

Sundays of Lent 2026

February 22nd 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

Messiah Lutheran Church

Amherst, NH



Mass of Steady Light

liturgical musical setting by Jon Abrams

Dedicated with gratitude to those who
gather, sing, and trust the work of worship.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; walk with me;

me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me; walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; walk with me;

me; all along my pilgrim journey, break - ing, when my heart is al - most bowed in sorrow, when my head is in sor - row,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

Joe Oliver

Voice

5 9
Ky - ri — e — e — lei — son — ky - ri — e — e —
13
le - i - son — Chri — ste — e — lei — son — Chri —
17 21
ste — e — lei — son — ky — ri — e — e — lei — son —
25
Glory to God — in the high — est and peace to His peo - ple, the
13
peo - ple on earth — Glory to God in the high — est and
17 21
peace to His peo- ple on earth — Lord, God heaven-ly King al-
migh - ty God and Father we wor-ship You — we give You thanks — we
29
praise You for Your glo — ry Glory to God — in the high —

33

—est and peace to His peo - ple on earth— Lord Je—sus Chirst on—ly

Son of the Fa—— ther Lord God— Lamb of God — You take a - way

— the sin of the world — have mercy — on us — Glory to

God — in the high — est and peace to His people on earth —

seated are you — at the right hand of God the Father — re-

- ceive our prayer For you a-lone are the ho-ly one You a-lone are the Lord

You a-lone are most high Jesus Christ — with the spirit most ho — ly the

Glo - ry of God. Glory to God in the high — est and peace to His

peo - ple His peo - ple His peo - ple peace to His peo — ple His peo —

ple on earth A — men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the 2nd & 3rd chapter of Genesis:

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALMODY 32

MLC Psalm Tone I

MLC Psalm tones by J. Abrams 2024



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord im- ¹ puts no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you.”

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹ in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹ in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart.

SECOND READING

A reading from the 5th chapter of Roman:

² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Grandma's Piano

1

Praise to you, O Christ, King of e- ter nal glo-ry Praise to you O Christ

5

Praise to the Lord Our God I am the light of the world, says the Lord fine The one who fol-lows me

will have the light of life

GOSPEL READING

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

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written,

‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Blessed Be Your Name

(as published by Worship Together)

Words and Music by
Matt Redman and Beth Redman

VERSE

♩ = 116
B
F♯
G♯m7


1. Bless - ed be Your name in the land that is plen -
 2. Bless - ed be Your name when I'm found in the des -
 3. Bless - ed be Your name when the sun's shin - ing down
 4. Bless - ed be Your name on the road marked with suf -

4 E B F \sharp

ti - ful, where Your streams of a - bun - dance flow, bless - ed
 ert place, though I walk through the wil - der - ness, bless - ed
 on me, when the world's "all as it should be." bless - ed
 fer - ing, though there's pain in the of - fer - ing, bless - ed

PRE-CHORUS

7 E | 1, 3 | 2, 4 | B | F# |


12 G[#]m7 E B F[#] G[#]m7

 turn back to praise. When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord, still I will

CHORUS

17 E B F♯ G♯m7 E

say, "Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, bless-ed be Your name. Bless-ed be the

22 B F♯ G♯m7 F♯ E 1

Last time to Coda  *D.C.*

name of the Lord, bless-ed be Your glo-ri-ous name."

BRIDGE

27 2 B F♯ G♯m7 E

You give and take a-way, You give and take a-way. My

32 B F♯ G♯m7 E 1 2

D.S. al Coda

heart will choose to say, "Lord, Bless-ed be Your name." You name." Bless-ed be the

37  E *Coda* B

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone.

... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. ...

Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.

... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Claudette Briere, Ed Costa, Norm and Polly Cote, Deloris Jay, Carol Clark, Elia Herlinda Soteldo Cuica, Kayann Laughlin, Timothy Alexander, The Wurst Family, Shelly Stama, Eric Ball, Connor McCaffrey, Marc Bouchard, Jeffery Lindenberg, Jim Bellig, Diane Hazel, Linnea Micciulla, Phil Stinnett, Susan Poutre, Krista Seckinger, Carly King, Christine Covel, the Demello family, John and Wilma Minnick, Karma, Barbara Scholz, Carly Hoeni ... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries including Share, bless the efforts of AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, Border Servant Corps, His mansion.

... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.

... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (especially).

... Hear us, oh God, **Your mercy is great.**

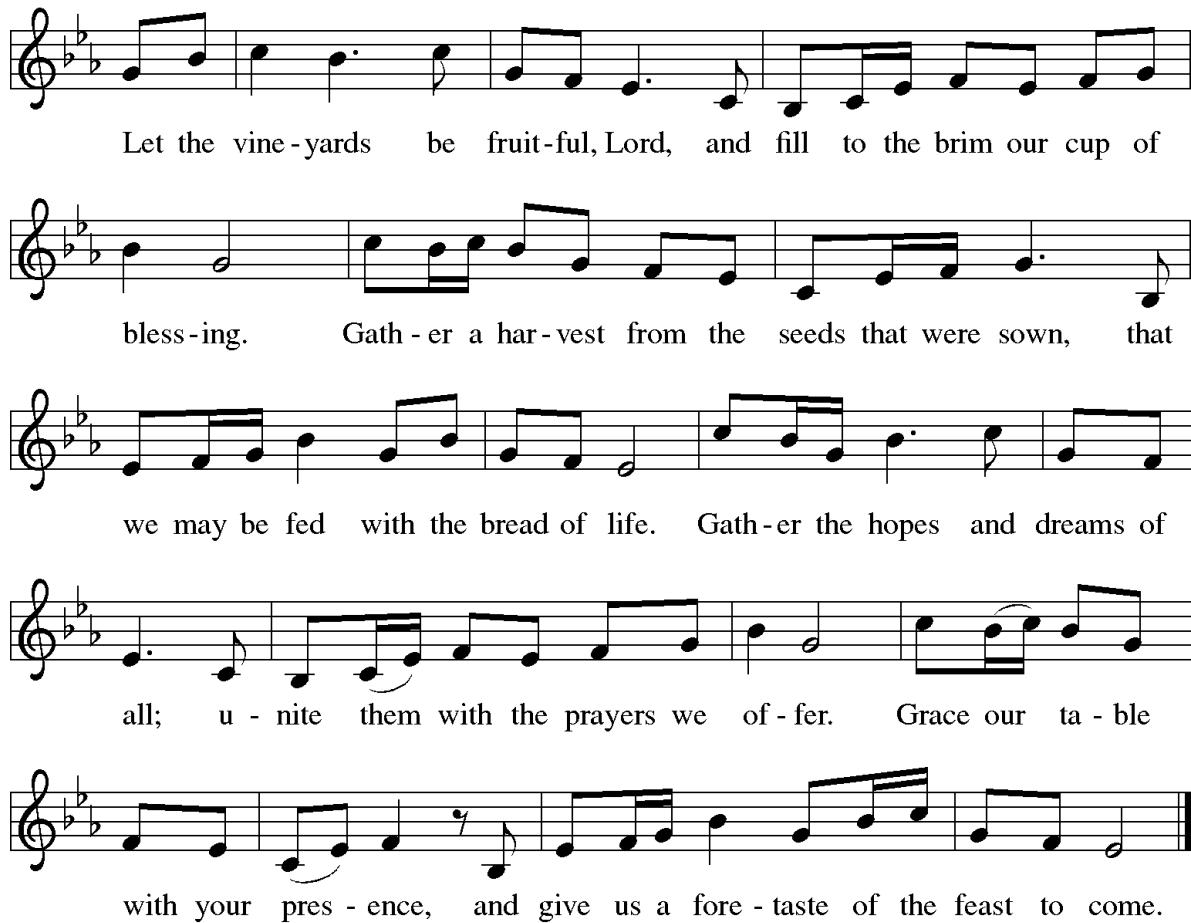
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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.**

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:

80th Anniversary

Voice

Ho - ly ho-ly ho-ly Lord God of pow'r and might hea-ven and earth are

full of your glo-ry Ho-san-na Ho-san-na Ho-san-na in the high-est Blessed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord Ho-san-na Ho-san-na Ho-san-na in the highest Ho-san-na

Ho - san - na Ho - san - na in the high - est

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- ☩ Christ has died.
- ☩ Christ is risen.
- ☩ Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

go down

Voice

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The first staff begins with a treble clef, the second with an alto clef, and the third with a bass clef. The lyrics are in a mix of capital and lowercase letters, with some words underlined. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, and 25 are marked above the staves. The lyrics are as follows:

Lamb of — God — You take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —

Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world have mercy on us —

Lamb of — God — you take a-way the sin of the world Grant us — peace

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts who travel with us. So let us be quick to love, make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the Holy Trinity: Creator, Redeemer , and Sanctifier be with us always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 319 O Lord Throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Liturgical music by Jon Abrams © 2026



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Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Psalm is
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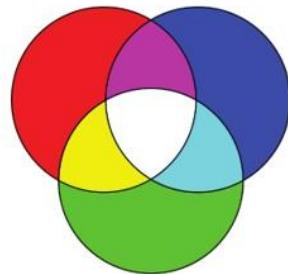
Lenten Wednesdays

2026 Lenten Series Letting our Lights So Shine Colorfully

February 18-March 25

Holden Evening Prayer and Colorful Reflections

Soup Suppers beginning at 6:00, February 25-March 25



Feb 18
Ash Wednesday

BLUE

Knowing ourselves

Feb 25

GREEN

Knowing our neighbors

Mar 4

RED

Knowing the message

Mar 11

CYAN

Being Community (ourselves + neighbors with presence)

Mar 18

MAGENTA

Being Authentic (ourselves + message with integrity)

Mar 25

YELLOW

Bearing a Winsome and Salutary word (neighbors + message with context)

Holy Week 2026



Palm Sunday

March 29th, 9:30 AM

We will have a palm processional (which will become next year's Ash Wednesday ashes) and then enter into Holy Week with communion.



Maundy Thursday, Triduum Day 1

April 2nd, 7:00 PM

We will gather for footwashing, scripture, prayer and commemorate Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper. The service ends in silence with a bare chancel.



Good Friday, Triduum Day 2

April 3rd, 7:00 PM

At our annual meeting we voted to accept Church of Our Saviour's invitation to worship with them on this evening. We will join their service of shadows.

Church of Our Saviour, Milford

10 Amherst Street, Milford, NH 03055



Easter Vigil, Triduum Day 3

April 4th, 7:00 PM

We will resume the triduum gathering outside around a new fire (weather permitting) and then move inside for scripture, prayer and communion as we begin celebrating Jesus' resurrection.



Easter

April 5th, 9:30 AM

We will fully embrace the good news of Jesus' resurrection and what the empty tomb means for us. We will have scripture, prayer and Holy Communion.

Easter brunch will follow worship.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	February 22 nd 1 st Sunday of Lent	February 25 th Lenten Wednesday	March 1 st 2 nd Sunday of Lent	March 4 th Lenten Wednesday	March 8 th 3 rd Sunday of Lent
Preacher & Presider	K. Hester	K. Hester	K. Hester	K. Hester	K. Hester
Liturgist	T. Costa	Kai Hester	B. Mitchell	Kai Hester	Doreen Rinas
Musician	J. Abrams	J. Abrams	J. Abrams	J. Abrams	J. Abrams
Reader	D. Cordts		R. Ede		S. Steffesmeier
Greeters/Ushers	Neukams		Drakes		C. Hoeni & L. Rosse
Altar	R. Ede		T. Drake		R. Meldrum
Communion Bread	T. Costa		D. Cordts		Schurs
Soup		D. Scheetz K. Hester		please sign up	
Dinner Bread		K. Hester		please sign up	
Tech	R. Neukam	D. Schur	David Rinas	please sign up	R. Meldrum
Snacks	Schurs		R. Meldrum & Doreen Rinas		T. Costa
Lead Counter	D. Cordts		B. Mitchell		L. Rosse