



The Olive Branch

Loving Christ in Worship, Fellowship, Education and Service

April 2025

THREE DAYS OF AMAZING GRACE

The Three Days, also known as the *Triduum* in Latin, takes place at the climax of Holy Week, and it's actually one worship service in three parts over three days: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday Easter Vigil.

First comes Triduum Part I (Maundy Thursday), and the word "Maundy" means mandate or commandment, referring to the Love Commandment of Jesus Christ our Lord. Consequently, Maundy Thursday centers on Jesus' command for us to love one another as he loves us. It is also the night we commemorate the instituting of the Lord's Supper. Then, at the end of this first part of the Triduum, the lights are dimmed and the altar is stripped bare while Psalm 22 is read, foreshadowing the commemoration of the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday.

Second comes Triduum Part II (Good Friday), and this day is the second part of the liturgy of The Three Days, extending from Maundy Thursday through Saturday Easter Vigil (Easter Eve). As the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world gathers to remember the suffering and death of Jesus on this day, the altar is dressed in black, and we focus on the significance of the sacrificial love that Jesus showed us upon the cross of Calvary. In this way, Good Friday brings us to the foot of the cross, where Jesus bore our sins and died in our place. Here we stand before the cross, beholding the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world [see John 1:29].

Third comes Triduum Part III (Saturday Easter Vigil), and this is the night when Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from darkness to light, from death to life. The Easter Vigil service is the other candlelight service of the Church calendar. This special service includes powerful signs: a "new fire" burning in a fire pit outside the church, the Christ Candle lit from the new fire, our handheld candles lit from the Christ Candle, the Word of our Baptismal Covenant declared, and the very first Eucharistic Meal of Eastertime received. As the altar is changed from the darkness of Good Friday to the white and gold of

heavenly light, we are the first to exclaim, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

For Lutherans, the Triduum is the very heart of the Christian year. Far from a mere historical remembrance, the Triduum invites us to encounter the Living Christ, and through faith, we are united in the awe and wonder of his victory. Maundy Thursday calls us to love and serve as Christ did, and to be strengthened and kept in true faith by his body broken and blood shed for us, received in bread and wine. Good Friday anchors us in the cross as the source of our atonement and reconciliation with God. And Saturday Easter Vigil proclaims the new light and life we possess, showered upon us in our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, which changes everything for us.

Again, Maundy Thursday calls you to love and to receive grace. Good Friday anchors you in Christ's atoning sacrifice and forgiveness, even when your life seems to be falling apart. Saturday Easter Vigil steadies you to wait on God's timing to bring light anew and life everlasting. So the Triduum isn't just three holy days — it's a way of life. We live as those who are set free. When guilt creeps in, remind yourself that your sins died with Jesus on the cross and stayed behind in the tomb when he rose again. When fear of death looms, cling to the promise of your own resurrection made possible by his. And always celebrate small victories, like a kind word or a mended relationship, as echoes of the big victory of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ our Savior.

Blessed Triduum & Happy Easter!!!
Pastor Tim



Pam's Pearls of Prayer

Scripture of the Month: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

"For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

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Thought for the Month

Through Adam, sin came into the world. With sin, came death, disease, and all manner of evils. Sin greatly marred the wonderful world that God created. But Jesus will undo the effects of sin! Through Jesus, we have forgiveness from all our sins. We have everlasting life and will someday have new bodies that don't suffer disease. When He returns, He will rid the world of every evil caused by sin. Adam brought death but Jesus Christ brings life!

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Prayer for the Month

Father God, we thank You for sending us Jesus. He suffered on the cross to atone for our sins. But on the third day, He arose and took His place at Your right hand in heaven so that, despite our sins, we would be able to join You there. In His name we pray, amen.

Mt. Olive Preschool Update

Happy Spring!

What a fun month we have had at Mt. Olive Preschool! We started our month with Community helpers week, this is the week we learned about all the jobs that help people in our neighborhood. Our favorite parts were when the firefighter and an ambulance driver came to visit. We got to try on the fireman's turnouts and got to climb inside an ambulance and ride on their gurney! It was a very memorable week. The following week we learned about St. Patrick's day, made shamrocks and leprechauns and pots of gold! Then on St. Patrick's day we used our leprechaun lookers to find the pot of gold treats the leprechaun left for us! We followed that week up with our what do I want to be when I grow up week. We had visits from a sound designer, a barber, an Architect, an Occupational Therapist, and a Physical Therapist. We learned about so many jobs and all the fun things that they do! We ended our month with Spring Break and caught up on some much needed rest with our families!

We can't wait to see what our new month has in store for us!

Blessings

Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Amanda, Mrs. Robyn, Ms. Hannah, and Mrs Emily

Community Luncheons



The db Duo

Our March community luncheon was another success. The food, as usual, was excellent, as was the entertainment provided by the "db Duo". We look forward to seeing you this month on April 9th. Come and join us! Invite your friends!

Christian Quotes about Easter

God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I Love You"

-Billy Graham

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Earth's saddest day and gladdest day were only three days apart!

- Susan Coolidge

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Here is the amazing thing about Easter; the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible.

-T.D. Jakes

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Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

- Pope John Paul II

**FROM: MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT HOLD

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

2 – Key Kurtz	26 – Matthew Kubela
4 – Rita Kubela	27 – Pam Holden
6 – Oliver Puttler	27 – Wilfried Geck
9 – Evan Plummer	29 – Larry Vogelsang
16 – Nicholas Singleton	

ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

8 – Cheryl & Andy Turner	No. 19
14 – Jim & Yuki Tagawa	No. 47

SOME MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR APRIL

8 – Church Council	7:00 pm
9 – Community Luncheon	12:00 pm
12 – Breakfast Bible Study at Panera	8:30 am
12 – Making the palm crosses	10:00 am
13 – Palm Sunday Service	9:30 am
14 – Threads of Hope	9:00 am
17 – Maundy Thursday Service	7:30 pm
18 – Good Friday Service	7:30 pm
19 – Easter Vigil Candlelight Service	7:30 pm
20 – Easter Sunday Service	9:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Breakfast	10:45 am

Silent Auction & Luncheon

Save the Date: May 31, 2025

It's time for spring cleaning! Our Silent Auction and Luncheon is our way of giving back to the community by donating our gently used items for the auction. All of the proceeds go to a local charity. Please bring your donation to the church. Just a reminder, we don't take clothing.



An Easter Message

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem
With palm branches paving His way,
The crowd cheered, "Behold, Jesus, King of the Jews".
It was a joyful and glorious day.

When Jesus broke bread with His brothers,
He spoke of betrayal, unkind.
But the disciples cried, "Lord, You are the King of the
Jews".
It was a confusing, ambivalent time.

When Jesus prayed alone in Gethsemane,
The Pharisees came ready to fight.
They roared, "They say You are King of the Jews".
It was a lonely and treacherous night.

When Jesus was hanging on Golgotha,
On the cross that He dragged on the way,
They spat at Him, mocking the King of the Jews.
It was a sinful and frightening day.

When Jesus arose from the death tomb,
And appeared to His followers that day,
They rejoiced shouting highest Hosannas!
LORD JESUS HAS RISEN TODAY!



P. Holden