

## A FEAST DURING OUR FAST

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"*

—Luke 1:26-28

The season of Lent is a season of fasting. It's a time to give up those good gifts of God for a moment, so that we might have better control over our bodies and its many passions and desires, in order to be prepared to celebrate the feast of Easter in sincerity and truth.

And yet, there are days throughout Lent in which we are allowed to feast before we get to the major feast of our Lord's Resurrection. One of those days is March 25th, the feast in which the Church celebrates the Annunciation of Our Lord, when the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she would have a son. When God's messenger said, "The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28), the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the most High overshadowed her, conceiving in her womb a child, the Son of the Most High.

The reason we celebrate the conception of our Lord Jesus on March 25th is because it comes nine months before Christmas, when we celebrate his birth. In fact, the date for Christmas is determined by the date for the Annunciation, which was chosen as March 25th because the early Christians determined that that was the day on which Jesus was crucified and that great men died on the same day they were conceived. Therefore, if Jesus died on March 25th, then he was also conceived on that date as well, which means he was born, give or take, on December 25th. Can we say any of this with absolute certainty? No. But nevertheless, that is the reason why Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25th.



The Feast of the Annunciation often lands during Lent, which is quite appropriate, for just as the empty womb of Mary was filled with the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, so also the Church journeys through the barren wilderness of Lent and is fed by every word that comes from God's mouth. In Him, we find our treasure, our answer, and our food, even as we give to the needy, pray, and fast during these forty days.

It is meet, right, and salutary that Christians would set aside their fast on this holy day to celebrate and to feast. And so, if you are abstaining from meals or certain foods and drinks during Lent, you can partake once again on March 25th, only to continue your fast the following day. This also means that our fast in the Divine Service will be set aside on that Wednesday night, and we will sing once again the song of the angels in the Gloria in Excelsis and praise the Lord with our Alleluias. What an interesting service it will be that night, as the sanctuary will already be donned with black drapes covering our crosses and artwork from the Sunday before (Passion Sunday), even as we celebrate the coming of our Lord in the flesh.

Having the opportunity to feast on this special day also reminds us that the Day of the Resurrection isn't too far away when our Lenten fast will be replaced with our Easter feast, when those black drapes will be removed, when the flowers will return beside the altar, and all of our ceremonies will be put back in place, even as we will look forward to the day when the veil over our eyes will be removed and we will walk with God in the garden of Paradise to sing his praises and celebrate at the marriage feast of the Lamb which will have no end.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller



Every month, as a congregation, we will have a Bible verse to memorize, so that together the word of Christ may dwell richly in our hearts. Here is March's Bible verse:

**Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

**(Hebrews 10:24-25).**

# WHY?

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

### Why don't we sing the *Gloria in Excelsis* and *Alleluia* during Lent?

As it has been during Gesimatide and also in Advent, the Gloria in Excelsis and Alleluia are omitted from the liturgy during Lent. Two elements that we're so familiar with, which most of us don't even need to look at the hymnal to sing, are taken away. This absence ought to catch our attention and beg the question: Why?

Advent and Lent are penitential (repentant) seasons. Both these seasons lead up to a chief celebration in the Church's calendar: Advent comes before Christmas and Lent before Easter. The penitential seasons prepare us for these high feasts, and a big part of that preparation is fasting. Christians have been fasting since the very beginning, as it's traced back even to our forefathers in the Old Testament. The purpose of fasting is to abstain from something our sinful flesh desires, such as food or television, social media or drinking, so that we can learn to control our bodies and not allow them to control us. We often don't realize how worldly treasures dominate our every day lives, and so to give some of those up helps us to realize this and change our behaviors. That's essentially what repentance means: to change, to change our hearts and minds away from the world and toward the God of heaven, away from our sin and to the One who bore that sin upon a tree.

And so, in the liturgy, we also have a fast. We give up the Gloria in Excelsis and the Alleluia in anticipation of the time when such celebratory elements will return. The Gloria in Excelsis is the joyous song of the angels at Christmas and the word Alleluia means "praise the Lord." This doesn't mean we're not supposed to be praising God during Lent, but we do it now in different ways, again through fasting but also through more time devoted in prayer and even giving to the poor. Those three disciplines are the hallmarks of Lent, the good works which God has given us to do: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (giving to the poor). All three lead us away from ourselves and back to our Savior, who fasted on this earth that we might have a feast, who continually prays on our behalf, and who gave up his life for us, poor and miserable sinners.

On Easter, having learned to better control our bodies and its desires, we can have again those things we gave up, including the Gloria in Excelsis and the Alleluia. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, and we will appreciate and rejoice that we can join the angels in their song and praise the Lord with our Alleluias.

A hymn we sung on Transfiguration, the last time we had the Gloria in Excelsis and Alleluia, says it best:

*Alleluia cannot always  
Be our song while here below;  
Alleluia, our transgressions  
Make us for a while forego;  
For the solemn time is coming  
When our tears for sin must flow.*

*(Alleluia, Song of Gladness, LSB 417:3)*

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

### SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

**Jean Adams**

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.  
Reese, MI 48757

**Don Carpenter**

Tuscola County Medical Care Facility  
1285 Cleaver Rd.  
Caro MI 48723

**John & Ruth Ann Kaijala**

6004 Gilford Rd.  
Fairgrove, MI 48733

**Pat Starkey**

Heritage Hill  
1430 Cleaver Rd.  
Caro, MI 48723

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Carolyn Carpenter  
Melinda Reinbold
- 3 Wayne Dinsmoore
- 8 Matthew Seeley  
Megan Seeley
- 10 Elizabeth Bublitz
- 12 Wayne Seeley, Jr.
- 23 Beth Hoppe

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Brandt & Elizabeth LaPouttre

### **March Divine Services**

*(services with Holy Communion)*

*Sunday, March 1, 2026*

The Second Sunday in Lent (Reminiscere)

Matthew 15:21-28

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

The Wednesday of Reminiscere

John 6:35-58

*Sunday, March 8, 2026*

The Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)

Luke 11:14-28

*Wednesday, March 11, 2026*

The Wednesday of Oculi

Matthew 8:5-13

*Sunday, March 15, 2026*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)

John 6:1-15

*Wednesday, March 18, 2026*

The Wednesday of Laetare

Matthew 10:34-42

*Sunday, March 22, 2026*

The Fifth Sunday in Lent (Judica)

John 8:42-59

*Wednesday, March 25, 2026*

The Annunciation of Our Lord

Luke 1:26-38

*Sunday, April 13, 2025*

Palm Sunday

John 12:12-29; Matthew 26:1-27:66



**LUTHERAN  
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[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)



*The WORD of the LORD  
ENDURES FOREVER*

**NEXT VOTERS MEETING:**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 @ 11 AM**

## —STEWARDSHIP—

March Coffee Money  
Good Samaritan Fund

Lenten Midweek Services  
Ephphatha Deaf Ministries

Lenten Boxes  
Seminary Student

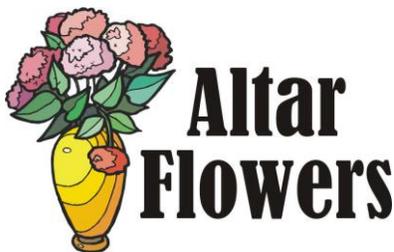
Please note that the Stewardship Board had designated the weekly Lenten envelopes to go to St. Martin's School for the Deaf, but since making that pledge, the school has closed due to lack of students. With that being said, we have decided to designate the Lenten weekly envelopes to Ephphatha Deaf Ministries who helps support the deaf. Please mark this change when giving during this Lenten season.

The Stewardship Board's Special Mission from January through March will be for Lutheran Hour Ministries, a global mission organization that shares Christ's love in more than 60 countries, often bringing His message of hope to places where no other Christian organizations are present.



## —LADIES AID—

- We will have a Taco Bar on Wednesday, February 25th, beginning at 5:30 pm.
- The April meeting has changed. It will be after the Divine Service on Sunday, March 29th, because April 2nd is Maundy Thursday.
- The Anniversary Cookbook is still being worked on.



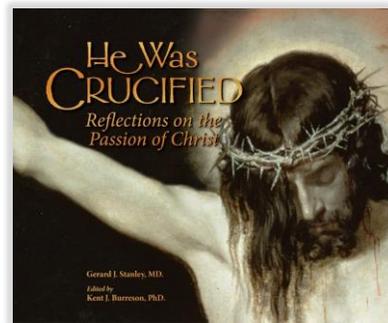
In an effort to enhance the Divine Service, Ladies Aid has posted a flower chart for families or church boards wishing to participate. Please consider signing up to beautify the altar sometime this year.



*To check out any book from the church library, simply fill out the information needed on the clipboard hanging on the shelf.*

### **He Was Crucified**

by Gerard J. Stanley, MD.

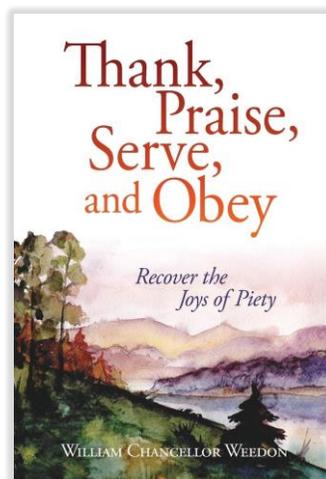


This beautiful book offers reflections of a medical doctor on the physical and mental anguish Jesus endured in the hours leading up to His death. Enrich your meditation on Christ's

passion using prayers and hymns paired with moving commentary and masterpieces of art from artists including Michelangelo, Rubens, Dali, and Siqueiros. This devotional book can be used any time during the Church Year to reflect on the Passion of Jesus, but is particularly appropriate during the seasons of Lent and Holy Week.

### **Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey**

by Rev. William Weedon



In Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety, Martin Luther's small catechism and the Book of Concord serve as our trusty roadmaps as we explore how to properly hear in the Scriptures our heavenly Father summoning us to the joy and freedom of living and growing as His beloved children through Jesus Christ.

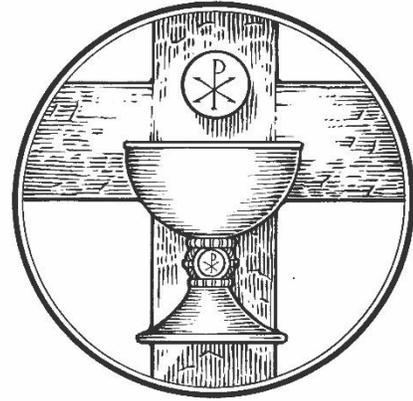


## Private Confession

Confession & Absolution is available every Saturday during the season of Lent, beginning February 21st, from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment. The rite can be found on page 292 in the hymnal (Lutheran Service Book).

# Wednesdays in Lent

Dinner 5:30 pm  
Divine Service 6:30 pm



## + The Sacrament of the Altar +

<b>February 25th</b>	What is it?
<b>March 4th</b>	What does it do?
<b>March 11th</b>	How can it do this?
<b>March 18th</b>	Who should receive it?
<b>March 25th</b>	The Annunciation of Our Lord



<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Divine Service at 9:15 am
<b>HOLY MONDAY</b>	Divine Service at 6:30 pm
<b>HOLY TUESDAY</b>	Divine Service at 6:30 pm
<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b>	Divine Service at 6:30 pm
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	Divine Service at 6:30 pm
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	Chief Service at 1 pm Tenebrae Service at 6:30 pm
<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	Easter Vigil at 7 pm
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Breakfast at 8 am Divine Service at 9:15 am

# CHRISTIAN TRAINING

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School

11 to 11:45 am Lesson

11:45 am to noon Music

Adult Bible Study

Ephesians

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR PALM SUNDAY**

## THE MEN'S STUDY

Saturday, March 21st, 7:30 to 9 am  
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



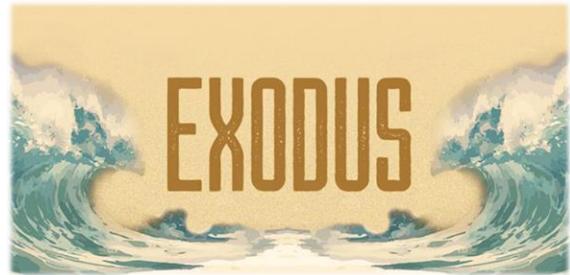
## WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am

Matins

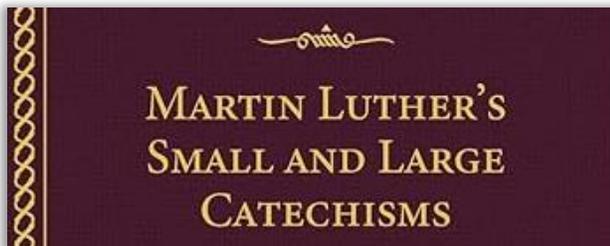
10 am

Bible Study



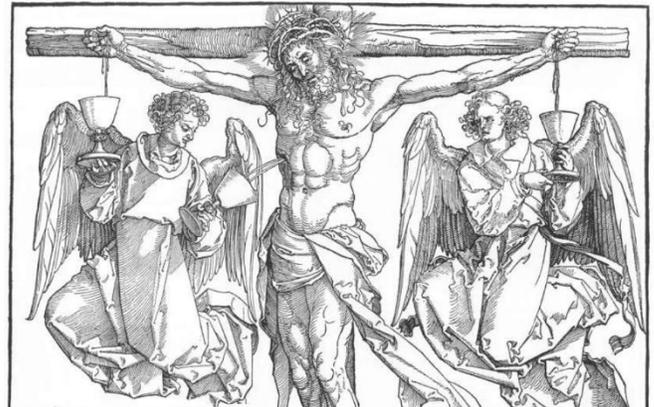
## HIGH SCHOOL CATECHESIS

Sunday, March 15th  
6 to 8 pm at the Haller Household



## LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Every family will receive a booklet in their church mailbox. Extra copies are available on the table in the fellowship hall.



PRAISE THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

# THE DAILY READINGS FOR MARCH

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

<b>March 1st</b>	Psalm 139:7-10	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
<b>March 2nd</b>	Psalm 91:9-16	Gen. 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
<b>March 3rd</b>	Psalm 126	Gen. 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
<b>March 4th</b>	Psalm 66:8-15	Gen. 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
<b>March 5th</b>	Psalm 28:6-9	Gen. 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
<b>March 6th</b>	Psalm 118:19-24	Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67	Mark 8:1-21
<b>March 7th</b>	Psalm 2:7-9	Gen. 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38
<b>March 8th</b>	Psalm 129	Gen. 27:30-45, 28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13
<b>March 9th</b>	Psalm 38:13-15, 21-22	Gen. 29:1-30	Mark 9:14-32
<b>March 10th</b>	Psalm 105:5-11	Gen. 35:1-29	Mark 9:33-50
<b>March 11th</b>	Psalm 31:1-5	Gen. 37:1-36	Mark 10:1-12
<b>March 12th</b>	Psalm 106:44-48	Gen. 39:1-23	Mark 10:13-31
<b>March 13th</b>	Psalm 49:1-3, 7-10	Gen. 40:1-23	Mark 10:32-52
<b>March 14th</b>	Psalm 11	Gen. 41:1-27	Mark 11:1-19
<b>March 15th</b>	Psalm 60:1, 9-12	Gen. 41:28-57	Mark 11:20-33
<b>March 16th</b>	Psalm 3	Gen. 42:1-34, 38	Mark 12:1-12
<b>March 17th</b>	Psalm 37:16-20	Gen. 43:1-28	Mark 12:13-27
<b>March 18th</b>	Psalm 26:1-7	Gen. 44:1-18	Mark 12:28-44
<b>March 19th</b>	Psalm 82	Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28	Mark 13:1-23
<b>March 20th</b>	Psalm 77:11-15	Gen. 47:1-31	Mark 13:24-37
<b>March 21st</b>	Psalm 44:1-4	Gen. 49:29-50:7, 14-26	Mark 14:1-11
<b>March 22nd</b>	Psalm 129	Exodus 1:1-22	Mark 14:12-31
<b>March 23rd</b>	Psalm 31:9-14	Exodus 2:1-22	Mark 14:32-52
<b>March 24th</b>	Psalm 39:1-7	Exodus 2:23-3:22	Mark 14:53-72
<b>March 25th</b>	Psalm 18:6-7, 16-20	Exodus 4:1-18	Mark 15:1-15
<b>March 26th</b>	Psalm 69:33-36	Exodus 4:19-31	Mark 15:16-32
<b>March 27th</b>	Psalm 22:1-5	Exodus 5:1-6:1	Mark 15:33-47
<b>March 28th</b>	Psalm 78:52-55	Exodus 7:1-25	Mark 16:1-20
<b>March 29th</b>	Psalm 71:19-24	Exodus 8:1-32	Hebrews 1:1-14
<b>March 30th</b>	Psalm 35:1-6, 9-10	Exodus 9:1-28	Hebrews 2:1-18
<b>March 31st</b>	Psalm 88:3-9	Exodus 9:29-10:20	Hebrews 3:1-19

# Serving Our Lord in the Month of March

## **Elders for March**

Steven Reinbold & Daniel Reinbold

## **Ladies Aid for March**

Diane Spencer & Joanne Reinbold

## **Sunday, March 1, 2026**

*Refreshments:* Laura Starkey, Cindy Voss, Helene Weber

*Propers Choir:* Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

*Acolyte:* Wayne Seeley

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Alberta Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Hannah Haller

*Middle School Sunday School Teacher:* Steven Reinbold

## **Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6:30 pm**

*Acolyte:* Noah Reinbold

## **Sunday, March 8, 2026**

*Refreshments:* Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender, Sandra D'Addezio

*Propers Choir:* Sarah Hall, Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Gabriella Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Nicole Seeley

*Middle School Sunday School Teacher:* Stephen Bender

## **Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6:30 pm**

*Acolyte:* Charles Bender

## **Sunday, March 15, 2026**

*Refreshments:* Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery, Sarah Hall

*Propers Choir:* Jacob & Charity Hanby

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Charity Hanby

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Laura Starkey

*Middle School Sunday School Teacher:* Brandon Worden

## **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 6:30 pm**

*Acolyte:* Brandt LaPouttre

## **Sunday, March 22, 2026**

*Refreshments:* Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht, Joanne Hills

*Propers Choir:* Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold, Gabriella Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Noah Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Chelsea Worden

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Pamela Ill

*Middle School Sunday School Teacher:* Aaron Reinbold

## **Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6:30 pm**

*Acolyte:* Charles Bender

## **Sunday, March 29, 2026**

*Refreshments:* Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill, Sarah Reid

*Propers Choir:* Olivia Hargash, Joanne Hills, Mary Masker

*Acolyte:* Wayne Seeley

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Alberta Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Jennifer Bender

*Middle School Sunday School Teacher:* Steven Reinbold

# MARCH 2026

Church Office: (989) 693-6322      Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Steven Reinbold (989) 233-5097 & Daniel Reinbold (989) 670-9048

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study 12 pm Youth Card-Making	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7 pm Elders	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Divine Service Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 10 am Ladies Aid	<b>6</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>7</b> 9 to 10 am Private Confession
<b>8</b> <i>The Third Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Properties	<b>10</b> 9 am Quilters	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Divine Service Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-Op	<b>13</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>14</b> 9 to 10 am Private Confession
<b>15</b> <i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Divine Service Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>21</b> 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
<b>22</b> <i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9 am Quilters 7 pm Parish Planning	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:30 pm Divine Service Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-Op	<b>27</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>28</b> 9 to 10 am Private Confession
<b>29</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	<b>30</b> <i>Holy Monday</i> 6:30 pm Divine Service	<b>31</b> <i>Holy Tuesday</i> 6:30 pm Divine Service	<b>April 1</b> <i>Holy Wednesday</i> 9:30 am Matins 6:30 pm Divine Service	<b>April 2</b> <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 6:30 pm Divine Service	<b>April 3</b> <i>Good Friday</i> 1 pm Chief Service 6:30 pm Tenebrae Service	<b>April 4</b> <i>Holy Saturday</i> 7 pm Easter Vigil