



**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,

*Fourth Sunday in Lent* 14 Mar. 2021

Our Lenten journey has taken us to the fourth, or middle, Sunday of Lent, so called from the first words of the Introit at Mass, “*Laetare Jerusalem*” — “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” With the extension of Lent from 36 days to 40, Church officials noticed (in the year 714) that the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is really the middle day of Lent. Half way through the fast, the church permitted special signs of joy on this day, intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the season of penance. Thursday, however, was a challenge for all working parishioners, so Laetare was transferred to the Sunday following. So, technically we are more than half way through Lent and on the downhill movement toward Holy Week.

On this day, the Church allows flowers on the altar and rose-colored vestments instead of purple. However the ceremonial customs may be, it is a time to rejoice. We have been sustained by the Holy Spirit. Christ leads us through life’s challenges with confidence that, come what may, we belong to Him.

But we have a lot more about which to rejoice: Kyle Drobny and daughter Allie will receive their First Holy Communion on Laetare Sunday. After weeks of catechesis, both come into the full communion of Christ’s one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Rejoice with Stephanie and AJ who join them at the Communion Rail in the reception of Christ’s true body and blood.

**Laetare.** 14 Mar. Color: Purple. Processional 796; Kyrie; Hymn of the Day 504; Psalm 132 chanted responsively during distribution; Distribution Hymn: 611; Post-Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis; Recessional 655. Sermon: Gal. 4.21-31, “A New Standard”

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|---------|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mar. 7  | Mar. 14 | Fourth S. in Lent (Laetare) | Ex. 16:2–21<br>or<br>Is. 49:8–13 | Psalm 132:8–18 | Gal. 4:21–31<br>or Acts 2:41–47 | John 6:1–15             |
| Mar. 14 | Mar. 21 | Fifth S. in Lent (Judica)   | Gen. 22:1–14                     | Psalm 43       | Heb. 9:11–15                    | John 8:(42–45)<br>46–59 |

**Fourth Mid-week in Lent:** Wednesday @ 5:30 pm, 17 March. Setting: Evening Prayer *LSB* 243, chanted (unaccompanied). Holy Communion, Divine Service setting IV. Closing hymn: 420. Sermon: St. Mark 12.13-27, “The Allegiance Question.”

**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: 657. Sermon: St. John 8.48-59 "Stoning Jesus."

**Catechesis.** Sunday catechesis for all from 1400 - 1445: "Where Heaven and Earth Meet." Session 2: "Time, Space, and Matter."

**UPCOMING:**

- (1) *Holy Week Divine Services:* Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, The Resurrection of our Lord. Times to be announced shortly.
- (2) Mid-week Lenten Mass 5:30pm throughout Lententide.
- (3) Conformation Catechesis 4:30pm Wednesday throughout Lent.
- (4) Our Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, will be visiting Blessed Sacrament in April. He will preach while Pastor Bombaro serves as the Celebrant.

\* Please note that I am going to try to get the Pfarrbrief emailed on Tuesdays since the end of the week has proven more challenging.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor John