

Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
8:30am & 11am Worship



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, OR
www.welcometocentral.org

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE *Prelude* from **Prelude, Fugue and Variation** César Franck

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*please stand as you're able*)

Let us pray. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN #327 Through the Night of Doubt

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow, on-ward goes the
 2 One the light of God's own pres-ence on the ran-somed
 3 One the strain that lips of thou-sands lift as from the
 4 On-ward, there-fore, sis-ters, broth-ers; on-ward with the

pil-grim band, sing-ing songs of ex-pec-ta-tion,
 peo-ple shed, chas-ing far the gloom and ter-ror,
 heart of one; one the con-flict, one the per-il,
 cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its bat-tle

march-ing to the prom-ised land. Clear be-fore us
 bright-'ning all the path we tread. One the ob-ject
 one the march in God be-gun. One the glad-ness
 till we rest be-neath its shade. Soon shall come the

through the dark-ness gleams and burns the guid-ing light;
 of our jour-ney, one the faith which nev-er tires,
 of re-joic-ing on the far e-ter-nal shore,
 great a-wak-'ning; soon the rend-ing of the tomb!

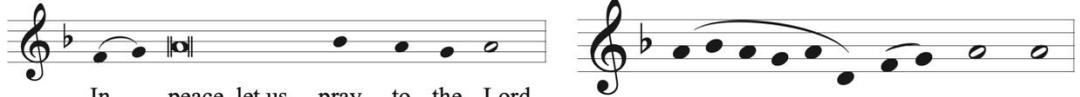
pil-grim clasps the hand of pil-grim
 one the ear-nest look-ing for-ward,
 where the one al-might-y Fa-ther
 Then the scat-t'ring of all shad-ows,

step-ping fear-less through the night.
 one the hope our God in-spires.
 and reigns in love for-ev-er more.
 and the end of toil and gloom.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



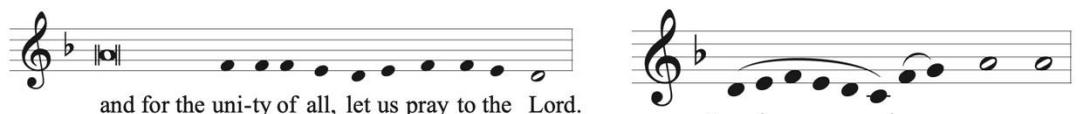
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



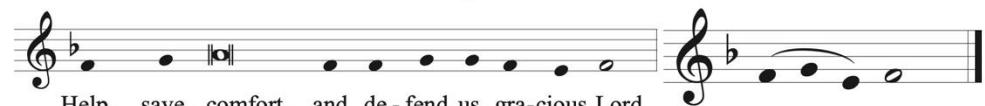
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer-cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Lent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, **you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

FIRST LESSON Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95



Come, let us sing | to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep | of God's hand. Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

**“Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’**

Indeed I swore | in my anger,
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’ ”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore- | ver. Amen.

ANTHEM (8:30) *As the Winter Days Grow Longer* Cantors

ANTHEM (11:00) *God So Loved the World - Bob Chilcott* Chorale

SECOND LESSON Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

During the Gospel Acclamation our children are invited to join Stephanie Neubert (8:30) and Honora Mathisen-Lund (11:00) for a special message. They will return during the sharing of the peace.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*



Handbells

Glo - ry and praise

to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Cantors: Lord, you are truly the Savior | of the world; give me this living water that I may never | thirst again. **Repeat antiphon.**

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

The Gospel according to John, the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this

mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

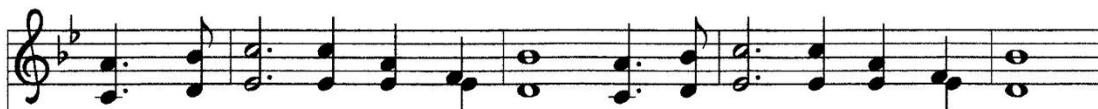
SERMON

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

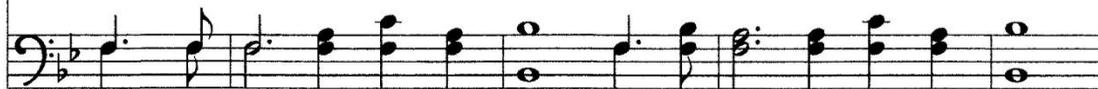
HYMN #623 Rock of Ages (*please stand*)



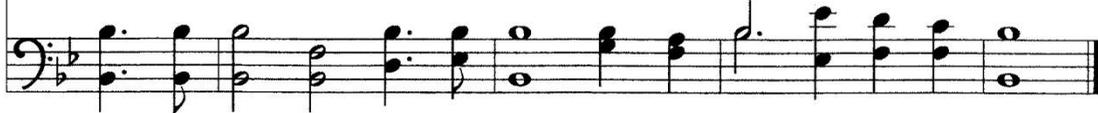
1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

HYMN #331 As the Deer Runs to the River



1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - sert where no stream or spring was seen
3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned," all who for God's mer - cy plead!
4 Christ, we come from des - sert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun - tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Tune: Julion

David Hurd

OFFERING

*You are invited to place your offering
in the plate as you come forward for communion.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Please stand as you're able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.

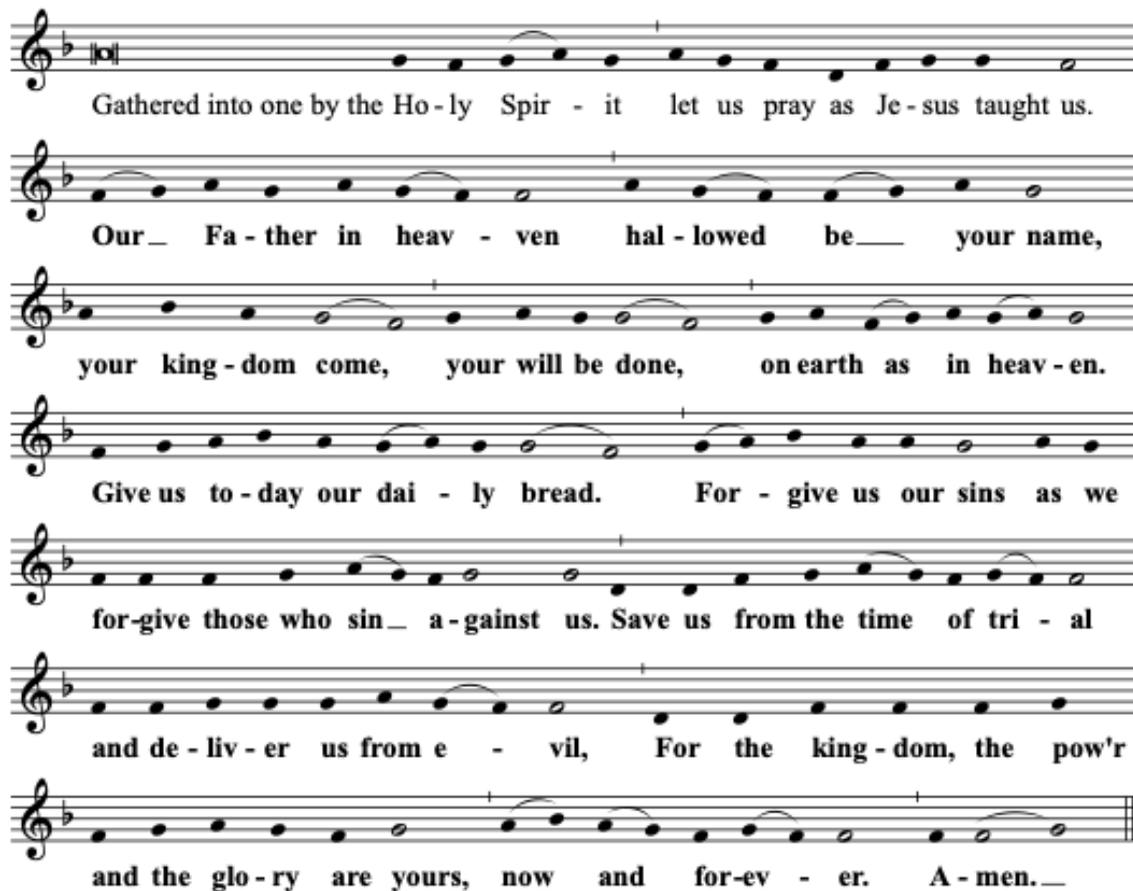
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER



Gathered into one by the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray as Je - sus taught us.

Our_ Fa - ther in heav - ven hal - lowed be___ your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin_ a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil, For the king - dom, the pow'r

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for-ev - er. A - men.---

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION *(be seated)*

You are invited to come forward and kneel (or stand) at the altar rail to receive communion. You will receive the bread in the form of a wafer and then you may drink from the individual cups of either red wine or white grape juice. If you prefer not having to navigate the stairs you may come forward and sit in the front pew (or remain where you are) and the communion servers will come to you. This is Christ's meal, and it is Christ who bids you come. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way
the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God,
You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A-men.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *(please stand as you're able)*

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **Go Now in Peace.** (Stanza 2 a round, a cappella)

* Round begins on 2nd Stanza



1. Go now in peace though friends must part, Your pre-sence lives in ev - ry heart.
2. Go now in hope, and hope - ful stay, Though shad-owed val-leys hide your way;



Your gifts to us no words can tell: Go now in peace, in Christ go well.
Through good and e - vil, joy and pain, With God in Spir - it, you re-main.

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Text: Brian Wren

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

You may remain seated during the Organ Voluntary; however if you choose to depart, we kindly ask you to do so in silence until you reach the Narthex.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Fantasia on “Von Gott will ich nicht lassen”* *“From God, Shall Nothing Divide Me” - Bert Matter*

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Today’s Cantors (8:30): Alyse Jamieson & David Gustafson

Join us for another “Pocket Concert” presented by Central’s St. Cecilia Music Endowment Fund this coming Tuesday at noon featuring Kara Eubanks, violin and Natalie Fortin, piano.

Children & youth are invited to join Crystal for a Spring Break fun day (games, snacks, crafts, and to learn about Holy Week together). The event is from **9am-1pm at United on Wednesday, March 25th.** MS & HS youth are encouraged to come and help. Participants are asked to bring your own lunch.

Central Lutheran Church 2026 Schedule for Lent – Easter

Date	Lent / Holy Week / Easter
March 8, 15, 22 (Sundays)	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
March 10, 17, 24 (Together Tuesdays)	Soup Supper at 5:15pm; Music Together & Children's Choir at 5:45pm; Adult Ed at 6pm with Holden Evening Prayer Worship at 7:00pm
Mar 11, 18, 25 (Wednesdays)	Lenten Matins Worship in the Chapel at noon followed by a soup luncheon in the Narthex
March 29 Palm Sunday	Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
April 2 Maundy Thursday	Worship at noon at United Lutheran or at Central at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
April 3 Good Friday	Chapel open for prayer between noon & 3pm; Worship at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
April 4 Pre-Easter Party	Children & Youth are invited to a pre-Easter Party for an Egg Hunt (and more!) at 10am in the Parish Hall
April 4 Vigil of Easter	Worship at United Lutheran at 7pm
April 5 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am