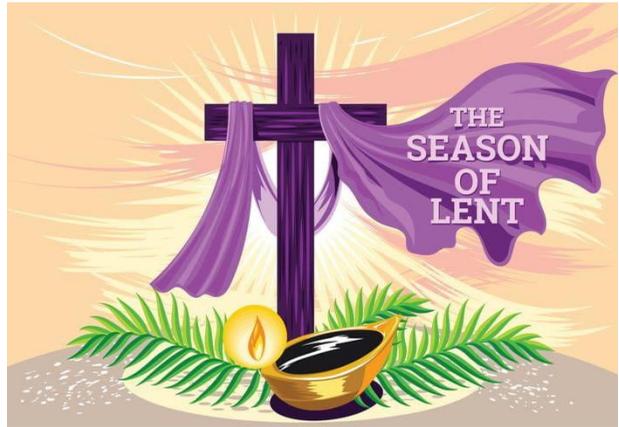




© Grzegorz Dawidowicz

*Saint Michael's Lutheran Church*



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

ELW setting 3

March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m.

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(\*Indicates Please Stand)

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Chanson Triste*

Peter I. Tchaikovsky

### \* INVOCATION

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.**

\* OPENING HYMN #807 COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

# KYRIE

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

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

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

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**LESSON**

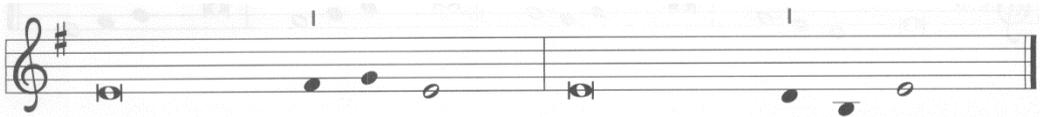
Ephesians 5:8-14

**O**nce you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
    “Sleeper, awake!  
    Rise from the dead,  
    and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

*Sing responsively*



- <sup>1</sup>The LORD <sup>|</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>|</sup> be in want.
- <sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down <sup>|</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>|</sup> side still waters.**
- <sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>|</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>|</sup> for your name’s sake.
- <sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall <sup>|</sup> fear no  
evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they <sup>|</sup> comfort me. R**
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>|</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>|</sup> running over.
- <sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>|</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>|</sup> LORD forever. R**

**GOSPEL WILL BE SHARED DURING THE SERMON**

\*HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

**The Holy Gospel according to John.**

Glory to you, O Lord.

**A**s [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had

said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He

answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

\* HYMN #779      AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

**\* APOSTLE’S 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 THE CHURCH**

*Each portion of the prayers ends with one of these responses:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

Bless we the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

(The prayers conclude:)

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\* PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**Anthem**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

Music by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Based on tune **HERZLIESTER JESU** by Johann Crügel

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

\* PREFACE DIALOGUE

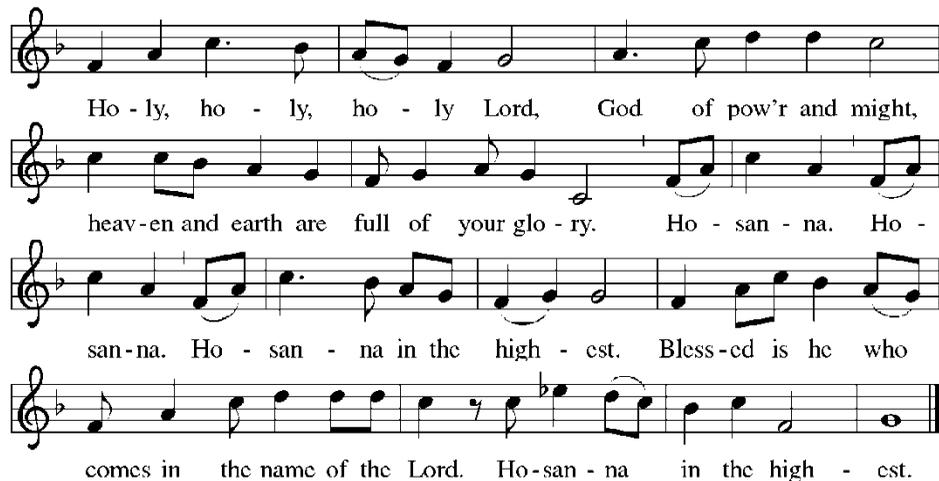
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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.**

\* PREFACE FOR SEASON OF LENT



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. Ho -  
san-na. 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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took break, 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.

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

**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.

*Please bring your offering with you as you come forward to receive Holy Communion. Communion distribution is by intinction. The communion bread or gluten-free wafer will be placed in your hand. Take the bread or wafer and dip it into the chalice of wine. Do not have your fingers touch the wine*

## LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

P 471

Let us break bread together on our knees,  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.

O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING

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

LET US PRAY.

## \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen**

## SENDING

## \* BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

\*HYMN #324      IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Postlude in D Minor*

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

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## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Prayer Request books can be found at each entryway. Requests written in the Prayer books will be included in today's prayers; someone is added to the Prayer List by a note to Pastor or the church office, and will run for **four consecutive Sundays**. Requests may be renewed.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** are offered for all those celebrating birthdays this week including Mark Laubscher (March 15) and Luke Laubscher (March 16).

**CARE AND HEALING:** Heather Bakios, Stephen Bakios, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Rosanna Dumbus, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Phil Evensen, Jill Ferenc, Michael Guhl, April Gurciullo, Rita Hausdorff, Jack Koch, Mark Kramm, Riley Johansen, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Pam Lowell, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Jan and Harv Weitzel, and Jen Wolfe.

**MISSION PARTNERS:** in the Gulf States, Martin Luther Church, (ELCA) Mobile, Alabama, and our NEW ENGLAND SYNOD PARTNERS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palestine and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran church in Honduras

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We recently announced a new way to sign up for worship assistant assignments. Go to the weekly newsletter under Worship Assistants – We Need Your Help and sign up. If you need some instruction for some of the roles, please reach out to the office and we will make sure it happens. Thank you.

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter	Paul Laubscher
Assisting Minister	Roger Heine
Reader	Esme Laubscher
Altar Guild	Nancy Reichart
Cookies & Conversations	Melba Grieshaber
Counters	Melba Grieshaber, Roger Heine
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

Greeter	Diana VanDam
Assisting Minister	Ken D'Arinzo
Reader	Diana VanDam
Altar Guild	Agneta Aspinwall
Cookies & Conversations	
Counters	Ken D'Arinzo, Ingrid Hollinger
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

### Indoor Worship Protocol

We are still careful of one another's health in the post Covid time and encourage you to keep following safe protocols.

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Pastor Mark Grorud, Interim Pastor  
Church Office (203) 966-3913  
Nancy Rowe, Admin (203) 966-3913  
Alla Borzova, Director of Music

[mgrorud@gmail.com](mailto:mgrorud@gmail.com)  
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[saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com)  
[music@StMichaelsLutheran.org](mailto:music@StMichaelsLutheran.org)

Ken D'Arinzo, Council President  
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

[president@StMichaelsLutheran.org](mailto:president@StMichaelsLutheran.org)

## ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY NEWS

**March 9 - March 15**

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### **ONLINE? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING...**

Please use **#stmichaelsnewcanaan** as your hashtag on social media during the week. **"Like"** our Facebook Page: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT.

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**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Please use the offering envelopes in the pew rack if you make a cash donation, and write your name on the front of the envelope. This allows us to ensure we are keeping track of members' cash contributions placed in the offering plate without their numbered envelope.

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**COMMUNION CARDS:** To remain on the active member voting list you must submit at least one communion card per year and one financial contribution per year. If you have not filled out a communion card yet this year, please do so soon. They are located in the pew card holder and you can just drop it in the offering plate on your way up to communion.

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### **DEADLINE FOR WEDNESDAY'S CONSTANT CONTACT EMAIL**

The deadline for submissions for the weekly constant contact email is Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Any submissions received after the deadline will appear in the following week's CC email.

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**23 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

## **This Week: March 15 - March 22**

### **Sunday, March 15**

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation

### **Wednesday, March 18**

4:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

### **Next Sunday, March 22**

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**For pastoral services**, Pastor Grorud can be reached at (402) 620-8032 or via his **new** email address **mgorud@gmail.com**. He is in the church office Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

**Need access to the church?** Please plan on coming during office hours: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

### **New Canaan Historical Society:**

Normal hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.



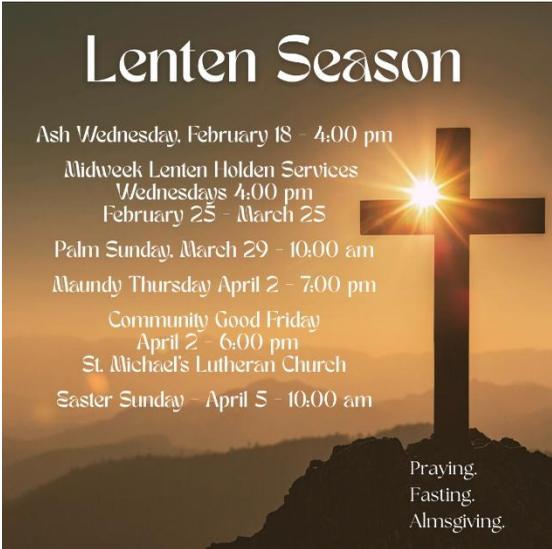
Join Us For  
Holden Evening Prayer

*A Service By Marty Hlaugen*

Wednesdays 4:00 - 4:30 pm  
Through March 25

St. Michael's Luthern Church  
5 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan

Service of Meditation &  
Contemplation for your  
Lenten Journey



# Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday, February 18 - 4:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Holden Services

Wednesdays 4:00 pm  
February 25 - March 25

Palm Sunday, March 29 - 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday April 2 - 7:00 pm

Community Good Friday  
April 2 - 6:00 pm

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday - April 5 - 10:00 am

Praying.  
Fasting.  
Almsgiving.