ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



A note on using this resource:

This document contains many imbedded links to websites and videos. While you are welcome to print it out as a reference, consider downloading and saving this document to utilize the links.

Click wherever you see underlined blue text to access the additional resources.

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Dear people of St. Mark's,

In the spring of 2009, I (Pastor Matt) was living and working in Washington, DC as a full-time volunteer in a free medical clinic through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. With no real income, I didn't travel much, but I was coming home for Easter! That Saturday afternoon, all that stood between me and the rich Easter worship celebration I had come to expect at my home congregation were to get the Metro out to where the bus to BWI picked up. But there was some sort of trouble on the Metro line. Our train stopped underground for about 30 minutes. And that meant I arrived just in time to see the bus I was supposed to catch pulling away five minutes early. The next one was not for an hour, and by the time I got to the airport, the boarding door was closed on my flight, with no other options until the next morning. Faced with another two-hour public transit venture home and the knowledge that I'd have to repeat it in reverse at about 3am the next morning, I spent the night in the airport. I made it home the next day, but not in time for worship. It's the only Easter Sunday in my life that I've not gathered with a congregation of God's people for Easter worship. But this year will mark the second time. Because of the holy work of staying away from each other during this time, I won't get to worship with choirs, communion, and a congregation in their Easter finest. I'm really bummed about this.

But despite the more than 1000-year-old tradition of the church, it was not always the case that Holy week was observed in large public gatherings. The earliest communities who believed in Jesus were centered in people's homes. They studied scripture, worshipped, and prayed in people's homes. They celebrated the resurrection without elaborate music, fancy clothes, or the annual Easter egg hunt.

Their celebration simply centered on the reality that Jesus was handed over, killed, and against all odds did not stay dead. And that reality is enough. It's what has sustained the church for two thousand years, and it is what gives us assurance, right now, of God's new life for the whole world in Christ Jesus. And the good news is, this reality has not been changed by the coronavirus. I love brass instruments, seersucker, and a Lutheran men's Easter breakfast, but the reality of God's victory over death is the same without those things.

This Holy week we retell the story, and we celebrate Christ's victory over death. I'll be sad not to see each of your faces in worship. I'll be sad not to be able to hear you sing and commune with you at the table. But I'll be remembering and celebrating what we have always believed. It's not our physical location that makes us the body of Christ together; it's Jesus who does that. Jesus is the one who connects us, sustains us, and calls us to be the people of God. And if even death can't stop Jesus from doing that, the effects of social distancing will not be able to either.

It becomes our task, then, to figure out how we are going to faithfully celebrate the gift of hope and life that is the resurrection of Jesus in our own homes. To help you with that, we've prepared this resource, Holy@Home to give you some ideas and tips on how you might fully observe this Holy Week from your isolation. It's going to feel strange, maybe even cheesy, to observe some of these practices at home. It certainly won't be what you have come to expect, but these ideas are designed to help us pay attention to what God is doing. So with that goal in mind, we commend these practices to you and ask that you give them a shot.

Even now, God is at work to bring new life to this world. Don't miss it! Keep alert! Pay attention! We hope this guide will help you do just that. Because God is about to bring life out of death, and that changes... everything!

+God's Peace+

2



Preparing the Way: Saturday before Palm Sunday



Tomorrow we will enter into Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday. During this special time in the Church year, we remember Jesus' betrayal, Last Super, suffering, and crucifixion. We remember the great love God had for us by sending Jesus to die for the sins of the world. Today, as we prepare for Palm Sunday tomorrow, we take a moment to get ready to remember and reflect upon Christ's passion.



Read John 16:16-33 aloud to yourself or those gathered in your home.

What words of Jesus resonate with you? What are you hearing God say to you today?



Prayer

Holy God, open our ears to hear the story of our salvation anew this year; open our eyes to see your passion, and our hearts to your forgiveness and grace. As we prepare for Holy Week, put the cross of your Son ever before us, that we might be reminded of the great love you have for us and all people. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



Activity

<u>Palm Branches:</u> As you prepare for worship tomorrow, make a palm branch to wave as we sing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." Trace your hand a few times on paper, color it green, and attach it to a popsicle stick or pencil.

Not feeling crafty? Go outside and find a branch to wave for our Palm Sunday celebration.



Internet Resources

Download or print this resource booklet to use throughout Holy week

Make sure you Like and Follow St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Facebook to access worship services that will be streamed throughout the week.

Palm Sunday



Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.



Read Matthew 21: 1-11

Hosanna means "Save us, now". What "hosannas" are you crying out to God today?



Prayer

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Activity

Prepare a space in your home to help you focus on Holy Week.

Ideas: Find or make a cross to put on your dinning room table, put your Bible next to where you spend a lot of your time, or put your palm branch from worship on the refrigerator. Having a visual reminder can help us focus and remember Jesus' passion this week.



For kids: Have a parade! Either through your house or down the street for a walk, take your palms and shout Hosanna!

Internet Resources

Worship with St. Mark's online at 10:00am - (You don't have to be a Facebook user to access the livestream) Make sure you have your palm ready to wave!

Click here to go to the service on Facebook

<u>Coffee Hour Zoom</u>—watch for a comment on the livestream to access a new "Virtual Coffee Hour" after worship on Sunday! Grab a mug of something warm, and spend some time catching up with your St. Mark's family. You can also access the Zoom meeting on the calendar at www.stmarkslutheran.net

Monday of Holy week



During Holy Week some people pause each day to meditate on Jesus' final days before his death on the cross. Today's gospel commemorates the anointing of Jesus by Mary, a foreshadowing of his death and burial. For Christians, Jesus' suffering is the path to resurrection and new life. We eagerly await the celebration of the great Three Days later this week.



Read John 12:1-11

What do you notice in this story?



O God, your Son chose the path that led to pain before joy and to the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Mary anointed the feet of Jesus in our Gospel today, a foreshadowing of his death and burial.

Remember your Baptism today, by making a cross on your forehead with water. Remember that you, too, were anointed with oil as God called your beloved and welcomed you into the Church. Remember that you were baptized into Jesus' death AND resurrection,. If you live with others, take turns making a cross on each other's foreheads, reminding one another of God's never ending love for you.

Internet Resources

<u>Faith and Fellowship</u>—During this time of Social distancing, St. Mark's is utilizing Zoom as a way for us to be together, even when we are apart.

<u>Click this link to join the Monday Zoom "Faith and Fellowship" at 10:00am!</u> Or access the meeting through the calendar at stmarkslutheran.net

Tuesday of Holy week



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies in order that it may bear fruit. We die with Christ in baptism that we may be raised with him to new life. We will celebrate this great mystery of death and resurrection at Easter later this week.



Read John 12: 20-36

Jesus calls us to follow him in our Gospel today. What does it mean to follow Jesus?



Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you. Grant that our love may not grow cold in your service, and that we may not fail or deny you in the time of trial, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



We are called to lives of service to our neighbor as we follow Jesus. **Find a way today to share God's love with someone today**— send an encouraging text, check in on a friend, send a card, or donate items/money to an agency supporting people in need.

For kids: Jesus tells us to follow him! Play a game of "follow the leader" or "Simon Says" today and remember how we can follow Jesus in our words and actions.



In this time of Social distancing, organizations that serve our neighbors in need are struggling to provide for vulnerable populations. Consider supporting one of these organizations today by clicking the link to donate online.

ABCCM

Homeward Bound

Our Voice

Wednesday of Holy week



This day was formerly called "Spy Wednesday," an allusion to the gospel reading, in which Judas is identified as the betrayer of Jesus. As Jesus endured the suffering of the cross, we are called to run the race of life with perseverance, confident of the joy to come. In the Three Days, which begin tomorrow evening, we will journey with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life.



Read Hebrews 12: 1-8 and John 13: 21-32

Our reading from Hebrews today proclaims "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." In what ways are you clinging to Jesus this Holy Week?



Prayer

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at human hands and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Take a look at old pictures, scrapbooks, and other memories today. Remember how God has

been present and sustained you with perseverance in your life of faith.

For kids: Our reading from Hebrews says that we should "run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Set up a relay race or obstacle course today and remember how God is with us always—helping and sustaining us through all we might encounter in life!



Internet Resources

Check your email or the St. Mark's Website today to make sure you download and/or print your bulletins for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship.

Click here to go to St. Mark's website

Maundy Thursday



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather virtually with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.



Read John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Reflect upon the ways God has shown love to you. What are some ways that you share God's love with others?



Prayer

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.



<u>Foot Washing</u>— Following the example of Jesus, wash each other's feet this evening.

<u>Bake Bread</u>—Remember the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples where he instituted Communion. Bake bread for you/your family to enjoy with dinner tonight.

For kids: Find a special way to serve your family today, remembering how Jesus washed his disciples feet on the first Maundy Thursday. Can you help make dinner? Set the table? Do a special job for a parent? God uses YOU, no matter how small you are, to help and love other people!



Internet Resources

Worship with St. Mark's online at 7:00pm You don't have to be a Facebook user to access the livestream) The bulletin will be available on St. Mark's website, as well as on Facebook. Click here to go to the service on Facebook

Good Friday



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer during worship tonight, as Christ's death offers life to all.



Read Matthew 27: 11-54 aloud, pausing to reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus.



Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Find 7 candles/tea lights to use during the Tenebrae Service tonight online. As the service progresses, put out each candle with the acolyte.

Take a moment sometime today to find a quiet place and pray.

For kids: Use sidewalk calk outside on your driveway or washable markers /paint inside on a window/glass door (it will look like stained glass!) to color a cross and remember how Jesus died so that you can live with God forever.



<u>Worship with St. Mark's online at 8:00pm</u> You don't have to be a Facebook user to access the livestream) The bulletin will be available on St. Mark's website, as well as on Facebook. Click here to go to the service on Facebook

<u>Stations of the Cross on Facebook</u>—St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be livestreaming our annual Stations of the Cross at 12:00pm. St. Mark's will share the video, so be sure to check our Facebook page around noon!

<u>Stations of the Cross from The NC Synod</u> – See the next page for a collection of video devotions based on the stations of the cross from Pastors and Deacons throughout the NC Synod.

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross from the NC Synod

Click on each station to access the video devotion

Station 1: Jesus is condemned to death—Matthew 27:19-26 [Stephanie Bell Burke, ELCA Foundation and Worship Artist]

Station 2: Jesus carries his cross—John 19:16-17 [Pastor Danielle DeNise, Director for Evangelical Mission, NC Synod, ELCA]

Station 3: Jesus falls the first time—Isaiah 53:1-3 [Pastor David Eck, Abiding Savior Lutheran, Fairview, NC]

Station 4: Jesus meets his mother—Lamentations 1:12 [Pastor Micah Kearney, Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, Belmont, NC]

<u>Station 5: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross—Luke 23:26 [Pastor Brook Seaford, Cross and Crown Lutheran, Matthews, NC]</u>

Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus—Psalm 17:15 [Pastor Rosemary Peek, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Sylva, NC]

Station 7: Jesus falls the second time—Isaiah 53:4-6 [Pastor Dave Fox, Daniels Lutheran Church, Lincolnton, NC]

Station 8: The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus—Luke 23:27-31 [Pastor Jennifer Lynn Shimota, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, High Point, NC and Coordinator of Seminary Enrollment at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary]

Station 9: Jesus falls the third time—Isaiah 53:10-11 [Pastor Matt Canniff-Kesecker, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Greensboro, NC & Pastor Jessie Canniff-Kuhn, Lutheran Church of Our Father, Greensboro, NC]

Station 10: Jesus is stripped of his garments—Matthew 27:27-31 [Pastor Scott Berry, Shepherd of the Sea, Atlantic Beach, NC]

Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross—Luke 23:33-34 [Pastor Nancy Kraft, Ascension Lutheran, Towson, MD]

Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross—Luke 23:44-49 [Pastor Michael Collins, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Lincolnton, NC]

Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross—Luke 23:50-53 [Pastor Naomi Carricker, Lutheran Church of the Nativity, Arden, NC & Deacon Chandler Carricker, Vice-President of Program and Engagement, NovusWay Ministries]

Station 14: Jesus is laid in the tomb—John 19:38-42 [Pastor Mary Caniff-Kuhn, Friendship Lutheran Church, Taylorsville, NC] 10

Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil



This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we traditionally gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ.



The Easter Vigil historically has 12 readings from the Old Testament, as well as a New Testament and Gospel reading. As we prepare to celebrate Easter tomorrow, consider reading some or all of these stories of God and God's people. May they remind you of the story of our salvation through Christ our Lord. Check out the activity suggestion below for an idea of how to read these scripture lessons!

Genesis 1:1—2:4a Exodus 14:10-31, 15: 20-21 Zephaniah 3:14-20

Genesis 22:1-18 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Jonah 1:1-21

Daniel 3:1-29



Prayer

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Activity

- Make a fire in a firepit or fireplace. Read through the Easter Vigil readings as you recall the stories of God's people
- Remember your baptism! Since the days of the early Church, the Easter Vigil has been a time for baptism and remembering our baptismal life in Christ. Whenever you wash your hands today (which, hopefully, is often) remember your baptism!

For kids: Act out one of the Bible stories listed above. Maybe the story of Creation or Jonah and the Big Fish? Remember that YOU are part of God's story, too!

Paint Rocks—Remember the stone that was put at the entrance of Jesus' tomb. Go find some rocks outside, and paint them to decorate for Easter tomorrow!

Easter Sunday



This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Today we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, and is alive! May our Easter joy be full of alleluias at what God has done for us. Thanks be to God!



Read Matthew 28: 1-10

The angel said to the women at the tomb "Do not be afraid." How can these words speak to you this Easter? How can the assurance of Jesus' resurrection bring us new life this year?



Prayer

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.



Get up early to watch the sunrise and read the Easter Gospel from John 20

Great all with whom you speak today with the words "Christ is risen!"

For Kids: Have an Easter Egg Hunt and talk about the surprise of an empty tomb

Go outside and find some flowers to bring inside to decorate for Easter. Remember that Jesus rose again to give us new life!



nternet Resources

Worship with St. Mark's online at 10:00am You don't have to be a Facebook user to access the livestream) The bulletin will be available on St. Mark's website, as well as on Facebook. Click here to go to the service on Facebook

Hymns for Holy Week

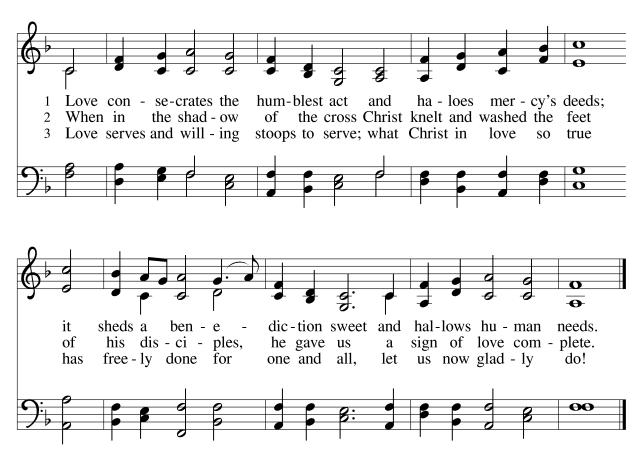


Use the attached hymns as part of your Holy Week devotionals this week.

Consider choosing a different hymn to sing each day

or pick one to commit to memory.

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act



Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917 Music:TWENTY–FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

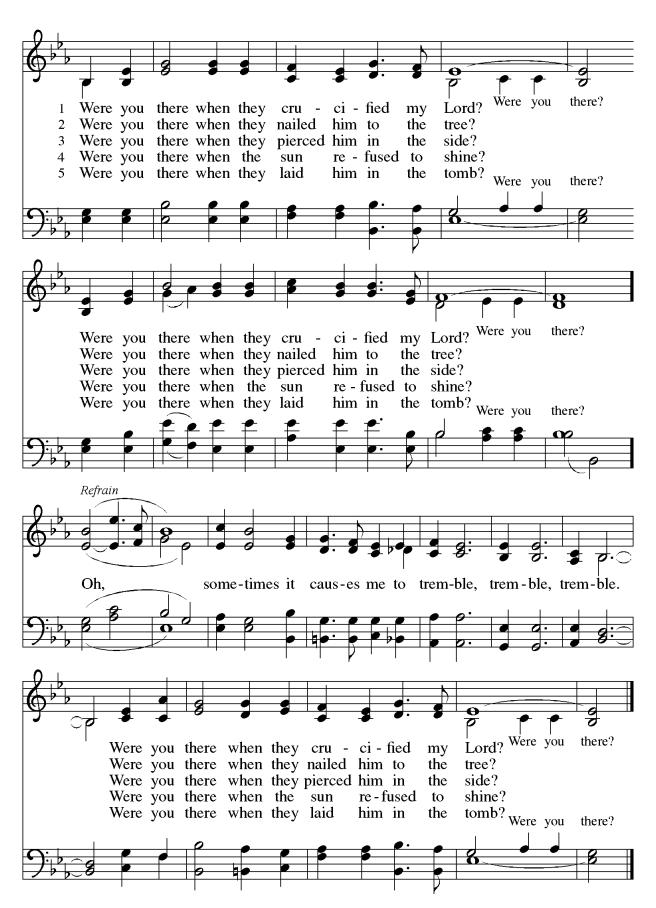


Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



Were You There



Text: African American spiritual Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Go to Dark Gethsemane



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



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. the worm-wood and the gall! mark that mir - a - cle of time, sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en all

Watch with him one bit - ter hour; Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained! God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. him a - way?



griefs a - way; turn not from his Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss; "It fin-ished!" hear him cry; is Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. learn from Je - sus Christ to pray. learn from him to bear the cross. learn from Je - sus Christ to die. Say - ior, teach us rise. to SO

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901