

Holy Week Schedule

Monday (4/14): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6:30p

Tuesday (4/15): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6p

Wednesday (4/16): Matins 9:00a & Divine Service 6p

MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/17): Divine Service 6p

GOOD FRIDAY (4/18): Divine Service 6p

Saturday (4/19): Matins 9a with Private Confession & Absolution following
EASTER VIGIL Saturday 8p

EASTER SUNDAY (4/20): Sunrise Service with Communion 6a
Easter Breakfast
Easter Service with Communion 9a
Easter Breakfast

The Octave of Easter

Monday (4/21): Divine Service 6:30p

Tuesday (4/22): Divine Service 6p

Wednesday (4/23): Divine Service 6p

Thursday (4/24): Divine Service 6p

Friday (4/25): Divine Service 6p

Saturday (4/26): Divine Service 9a with Private Confession and Absolution following

Sunday (4/27): Divine Service 9a with Bible Class following

Announcements for April 13, 2025

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests, friends both old and new. We pray that God has blessed your time among us with His Word and Holy Spirit. We cordially invite you to join us this morning for coffee and other refreshments downstairs following the Divine Service; and we ask that you please sign the guest book at the back of the church.

- ♦ **Bible Class:** Pastor Stephens will continue our study on the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Sunday School Classes are in session. Children should gather in Mr. Siek's room for Treats and Opening before heading to your separate classes.
- ♦ **Church Clean Up Day:** Thank you to all those who can come out and help!
- ♦ **Choir Rehearsals** (immediately following evening Divine Service for 60min.):
Wednesday, Apr 16 if necessary
Services in which the choir will sing (meeting 30 minutes prior):
Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday, Easter Octave (*Quasimodo Geniti*) See Joel Stoppenhagen for any questions.
- ♦ **Easter Flowers:** Thank you for all your help with flowers, Karin! Thank you to ALL who helped beautify the Sanctuary with flowers for Easter!
- ♦ **Easter Breakfast:** Thank you, Karin, for organizing the breakfast. We know there are a lot of moving parts, so thank you to everyone for helping in any way.
- ♦ **Altar Flowers** are Palm arrangements for Palm Sunday.
- ♦ **Collection for: Apr. 6, 2025:** \$9,940.28 (Average needed each week~\$3,347.00)



PASSIONTIDE

The final stage in our symbolic journey toward Easter is **Passiontide**. Passiontide begins with **JUDICA**, the fifth Sunday in Lent. There are no organ preludes or postludes. The crosses are now covered, triptychs are closed, and even the *Gloria Patri* disappears for a while.

A common question is: “Why do we drape and cover the crosses as we get closer to Good Friday, as our attention upon the last hours and the sufferings of Our Lord increases?”

We do this because we do not deserve to look upon them. We are not worthy of the Sacrifice. The Cross is our greatest and most cherished symbol. So it is partially taken away from us for a short time, which we might better appreciate it when it returns.

The crosses are not taken away completely. They are not removed. They are only covered. We can see outlines of the crosses, but their beauty and details are fuzzy. This symbolizes the reality that our grief prevents us from seeing clearly until the Good Friday liturgy and, of course, Easter. Faith always views the Cross in the light of the empty tomb.

The veiling also reminds us of Our Lord’s actions in response to the violence of the people in the Judica Gospel. There we are told that the Lord “Jesus hid Himself.”

The idea of removing the *Gloria Patri* is much the same. The Triune Name given at the Ascension is the fullest revelation of God’s Name given to men. To take away the *Gloria Patri* for two weeks is a bit jarring. It is particularly awkward not to sing it at the end of the *Nunc Dimittis*. But, again, its short-term removal serves to draw attention to it and highlights our privilege for the other fifty weeks of the year.

All of this is that we would learn to mortify the flesh and to depend more and more upon the grace of God in Christ. For never, even in our most somber of ceremonies, is the Church in doubt about the end. Jesus died, but He is not dead. Jesus lives. Easter is coming. Our Alleluias, *Gloria Patris*, crosses, fatty foods, and the like shall all return. But even better than that, we shall have them forever in Heaven when our own resurrections occur.



Passiontide extends through Holy Week and the *Triduum* (“three holy days” – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday). At the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday Service the Altar will be stripped, the Sanctuary decorations will be removed. Even the Altar crucifix will be carried out. All that will be left in the Sanctuary are the immovable pieces of furniture, laid bare. On Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil, even the normal responses and introductions are removed from the readings.

The intensity builds from now until Holy Saturday when we finally arrive at the empty tomb but not at an empty Altar.

Walking with Our Savior this Week

TODAY	<i>Divine Service of Communion</i>	9a
	Coffee & Refreshments	10:30 a
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	SS: Opening/Treats/Class Promptly	After Service
	Bible Study	10:45a
MONDAY	Matins	9a
	Divine Service	6:30p
TUESDAY	Matins	9a
	Divine Service	6p
WEDNESDAY	Matins	9a
	NO CAT	
	<i>Divine Service</i>	6p
	Choir Practice	following DS for one hour
THURSDAY	Maundy Thursday	6p
FRIDAY	Good Friday	6p
SATURDAY	<i>Divine Service</i>	9a
	with Private Conf. & Absolution following	
	Easter Vigil	8p
NEXT SUNDAY	Easter Sunrise with <i>Divine Service</i>	6a
	Easter Breakfast	
	Easter Service with Communion	9a
	Easter Breakfast	

You may also want to keep in mind, in your observance of daily prayer at home readings for next Sunday: April 13:

Easter Sunday –*Resurrexi*

Job 19:23–27, 1 Corinthians 5:7–8, Mark 16:1–8

Pastor Stephens’ Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:30-noon.
In need of Pastoral Care call/text anytime, day, or night (201)572-6832.
*Private Confession and Absolution available anytime by appointment.