

Messiah Messenger

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Transfiguration, Lent, and Easter

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It's almost March and almost Lent, but not quite. This Sunday, February 27, we will join James and John on a mountaintop, dazzled by Jesus transfigured before them and speaking with Moses and Elijah. We'll hear the words they heard spoken from a cloud: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Luke 9:34 says they were terrified at being overshadowed by the cloud, but it must also have been an exhilarating experience.

So different from the prolonged, steadfast perseverance of Lent. In his hymn text, "Tis Good, Lord, to be Here" (LBW 89), Joseph Armitage begins each stanza quoting Jesus' disciple Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration, saying to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here!" (Luke 9:33). The final stanza is:

'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
 Yet we may not remain;
 But since you bid us leave the mount,
 Come with us to the plain.

It's a plea to Jesus to walk with us from the mountaintop of Transfiguration to the plain of Lent, and from the mountaintop of Sunday worship to the plain of weekday work. And though Lent is not my favorite season of the year, and work is not my favorite activity, life on those plains is good. God goes with us, and gives us Lent and work for our good. The weekday disciplines of Lent cultivate in us an eagerness for Sundays – each one a little Easter. They make us more aware of our sin – of how easily and subtly we become attached to God's good gifts and turn them into idols. They remind us, in the words of Martin Luther, that "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Not of misery and self-loathing, but of day-by-day putting on our Baptism and returning to the Lord.

The disciplines of Lent give us a sense of solidarity with Christians around the world who routinely suffer for their faith. They deepen our consciousness of our depravity and increase our gratitude for Jesus' humility, suffering, death, and resurrection for our sake. They help us to appreciate God's gift of time, as we look forward to Easter and to our own resurrection from death. And that time will come! Moving from Lent into Easter reminds us that God walks through life with us, and will at last bring us home to him. Jesus will return in glory to make all things right, and so we live each day in hope. As the apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthians:

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The symbol in the upper left corner expresses by means of candle and messianic rose the worship of the Messiah and the Truth of Christ. The cross signifies His central deed and the five crosses in the rose the sacred wounds.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:16-17).

Knowing that the Lord is with us, I look forward to walking with you on our pilgrimage from the Mount of Transfiguration to the plain of Lent, up the hill of Calvary, and into the sunny uplands of Easter.

Pastor Erhardt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH & APRIL

Lent & Easter Year C	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
First Sunday in Lent Mar. 6, 2022	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
Second Sunday in Lent Mar. 13, 2022	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalm 27	Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Luke 13:31-35
Third Sunday in Lent Mar. 20, 2022	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalm 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
Fourth Sunday in Lent Mar. 27, 2022	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday in Lent Apr. 3, 2022	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalm 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Palm Sunday Apr. 10, 2022	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 19:28-40
Resurrection of Our Lord Apr. 17, 2022	Acts 10:34-43		1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18
Second Sunday of Easter Apr. 24, 2022	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31

CHURCH CALENDAR

March 2022

Tuesday, March 1

6:30pm Table Talk

Wednesday, March 2 – **Ash Wednesday**

7:00pm Service of Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes
No choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 10

7:30pm Community Book Group

Saturday, March 12

10:00am Outdoor Service

Sunday, March 13 – **Daylight Saving Time**

Tuesday, March 15

7:00pm Executive Board

Friday, March 25

6:00pm ISI Friendship Dinner

Saturday, March 26

9:00am Men's Forum

April 2022

Tuesday, April 5

7:30pm Community Book Group

Thursday, April 7

6:30pm Table Talk

Wednesday, April 13

7:30pm Choir

Thursday, April 14 – **Maundy Thursday**

8:00pm Holy Communion

Friday, April 15 – **Good Friday**

8:00pm Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 17 – **Easter**

9:00am Christian Education

10:00am Festival Service of
Word and Sacrament

Friday, April 22

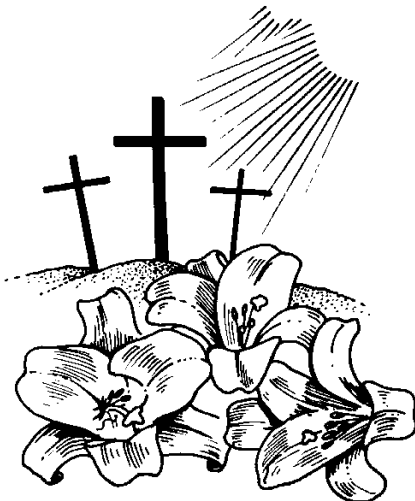
6:00pm ISI Friendship Dinner

Wednesday, April 27

7:30pm Choir

Saturday, April 30

9:00am Men's Forum



Recurring Events

Sundays:

9:00am Christian Education

10:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

Wednesdays (March 9 to April 6):

6:00pm Soup & Salad Supper

7:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer

7:45pm Choir

MARCH 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Ash Wednesday 7pm Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	3	4	5
6 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	7	8 6:30pm Table Talk	9 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	10 7:30pm Book Group	11	12 10am Outdoor Worship Service
13 Daylight Saving Time 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	14	15 7pm Executive Board	16 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	17	18	19
20 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	24	25 6pm ISI Friendship Dinner	26 9am Men's Forum
27 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15pm Voters Meeting	28	29	30 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	31		

APRIL 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	4	5 7:30pm Book Group	6 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	7 6:30pm Table Talk	8	9 10am Outdoor Worship Service
10 Palm Sunday 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	11	12	13 7:30pm Choir	14 Maundy Thursday 8pm Holy Communion	15 Good Friday 8pm Tenebrae	16
17 Easter Sunday 10am Festival Service of Word and Sacrament	18	19	20 No Choir	21	22 6pm ISI Friendship Dinner	23
24 9am Christian Education 10am Holy Communion	25	26	27 7:30pm Choir	28	29	30 9am Men's Forum



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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
