

LENT (AND PASCHA – EASTER too!) AT MT. CALVARY

And so our journey to the cross AND the empty tomb (they must go together as the singular work by which we are redeemed – we need both) begins again.

The origins of our Lent (in the Western churches, as opposed to the Eastern Orthodox churches) go back at least to the 4th century AD; before that, the evidence is hard to evaluate. The forty days of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday and “officially” ends at Maundy Thursday, since Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are considered the “Triduum”) has an obvious connection to Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness when He was tempted by the devil. Since He did not eat during that time, one of the early “disciplines” of Lent was fasting. This could be more, or less, rigorous depending on where you found yourself in Christendom. In some places people eliminated all dairy and meat from their diets for the whole season, while in other places the “fast” only took place a few times during the week. Fasting was considered a spiritual discipline that helped with keeping the body under control, and which reminded the person fasting to have proper sorrow for her or his sin. Other customs that emerged during the season included making special efforts to give charitable gifts to the poor and destitute, and engaging in extra prayers or devotions. All of this was aimed at preparing one for the joyful celebration of Christ’s triumph over sin and death on Easter Sunday.

The curious thing, however, is that Sundays are not included in counting the days of Lent. And if you go with the tradition of letting the Triduum be its own “little” season, then you only get 38 days to Lent – hence it’s “forty-ish” rather than a strict forty.

But enough of trivia. We keep the season of Lent as a way to prepare for Easter. And we do that by focusing on what Jesus did to redeem us. You have the opportunity to join us for special services to aid your devotion during the season, and I recommend that you try to add fasting and charitable giving to your disciplines as well.

The theme for this year’s mid-week services will still keep Christ at the center all things, but will explore the outline of our faith by “visiting” key mountains in the history of our salvation. As we do so, we will learn again that our sin is a real burden that crushes us under its weight, and we will rejoice to see what a mighty Redeemer God has given us in our Lord Jesus. It is our prayer that you will find this an enriching part of your preparations for the joyous celebration of Pascha/Easter. Below, we have a schedule of all our worship services during the season, from Ash Wednesday through Pascha/Easter. Please make it your discipline in this season to join us!

Note: to encourage attendance at the mid-week Vespers services, we have moved the time to 6:00pm



Ash Wednesday: February 18, AD 2026

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion offered at 11:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Because of the solemn character of this day, there will be no meals offered with the services.

Thursday, Quinquagesima (*the week of the "50th day" before Easter*): March 6, AD 2024

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m

1st Sunday in Lent: February 22, AD 2026

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

Concordia Sunday! Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Strings at the 9:00am service

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 1st Week of Lent: February 25, AD 2026

"Mt. Ararat: Sin & Judgment"

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)

Vespers - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 1st Week of Lent: February 26, AD 2026

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m

2nd Sunday in Lent: March 1, AD, 2026

Sung Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 2nd Week of Lent: March 4, AD 2026

"Mt. Sinai: The Law & The Promise"

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)

Vespers - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2nd Week of Lent: March 5, AD 2026

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent: March 8, AD 2026

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 3rd Week of Lent: March 11, AD 2026

“The Mount of the Transfiguration: Jesus Our Savior”

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)

Vespers - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 3rd Week of Lent: March 12, AD 2026

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

4th Sunday in Lent: March 15, AD 2026

Sung Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 4th Week of Lent: March 18, AD 2026

“Mt. Calvary: Christ’s Sacrifice”

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)

Vespers - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 4th Week of Lent: March 19, AD 2026

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

5th Sunday in Lent: March 22, AD 2026

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 5th Week of Lent: March 25, AD 2026

“Mt. Olivet: The Promise Fulfilled”

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m. (light lunch to follow)

Vespers - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5th Week of Lent: March 26, AD 2026

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 29, AD 2026

Procession & Blessing of the Palms (all services),

Reading the of Passion according to St. Matthew (9:00 a.m.)

Sung Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.; Spoken Divine Service, 11:45 a.m.



The Triduum: The celebrations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter were the first regular festival in the Church's calendar - dating back as far as around 150 AD. In fact, together, they were seen as one great "service" of worship - with the congregation simply dispersing between the various parts of the liturgy, but never really ceasing the receiving of God's gifts in Christ or their worship - hence the ancient name for these services is *the Triduum*, "the Three Days." We earnestly entreat you to join us for the "Three Days" at Mt. Calvary as we again celebrate Christ's great work by which our redemption is accomplished.

Maundy Thursday: April 2, AD 2026

Divine Service - 11:15 a.m.

Divine Service & the Stripping of the Altar - 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: April 3, AD 2026

Noon Prayer & Commemoration of the Cross - 12:00 p.m.

Tenebrae - 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday: April 4, AD 2026

The Great Vigil of Pascha/Easter - **8:00 p.m.**

The Vigil begins with the "Service of Light" which features the kindling of the "new fire" (Jesus' resurrection), lighting of the Paschal candle, procession into the church by candlelight, and the intoning of the Exsultet. Then we move into the reading of salvation history from the Old Testament. Then comes Holy Baptism (or any confirmations or renewal of Baptismal vows that are desired). Then we move into the first Communion service of the Paschal/Easter season. It is a service filled with mystery and joy - and we highly recommend that you give it a try!

Pascha/Easter Sunday: April 5, AD 2025

Divine Service with "abbreviated" Service of Light & Easter Proclamation - **9:00 a.m.**

(note: since the Vigil was conducted on Saturday, this is at our "usual" time of Sunday worship - and will be the only service this day)

Congregational Easter Breakfast to follow.



Preparing for Easter