574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



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February 22, 2026
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Service of the Word

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

All: **To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and to serve where the Spirit leads us.**

PRELUDE

+ GATHERING SONG

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

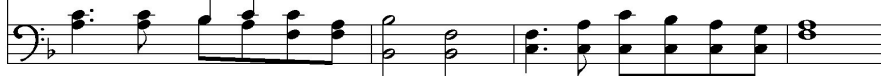
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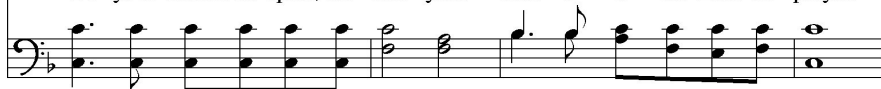
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.





all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

+ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

C And also with you.

P: As children, we hear:

C: Don't touch! Slow down!

P: As teenagers, we hear:

C: Your curfew begins in an hour.

P: As adults, we hear:

C: Cash or credit?

P: In the water and the word, we hear:

C: You are loved, my precious child.

+ SCRIPTURE SONG



☑ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



① Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.



Who can fail to hon- or you, Lord, and sing the glo- ry of your name?



☐ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☐ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. . Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHIOR

Lamb of God

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The **Lord** God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the **Lord** God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the **Lord** God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM

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

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☐ Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o- pen to us the Scrip- tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

+ THE GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

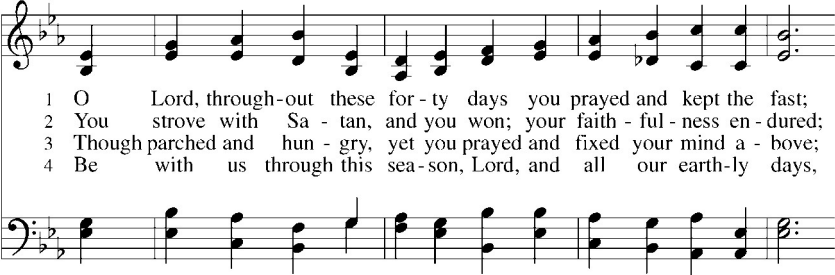
P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

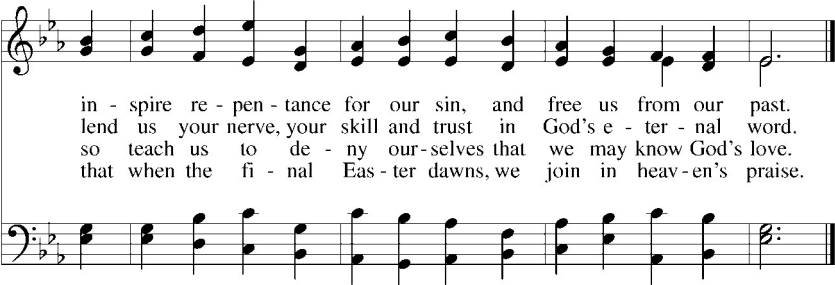
SERMON

Pastor Kruse

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION



1 O Lord, through-out these for-ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
 2 You strove with Sa-tan, and you won; your faith-ful-ness en-dured;
 3 Though parched and hun-gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a-bove;
 4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,



in-spire re-pen-tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
 lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e-ter-nal word.
 so teach us to de-ny our-selves that we may know God's love.
 that when the fi-nal Eas-ter dawns, we join in heav-en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930

Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

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RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.** *(Jude 20)*

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** *(Jude 21)*

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

C **Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.**

Silence for reflection and self examination.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P 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.

C **Amen**

+ PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

Peace be with you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God,

C in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

P God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great. P God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great. P God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O Holy Spirit, We pray for our next pastor. We know not who you are making ready to come and be with us, but we ask that you speed our meeting with one another, and that you make us ready to seek new adventures with a new shepherd at our side. Grant that we might make ready today to find the new tomorrow you desire for St. John Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

C Your mercy is great.

P God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation .

C Amen.

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

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

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

+ BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

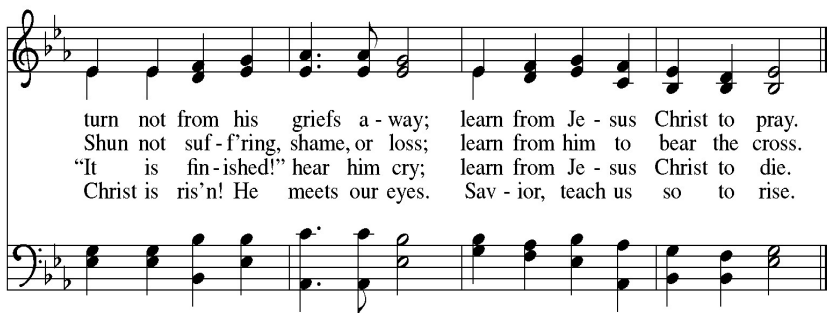
+ SENDING SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane

#109

1 Go to dark Geth-se - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

+ Dismissal

P	Go in peace.
Children	Serve the Lord.
C	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Dené DeGonzague
Jane Bussler
Tom & Vicki Bradley
Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. You may drink from either the Common Cup or individual cups. **Grape juice is offered as an alternative for those who wish it.** Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism.

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins**. The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins**. These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

TODAY is the First Sunday of Lent. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays). Lent --- the word originally meant “spring” --- is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is, therefore, a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest somberness and solemnity. (The Lutheran Manual on the Liturgy)

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Paul Means, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Rena McIntyre, Bill Culver, Melaine Hawk, Patty Poole, Kent Gifford, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Joanne Oakes, Rod Schneider, Brian & Carol Hicks, Glenn Eskridge, Gerald (Jerry) Cotton, Ed Hughes, Karyn Sexton, Brenda Moore, Shirley Gleim, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

NORMAN STAKER would like to thank the congregation for his Christmas gift.

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

JOIN US FOR MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY on Wednesday February 25 at 6:30 p.m. **Our Lenten Worship** group will be meeting once again on the following Wednesday through the Lenten season at 7:00 p.m. This year the Lenten group will be watching and discussing “The Chosen” series. We will also be offering a service for our youth which will be held downstairs, All are welcome to attend.

THERE WILL BE A St. John’s youth night held at the church once a month for this coming year. February 25 at 6:30 p.m. is the next youth night. Watch the bulletin or see Vivian Riffel or Dené DeGonzague for more information on upcoming dates and time.

BRIAN OAKES will be organizing an acolyte schedule on a monthly basis. Please see Brian if your child is interested in being an acolyte.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for 7th and 8th graders is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The next class is Sunday, March 8 and 22 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the library Sunday School room.

This Week at St. John

Today—*First Sunday in Lent*

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

6:30 p.m. Youth Night

7:00 p.m. Midweek **Bible Study**

Next Sunday—*Second Sunday in Lent*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion*

11:00 a.m. First Communion Class

Attendance

2026 Average: 67

2025 Average 62

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Worship Assistant

Vivian Riffel

Lay Reader

Sherry Mullins

Prayer Leader

Sherry Mullins

Greeter

Shirley Gleim

Altar Committee

Kendra Hughes, Vicki Titus

Council President

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS: Brandon Cline, Ethan Gleim, Alex Smith

BAPTISMS: Carl Staker, Cindy Oakes, Everett Hatfield, Jim Gleim

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin & Dené DeGonzague

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Sunday, February 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Sunday, March 1 First Communion Class

Sunday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. Youth Service downstairs

Sunday, March 29 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 Choir Practice

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m. Easter Festival of Holy Communion

Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 19 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Sunday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. Choir practice

Bible Study

Wednesday, March 4

At 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Worship and Book Study

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Easter Festival Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Following worship

Join us for
Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5
at 9:00 a.m.



