



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“It is certainly true, as I have found in my own experience, and as everyone will find in his own case, that if a person stays away from the sacrament, day by day he will become more hardened against and his faith will grow cold, and eventually, he will spurn it all together. To avoid this we must examine our heart and conscience and act like a person who really desires to be right with God.” Martin Luther, Large Catechism

Dear Saints,

Fifth Sunday in Lent 21 Mar. 2021

This is the fifth and final week in lent, called *Judica*, derived from the first words of the Introit for this Sunday: "*Judica me, Deus*" — "Judge me, O God" (Psalm 42).

The pace accelerates. The biblical narratives concerning holy week bring increase intensity and so does our observance of the most important and sacred time in human history.

It begins with The Sunday of the Passion, otherwise known as Palm Sunday. Ironies abound not only on this day, a so-called Triumphant Entry during which Christ weeps over Jerusalem, but each day. Then follows Maundy Thursday, occurring on the eve of our Lord’s crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ’s Passover, commonly known as the *Triduum*. This service culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ’s Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the Maundy Thursday Liturgy, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. The Liturgy consists of four parts: (i) the Service of Corporate Confession & Absolution, (ii) Service of the Word, (iii) Service of the Sacrament, and, following the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, (iv) the Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday is part of the sacred *Triduum*. The name may originally have been “God’s Friday,” but it is certainly “good” because of the good gifts Christ won for us on this day.

Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Christ. It is a day for repentance over sin, our sin, and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Jesus the Messiah so willingly accomplished for us on the cross of Calvary. In keeping with this character, music is kept to a minimum, though not silenced. Elaborate words of praise are omitted. The altar remains bare, having been stripped on Maundy Thursday.

The Vigil of Easter, which is celebrated at the end of Holy Saturday as the conclusion of the sacred *Triduum*, ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. The Vigil of Easter connects the days of Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, with the culminating celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

	Mar. 21	Fifth S. in Lent (Judica)	Gen. 22:1–14	Psalm 43	Heb. 9:11–15	John 8:(42–45) 46–59
HOLY WEEK	Mar. 28	Palm Sunday <i>Sunday of the Passion</i>	Zech. 9:9–12	Psalm 118:19–29 or Psalm 31:9–16	Phil 2:5–11	Matt. 26:1— 27:66 or Matt. 27:11–54
	Apr. 1	Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Ex. 12:1–14 or Ex. 24:3–11	Psalm 116:12–19	1 Cor. 11:23–32	John 13:1–15 (34–35)
	Apr. 2	Good Friday	Is. 52:13—53:12	Psalm 22 or Psalm 31	2 Cor. 5:14–21 <i>Note the Altar Book lists the Three- Year Epistle</i>	John 18:1— 19:42
EASTER	Apr. 4	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Job 19:23–27	Psalm 118:15–29	1 Cor. 5:6–8 or 1 Cor. 15:51–57	Mark 16:1–8

Judica. 7 Mar. Color: **Purple**. Procession: 436; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day: 440; Psalm 43 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn, 420; Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional: 419. Sermon: St. John 8.48-59 "Stoning Jesus."

Fifth and final mid-week in Lent: Wednesday @ 5:30 pm, 24 March. Setting: Evening Prayer LSB 243, chanted (unaccompanied). Holy Communion, Divine Service setting IV. Closing hymn: 420. Sermon: St. Mark 12.28-34, "The Great Commandment."

***Passion Sunday.** 28 Mar. Color: **Red**. Processional 442; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day 441; Psalm 31 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 444; Post-Communion Cantic: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 443. Sermon: St. Matthew 27.15-22, "Not This Man."

* The custom of the Church is to wear red on Passion Sunday. Please arrive 10 minutes early for Mass, as the Divine Service begins *outside* with the Procession of Palms.

Catechesis. Sunday catechesis for all from 1400 - 1445: "Where Heaven and Earth Meet." Session 3: "The Psalms." Palm Sunday: Session 4: "Entering the World of the Psalms with Christian Eyes."

UPCOMING:

- (1) *Holy Week Divine Services:* Maundy Thursday 6pm, Good Friday 7pm, Easter Vigil (11pm), The Resurrection of our Lord 3pm (No Augsburg Academy).
- (2) Last mid-week Lenten Mass 5:30pm this Wednesday.
- (3) Confirmation Catechesis 4:30pm Wednesday. *No confirmation class Holy Week (31 March) or 7 April.*
- (4) Pastor John is at Yakima Training Center 18, 19, 20 March and will be arriving from the field on Sunday.
- (5) Please consider bringing your Easter lilies to decorate the Church for Easter Mass.
- (6) Our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, will be visiting Blessed Sacrament in April. He will preach while Pastor Bombaro serves as the Celebrant.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John