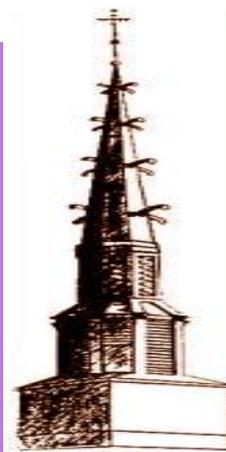


In this week's Steeple >>>

The Steeple

- Fr. Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Discussion Group
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Maundy Thursday Vigil
- Holy Week
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Mar 26, 2026



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Preparing the Heart for Holy Week



As we draw near to Palm Sunday, the Church invites us into a posture of deep reflection. The coming week is not simply a recollection of events long past, but a participation in the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. In the Episcopal tradition, Holy Week is the crown of the liturgical year; what the Book of Common Prayer calls "the most solemn week." It asks something of us: attention, intention, and a willingness to walk with Christ step by step.

The challenge, of course, is that Holy Week rarely arrives on a week that fits our schedule. It comes amid busy days, family obligations, and the essential demands of life. And so, if we are to enter fully into these holy days, preparation matters.

I'd suggest starting to decide now that Holy Week will be different. Mark your calendar not just for Easter Day, but for the journey that leads there: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. Treat these liturgies not as optional extras, but as one continuous act of worship. Each service reveals a different facet of the story, and together they form a single, unfolding narrative. If attending all is not possible, choose at least one or two in addition to Sunday. And, let that choice be deliberate.

In the days leading up to Holy Week, consider simplifying your routine. Even a small shift can make room for God. Set aside ten to fifteen minutes each day for quiet prayer. The Daily Office (Morning or Evening Prayer) is a natural place to begin. The readings appointed in the lectionary during this time are rich and intentional, drawing us into the final days of Jesus' life.

You might also sit with one of the Passion narratives (Matthew 26–27, Mark 14–15, Luke 22–23, or John 18–19), reading slowly and imaginatively. Place yourself in the scene. Listen. Notice what stirs within you.

The tradition of Lent has always included fasting, not as an end in itself, but as a way of sharpening our awareness. During Holy Week, consider a renewed simplicity: limit distractions, reduce unnecessary noise, and step back from habits that dull your attention.

This might mean less time on screens, more silence in the car, or choosing not to fill every spare moment. The goal is not severity, but clarity, making space to notice what truly matters.

Before we walk the way of the cross, we are invited to examine our own hearts too. Are there relationships that need tending to right now? Words that need to be spoken? Forgiveness that needs to be offered or received?

Holy Week begins, in a sense, with reconciliation. As we remember Christ's self-giving love, we are called to reflect that same love in our own lives. Even a small act of reaching out can be a meaningful step into the spirit of the week.

One of the most loving things we can do for ourselves is to reduce distractions ahead of time. Look at your schedule and anticipate what might pull your attention away. Prepare meals in advance if you can. Plan your week so that when you arrive at church, you are not rushed or preoccupied. These small acts create the conditions for deeper engagement.

Finally, remember that Holy Week is not meant to be observed from a distance. The liturgies invite participation: waving palms, washing feet, venerating the cross, keeping watch, kindling new fire. These are not symbolic gestures alone, they are embodied prayer.

By the time we arrive at Easter, the hope is not simply that we will have heard again that Christ is risen, but that we will know it more deeply because we have walked the road that leads there.

Peace,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Mar 27th – April 4th, 2026

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 29th | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel Faith Forum, 9:15am, Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave |
| Mar 30th | Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf |
| Mar 31st | Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library |
| Apr 1st | Choir, 5pm, Choir Room YD, 6pm, Rodgers |
| Apr 2nd | Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf |

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Maundy Thursday service, 6pm, Nave
All Night Vigil, 9pm-8am, Chapel
Apr 3rd Good Friday Service, noon, Nave
Apr 4th Holy Saturday Service, 9am, Chapel
Great Easter Vigil, 6pm, Nave

Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, March 31st at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall. Topic of discussion: "Is baptism a necessary step to salvation?"

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Lynette Beebe, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Steve Linn, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Lauren Gandy, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Clay Smith, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, Fred Whitson, Dayna Rathman, and Shaina Smith.

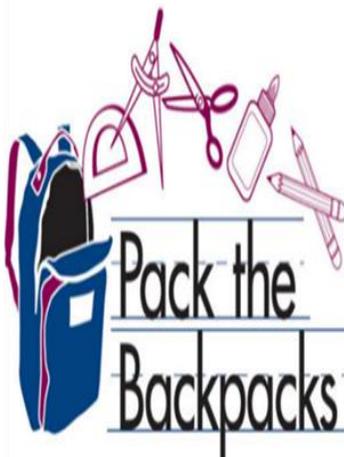
Please add the following to your prayers for the Fifth Week in Lent:

Santa Maria Virgen, OKC

The Anglican Church of Korea

April requested Item:

Highlighters of any color or size are the items for April



Maundy Thursday Vigil



Have you signed up to watch for one hour?

“Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” Matt. 26: 40-41



Theologians Corner:

Harriet Monsell Monastic 1883

Harriet Monsell (1811 – 25 March 1883) founded the Community of St John Baptist, an order of Augustinian nuns in the Church of England dedicated to social service, which by her death had expended to numerous houses, including in India and the Americas. She was born Harriet O'Brien, in 1811, to one of Ireland's oldest Anglo-Irish families.

Harriet married Charles Monsell in 1839 while he was studying and receiving medical treatment at the University of Dublin, and they moved to Oxford the following year to complete his studies. He was

later ordained, but, due to his continued delicate health, much of their later married life was spent in Europe, including Naples. After her husband's death in 1850, she began working in Clewer near Windsor among former prostitutes and unwed mothers at a House of Mercy. Soon, Harriet Monsell professed religious vows with two other women.

Initially they were called the Sisters of Mercy but later changed their name to reflect their inspiration from John the Baptist's call to penitence. She thus became Mother Superior of the Community of St John Baptist, established on 30 November 1852, and one of the first Anglican religious orders since the Reformation. Because of their affiliation with the town of Clewer they are commonly called the 'Clewer Sisters'. The women lived according to a rule attributed to St Augustine of Hippo.

During the new order's first five years, it expanded from assisting about thirty marginalized women to dedicating a building to serve about eighty. As the Community of St John Baptist, guided by Mother Harriet's energy, extensive correspondence and humor, the nuns extended their original mission to running about forty institutions, including mission houses in various parishes, as well as orphanages, schools and hospitals.

Mother Harriet retired to Folkestone in 1875 for health reasons, although she was occasionally able to visit the communities she founded. She died on the morning of 26 March 1883, which was Easter Sunday that year.

Together we pray: Gracious God, who didst lead thy servant Harriet Monsell through grief to a new vocation; grant that we, inspired by her example, may grow in the life of prayer and the work of service, so that in all our sorrows and in all our joys, thy presence may evermore increase among us, and that our lives may be so ordered as to reveal the mind of Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for March 29th- April 4th

Birthdays

Lauren Green

Daisy Droege

(3/30)

(4/3)

Anniversaries

Scott & Sigrid Williams (4/2)

If your or a love one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday and/or wedding anniversary.

Concern

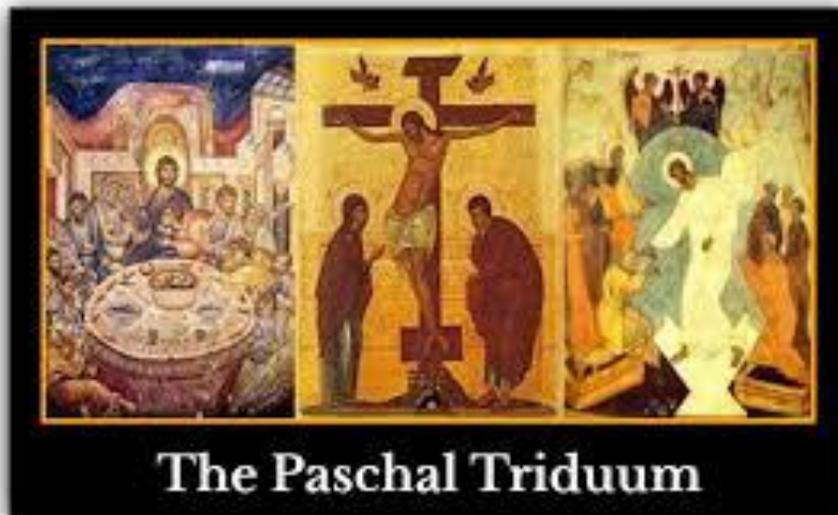
Concern's current needs are : ramen noodles, Vienna sausage and Jiffy Mix. Homeless needs are: single-serve proteins, single-serve pudding and squeezable jelly.



BEGINS THIS SUNDAY



March 29th , 10:30am
Service: Meet in Metcalf
Hall. The service will
begin in there and then
process to the Nave.



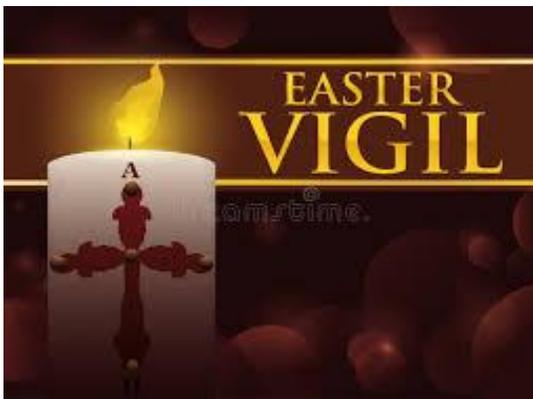
Maundy Thursday Service:
April 2nd, 6:00pm. This
service will include Washing
of Feet



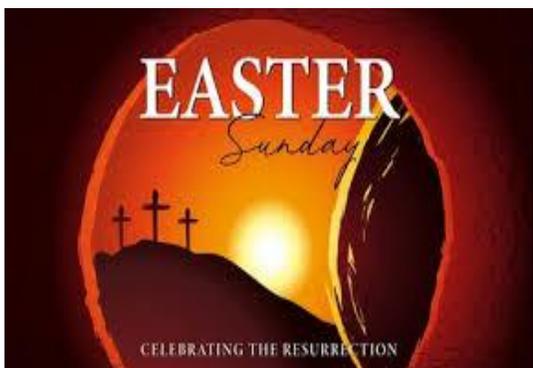
Good Friday Service:
April 3rd, 12:00pm. Eucharist
from the Reserve



**Holy Saturday Service:
April 4th , 9:00am.**



**Great Easter Vigil Service:
April 4th , 6:00pm. Meet in
Courtyard to begin service.**



**Easter Services:
April 5th , 8:am & 10:30am**

“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”



Easter Lilies Memorials and Honorariums are due by Sunday, March 29th. Envelopes are in the Narthex

Palms this coming Palm Sunday are given in Loving Memory of Jerry Cozby by Karole, Cary, Craig and Chance.



Lenten Program: Favorite Hymns led by Dolores



Easter Egg Hunt

For our youth,
grandkids, and
kids

YD Easter Egg Hunt is Easter Sunday at 9:30am

Meet in Metcalf and hunt will be in the Courtyard. Bring your baskets, kids!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden- kscozby916@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden - kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
- Lisa Beeman – lisabeeman89@gmail.com
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- Fred Whitson- sandyswhit@gmail.com
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com
- Cathy Perrier – bling4mimi@hotmail.com

Bereavement Team 3

Becky Liehr, Cathy Perrier, Kris Bonner,
Mary Jo Peterson

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