

Shepherd of the Desert
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



**Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week
The Seven weeks of Easter
and
The Feast of Pentecost
February 14, Ash Wednesday
Through
May 19 & 20, 2018 Day of Pentecost**

In spite of all the baggage some people still bring to the season, Lent can become a time of celebration. That may sound strange and unexpected. The key is that the celebration is restrained, is expressed in subdued and anticipatory ways, and is geared toward preparing to celebrate with exuberant joy the paschal mystery at Easter. Lent is a season of fasting, and fasting is about a discipline of restraint so that one can celebrate more deeply and extravagantly something wonderful later. But even in that time of preparation, the joy that is to come is known now. This is Lent. Since Sundays in Lent are feast days and not fast days, and the celebration of the Eucharist is always appropriate, they are the perfect time to express a sense of restrained celebration and anticipatory joy.



MISSION STATEMENT

“Created, Redeemed and Called by God, we reach out to all, by sharing our gifts and the unconditional love of Jesus.”

VISION STATEMENT

“To be an intergenerational congregation that puts the Love of Christ into action from one generation to another and from our community to our world.”

Midweek Worship 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Through His passion and resurrection Christ underwent our human condition in order to bring us up.

He overcame the physical limits of space and time. He has made one great "family of love" out of all the people through the centuries. He made us children of God; His brothers and sister, and brothers and sister to one another. Through us, He continues to live, to die, and to rise, since we are members of His body, the Church.

As we recall Christ's passion that happened 2,000 years ago, we also must overcome the limits of time and space and make the way to the resurrection with the Christ who is suffering dying, and rising in today's society. He is still being unjustly sentenced, still falling under the weight of the cross, still being stripped of His human dignity, and still dying, and being buried, because we believe in His word: "I tell you solemnly, insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40-46

But Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near." Ephesians 2:13-18

Week 1

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Week 2

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Week 3

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Week 4

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Week 5

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



First Weekend in Lent
 February 17 4:00 pm
 February 18 9:30 am

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Color : Purple--suggests somberness & Solemnity

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

Hymn of the Day

"Jesus, Still Lead On" ELW 624



Second Weekend in Lent

February 24 4:00 pm
 February 25 9:30 am

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Color : Purple--suggests somberness & Solemnity

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22:23-31
 Romans 4:13-25
 Mark 8:31-38

Hymn of the Day

"Lord, thee I Love with All My Heart" ELW 750

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast 2/24, 8-10am



Third Weekend in Lent

March 3 4:00 pm

March 4 9:30 am

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Color : Purple-suggests

somberness & Solemnity

Hymn of the Day

"Canticle of the Turning" ELW 723

Join us after the Saturday Night service for the 1st Sat. Supper .



Fourth Weekend in Lent

March 10 4:00 pm

March 11 9:30 am

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Color : Purple-suggests somberness & Solemnity

Hymn of the Day

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" ELW 759

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned



Fifth Weekend in Lent

March 17 4:00 pm

March 18 9:30 am

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Color : Purple—suggests somberness & Solemnity

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Loves Me! ELW 595



Weekend of the Passion/Palm

March 24 4:00 pm

March 25 9:30 am

Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God’s final vindication. The Cry of the Whole congregation will take place on the Sunday of the Passion. Its purpose is to allow each worshiper suddenly to discover (pitifully, intensely, truly to discover) his own rootedness in the drama which is Christ’s—so that the Passion Story may no longer be mere story for observance, analysis, learning or history; so that it embrace the worship, name him, and become his own story indeed; the shape of his being.

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1--15:47

Color : Purple—suggests somberness & Solemnity

Hymn of the Day

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335



Maundy Thursday — March 29

10:30 am Holy Communion institution of the last supper

6:30 pm Holy Communion with The Mandatum "foot washing"
and stripping of the Altar

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Color: White - which suggests in our Lenten solemnity the establishment of the Last Supper.

Hymn of the Day

"When Twilight Comes" ELW 566



Good Friday—March 30 —12:00 pm

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Isaiah 52:13--53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1--19:42

The altar is bare to suggest Christ's Humiliation

6:30 PM Good Friday Tenebrae

Is a special form of the Divine Office for Holy week. The service derives its name from the gradual extinguishing of light in the church until there is total darkness. It is symbolic of the apparent victory of the powers of evil and the apparent failure of God's plan of salvation at our Lord's crucifixion. After a moment of silence a loud noise representing the earthquake which opened the Tomb of Christ is made. Then the Christ Candle is brought back into the church. This year the seven last words will be used for the office with Hymns and special music.



WOW
Word on Wednesday / Bible Adventures
Supper at 5:30 pm; Worship at 6:30 pm unless noted

Wednesday, February 14	No Supper Worship for adults & children Ash Wed. Service 10:30a 6:30p —Distribution of ashes
Wednesday, February 21	10:30 am Midweek Lenten Worship #1 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship #1
Wednesday, February 28	10:30 am Midweek Lenten Worship #2 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship #2
Wednesday, March 7	10:30 am Midweek Lenten Worship #3 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship #3
Wednesday, March 14	10:30 am Midweek Lenten Worship #4 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship #4
Wednesday, March 21	10:30 am Midweek Lenten Worship #5 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship #5
Wednesday, March 28	NO WOW/ NO CLASSES
Wednesday, April 4	NO WOW/ NO CLASSES
Wednesday, April 11	5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm Adults & Children-MOSAIC— Josh Thompson
Wednesday, April 18	5:30 Supper 6:00 pm Adults & Children—Luther Film-Part 1
Wednesday, April 25	5:30 Supper 6:00 pm Adults & Children—Luther Film- Part 2

Thursday's Word
Class offered at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm

Thursday , February 15 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday, February 22 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday , March 1 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday, March 8 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday , March 15 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday , March 22 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday , March 29 AM:	NO CLASSES	PM: NO CLASSES
Thursday , April 5 AM:	NO CLASSES	PM: NO CLASSES
Thursday , April 12 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday , April 19 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday, April 26 AM: The Book of Revelation		PM: The Book of Revelation
Thursday, May 3 AM: Bible Study on Pericope		PM: Bible Study on Pericope
Thursday, May 10 AM: Bible Study on Pericope		PM: Bible Study on Pericope
Thursday, May 17 AM: Bible Study on Pericope		PM: Bible Study on Pericope



Resurrection of Our Lord

March 31 4:00 pm

April 1 9:30 am

Mark's gospel ends so abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8

Color : White: suggests the gladness
and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

"At the Lambs High Feast We Sing" ELW 362

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast 3/31, 8-10am

Celebration of Holy Baptism Sunday April 1st.





Second Weekend of Easter

April 7 4:00 pm

April 8 9:30 am

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1--2:2

John 20:19-31

Color : White: suggests the gladness
and joy of the Resurrection.

Hymn of the Day

“Come you Faithful, raise the Strain” ELW 363

Join us after the Saturday Night service for the 1st Sat. Supper .
We will welcome New Brothers and Sisters through the affirmation of Baptism.



Third Weekend of Easter

April 14 4:00 pm

April 15 9:30 am

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Color : White: suggests the gladness
and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

“With High Delight Let Us Unite” ELW 368

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar
with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned



Forth Weekend of Easter

April 21 4:00 pm

April 22 9:30 am

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lessons

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Color : . White: suggests the gladness and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

“ The King of Love My Shepherd is” ELW 502

Farewell and God's speed to our Associate and Seasonal Members.



Fifth Weekend of Easter

April 28 4:00 pm

April 29 9:30 am

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Color : White: suggests the gladness and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

“Thine the Amen” ELW 826

Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast 4/28, 8-10am.
Join us and our Brothers and sister from Rock Point for a Working Day with the Navajo.



Sixth Weekend of Easter

May 5 4:00 pm

May 6 9:30 am

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servant hood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lessons

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Color : White: suggests the gladness and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

"O Lord, We Praise You" ELW 499

Join us after the Saturday Night service for the 1st Sat. Supper .



Seventh Weekend of Easter

May 12 4:00 pm

May 13 9:30 am

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

Prayer of the Day

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Color : White: suggests the gladness and joy of the Resurrection

Hymn of the Day

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ELW 392

Eucharistic Ministers will be sent to share the Sacrament of the Altar with the homebound, hospitalized and imprisoned



Day of Pentecost

May 19 4:00 pm

May 20 9:30 am

On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Ezekiel's vision shows the Spirit resurrecting and re-creating not just individuals but a whole people. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us "with sighs too deep for words" when we do not know how to pray.

Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lessons

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Color : Red- Symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit

Hymn of the Day

"Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" ELW 395

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