

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH UPDATE
PALM SUNDAY, March 24, 2024

This Newsletter contains the following information:

1. Worship Services
2. In Our Prayers
3. Weekly Services

WORSHIP SERVICES:

At present we offer one Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m. & Mid-Week Lenten Worship at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY

VERSE

Phil 2:8b

He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

PALM SUNDAY, Mar 24, 2024

Beloved in the Lord,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus! **Amen.**

BULLETIN The bulletin for the Divine Service is attached to this update

The Son of David Ascends His Throne and Reigns in Love from His Cross

READINGS

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 19 (antiphon: v. 8)

Philippians 2:5-11

John 12:20-43/ or Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-47

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS

The Son of David Ascends His Throne and Reigns in Love from His Cross

The Son of David comes in gentle humility, “*sitting on a donkey’s colt,*” yet as the King of Israel “*in the name of the Lord*” (John 12:13-15). He comes to be lifted up in glory on the cross in order to cast out “*the ruler of this world*” and draw all people to Himself (John 12:23-32). The Church is thus called to “*rejoice greatly,*” because her King comes with salvation, and “*he shall speak peace to the nations*” (Zech. 9:9-10). As He is anointed “*beforehand for burial*” (Mark 14:8), He also ascends His royal throne as “*the King of the Jews*” by way of His Passion (Mark 15:2, 17-19, 26). He goes “*as it is written of him,*” wherefore “*you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power*” (Mark 14:21, 62). For the glory of God is love, which crescendos in the humble obedience and voluntary self-sacrifice of the Son of God for the salvation of sinners. So, God the Father has “*highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:9), that He might reign over us in love with the forgiveness of His cross.

2) IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep the following people in your personal prayers:

Shut-ins: Maria Pohlman, Ruth Miller, Gabriel Civitillo, Letillia Sterling, Meta Both.

Those with other needs: Paul Alexander, Brian Miller, Lisa Deonadan, Harry Goorwah, Violet Deonarine, Deva Singh, Hans & Anna Schroedter, Edgar Rapp, Marlet Wardly, Trudy Marquardt, Peter Haug, Tomdaiya, Bill & Shila Mandel, Jairam Ganpat, Nila, Mariya, Marlin, Sam, Dawood, Indra Seemadray, Junior Atkins, Razack, Hilda Singh, Shiny Nath.

If you would like to add yourself or a loved one to our prayer list please give me a call. It is also important to let me know when it's time to be removed from the list.

PRAYERS: LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA - MISSIONS

MARCH 24, 2024 | NICARAGUA

This week, we pray for Rev. Henry Evelerth Ramirez who serves as pastor for two congregations in the Leon area.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Ramirez, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel;

Lord in Your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

3) CONGREGATIONAL PROJECTS

FOOD BANK:

The proceedings of the Food Bank on Mar 21 went very well. Tony picked up the bread from Bread of Life ministries. The truck arrived at 9:30 am with eight skids of food. Tony, Renee, Ingrid, Pastor Joseph, Taeler, Jennifer, Maura, Gladess, Jonalyn, Isaac, Solomon, Ahia, Babatunte, Marcellus, Queen, Ray & Glen, Latifa, Riya, Victor, Majdulín, Sadia, Sameer, Mala, Ralph & Jeanette, Bahija & Wilson, Jan and Haydi, Mariya & Marlin, Angel & Pastor Christi, Luis & Mariam, Esther, Lyndon, Franklyn, helped with the unloading of the skids, serving the clients. Tony, Al, Isaac, Ralph, Christian and Christena helped with the intake. The previous week's recycling bins that Bismark had put out the day before were picked up by the city in the early hours of the morning. There was a devotion at 12:30 p.m.

FOOD BANK STATISTICS FOR Mar 21, 2024

Total Food Hampers given out: 341

Those food hampers provided food to:

768 adults and 275 children for a total of 1043 individuals

THE TIME OF EASTER HOLY WEEK

The week before Easter is called Holy Week. Our Lenten preparation and repentance deepens as we focus on the events of Jesus' life from His entrance into Jerusalem until His death on the cross and burial in the garden tomb.

Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). Because the complete account of the Lord's passion from Matthew, Mark or Luke is often read, this Sunday is also called the Sunday of the Passion.

On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, the Church gives thanks to Jesus for the institution of His Supper. This is a feast day, and the colour used to decorate the Church is white. The Holy Thursday service closes with the stripping of the Altar. This reminds us of how our Lord stripped to the waist to wash his disciples' feet – and how He was stripped and beaten before His crucifixion.

Good Friday is the most solemn of all days in the Christian Church; yet a note of joy remains, as the title of the day indicates. On Good Friday, as we remember that on account of our sin the Lord was crucified and died, we give joyful thanks to God that all sin and God's wrath over sin falls on Jesus and not on us, and that by His grace we receive the benefit of this most sacrificial act.

**During Holy Week, we worship our Lord,
Who gave His life for us.
Matthew 26-27 Mark 14-15 Luke 22-23 John 18-19**

HOLY WEEK PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- In many Churches, the colour for Holy week continues to be violet. In others, the colour is scarlet, a deep blood red. Scarlet reminds us of Jesus' bloodshed as He suffered and died for our sins.
- Many congregations read the passion narrative during special mid-week services of Lent. But on each day of Holy week, the whole story of the events leading to Jesus' death and burial is read from a single Gospel.
- While in Lent, we forego using the joyous Alleluia response, and we do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis. In Holy Week, we go a step further as we give up singing the Gloria Patri- our joyous praise to the Trinity at the end of all the Psalms we use in worship. Omitting these joyous words makes our worship even more reserved and somber.
- Many churches observe Holy Week by gathering for special services throughout the week.

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOUR

Sunday Mar 24	Palm Sunday 11 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
Maundy Thurs Mar 28	7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 2-4 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. Food Bank
Good Friday Mar 29	11 a.m. Good Friday Service
Saturday Easter Vigil	7 p.m. Easter Vigil Service @ Trinity Lutheran Church
Sunday Mar 31	Easter Sunday 11 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion Followed by Lunch

Pastor Joseph Singh

Vacancy Pastor

Mar 23, 2024

PHONE: 416-740-2073 Pastor Joseph (home)

416-741-2110 Church <https://www.oslc.on.ca/>

SERMON FOR MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY

MY CLOSE FRIEND (Psalm 41:9): Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? You are not alone. King David prayed in Psalm 41:9, “Even my close friend, the one in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” To have a heel lifted against you is to receive a tremendous kick. It is a kick that sends you reeling and knocks the breath out of you—much like the feeling of being betrayed by a trusted friend. When trust has been broken, you can pray David’s words as your own and put your trust in the One who fulfilled them. For your Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took the pain and shame for you.

SERMON FOR GOOD FRIDAY

BE GRACIOUS TO ME! (Psalm 41:10): Nothing could be more natural than seeking revenge against one who has wronged you. Even the youngest child’s untrained sense of fairness demands payback. God’s children, however, are not to submit to human thinking but to the Word of God. What do the Scriptures say about our desire for revenge? When King David’s enemies rose against him, the Holy Spirit inspired him to pray in Psalm 41:10: “But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!” David prays for vengeance, and God ordains vengeance. Yet the Scriptures also tell us not to “resist the one who is evil” (Matthew 5:39). What are we to make of this paradox? As with all matters of the faith, we must look to our Lord’s crucifixion for the answer. For only by the cross is God gracious to you; only at the cross does He demand payment for every injustice.

SERMON FOR EASTER VIGIL

CONTRADICTION (Psalm 41:11): How should Christians understand Scripture passages that seem to contradict reality? For example, King David said in Psalm 37:25, “I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread,” contrary to the experiences of numerous starving Christians throughout history and the world. David says elsewhere, prophesying the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, “By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me” (Psalm 41:11). The events of Good Friday seem to tell a different story, however. Did not our Lord’s enemies triumph over Him? For that matter, doesn’t the devil continue to persecute His Body, the church? Undeniably! But the cross and the empty tomb are the contradiction that answers all other contradictions. Rejoice in God’s contradiction! For death is swallowed up by death; the Author of life has died and now is raised to restore all things!

THE TIME OF EASTER EASTER AND ITS SEASON

Begins with evening prayer on Holy Saturday and ends with midday prayer on Pentecost.

Easter is not merely a one-day celebration; it is a fifty-day season from the Day of Resurrection of Our Lord to the Day of Pentecost. This extended season – one seventh of the year – is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious Saviour.

The first celebration of Easter is the Easter Vigil, the evening of Holy Saturday. The Vigil includes a service of light. In which fire symbolizes Jesus as the Light of the World. The service is designed to take Christian from the solemnity of Good Friday to the predawn joy of Easter.

Easter is the richest and most lavishly celebrated of the Church year. Congregations may hold a sunrise service, commemorating the surprise of the women visiting the empty tomb of Christ, as well as services that celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While not as lavish, this joyous and celebratory tone echoes down through the Sundays of the Easter Season.

Forty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord, who ascended into heaven not only as God but also as a man. The final Sunday of the Easter season, celebrated as Pentecost, was adopted by early Christians to commemorate the first great harvest of believers for Christ. Thus, the Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church, as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they gave their compelling witness about the resurrected Lord. The colour of the Day of Pentecost is red, representing fire and blood. Red recalls the tongues of fire received on the first Pentecost and the martyrs who shed their blood for the faith.

During Easter, we rejoice in our salvation.

Matthew 28 Luke 24 John 12:24-25; 20:1-29; 21:1-14 Acts 1:6-11; 2:1-4

EASTER PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- The colours of Easter are gold and white. White, the colour our Lord's holiness, is everywhere on Easter, from the paraments and vestments to the traditional Easter lilies. Good decorations remind us that our resurrection life in Christ is precious and eternal.
- After a long absence in Lent, Alleluia returns at Easter and is heard everywhere in the propers appointed for the weeks after Easter. Also, the joyous Hymn of Praise and the Gloria Patri return and are sung as part of the liturgy once again.
- During the Easter season, we greet one another with a special Easter greeting and response: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

Holy Week & Easter Services

THEME: BE GRACIOUS TO ME (PSALM 41)

Palm Sunday:
March 24, 2024

English Worship 11:00 am.

Maundy Thursday:
March 28, 2024.

Holy Communion Service 7:30pm
My Close Friend (Psalm 41:9)

Good Friday,
March 29, 2024:

English Worship 11:00 am
Be Gracious to Me (Psalm 41:10)

March 30, 2024:
Saturday Easter Vigil:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Toronto
Contradiction (Psalm 41:11)



Easter Sunday,
March 31, 2024:

Easter Worship (English) 11:00 am.
Easter: Because of My Integrity (Psalm 41:9–13)
Lunch following Service

Ascension of our Lord

Thursday, May 9, 2024 Ascension of our Lord (Service) 12:00 pm.