

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 17, 2010**

**A CORDIAL WELCOME** to all who are visiting with us today! Peace Lutheran Church offers a variety of program and service opportunities for children, teens, parents, and adults of all ages. Please sign our guest book and get acquainted. We're glad you are here!

**COMMUNION** in our congregation is open to all baptized Christians. Lutherans believe and trust that in this sacrament Christ is truly present to heal our brokenness and empower our lives. Bread is received in the open palm. You may commune by drinking from the cup, from individual glasses, or by intinction. If you are unable to come to the altar, please inform an usher and the Pastor will come to you.

**CHILDREN** are especially welcome at our services of worship. A nursery is provided for children, either for the entire service or during those times when they become tired and fussy. Rest room facilities are located near the fellowship hall; feel free to ask an usher for directions. Small children leaving the sanctuary during the service should be accompanied by an adult.

**CHURCH STAFF**

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Join us for Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:45 am every Sunday,  
and Sunday School and Confirmation at 9:30 am

*Our Mission: To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known  
... Catch His Spirit!*

## INTRODUCTION

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

## 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.**

## PSALM: Psalm 51

*The Psalm begins with the choir singing the refrain through once and the congregation joining to sing the refrain a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. The verses are sung by the choir with the congregation joining on the refrain as indicated.*



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin. **Refrain**

For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within. **Refrain**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice. **Refrain**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me. **Refrain**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. **Refrain**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. **Refrain**

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **Refrain**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy  
mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land  
tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is  
near —

<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the  
mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with  
mourning;

<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your  
clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in  
steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn  
and relent,

and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the  
LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O  
LORD,

and do not make your heritage a  
mockery,

a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the  
peoples,

'Where is their God?'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

### Chapter 5

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he  
made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.

## Chapter 6

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**            *Restore in Us, O God (ELW 328)*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## **CONFESSION**

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, **we confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Please stand as you are able*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to a life of repentance, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful Father, we ask that you forgive our sin, heal our broken hearts and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we ask that you help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to our care. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we pray for our friends and neighbors in need, especially those we name aloud and in our hearts. Grace them with your presence and give them your peace. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, sanctify our homes and keep our children in the covenant of their baptism. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we give you thanks for the ministry of the saints. Keep us in fellowship with all of the faithful and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us Father, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee (K. Lee Scott)*

*Adult Choir*

## PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*Please take a moment to sign the red Friendship Pad and pass it to your brothers and sisters sharing the pew with you.*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

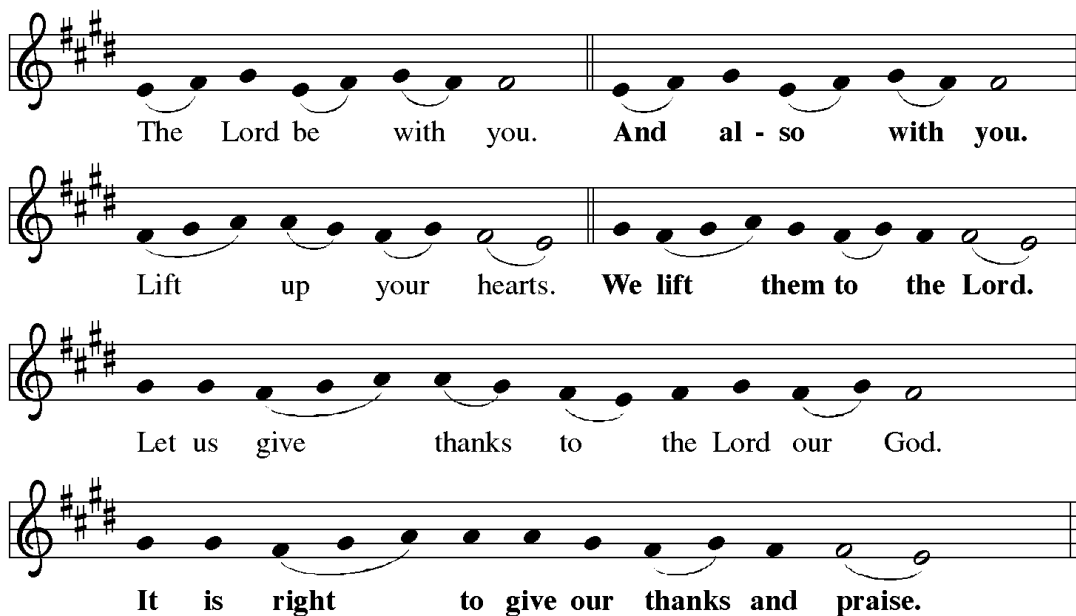
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## DIALOGUE

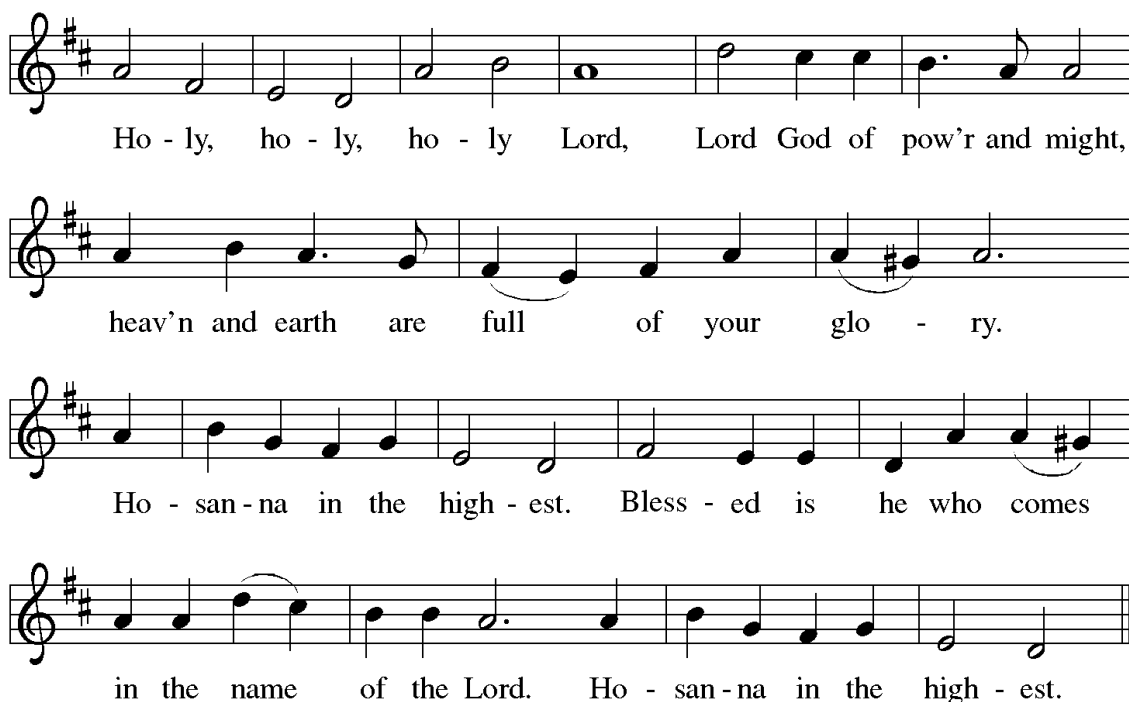


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **COMMUNION SONG**



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, grant us peace.

### **COMMUNION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:** *Just as I am, Without One Plea* (ELW 592)  
*Lord Jesus, Think on Me* (ELW 599)

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:**                    *Abide With Me* (ELW 629)

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the Gospel.

**Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen.**

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## MIDWEEK LENTEN EVENING PRAYER AND SUPPER

**6:00-7:00pm Supper**

**7:00pm Evening Prayer**

The theme for Evening Prayer will be **“Confessing is Good for the Soul: Selected Themes from Luther’s Small Catechism”**

The selected readings and themes are:

<b>February 24</b>	“The Ten Commandments”	<b>Exodus 20:1-17 &amp; Small Catechism “Ten Commandments”</b>
<b>March 3</b>	“Apostles Creed!”	<b>1 Corinthians 15:1-11 &amp; Small Catechism “Apostles Creed”</b>
<b>March 10</b>	“The Lord’s Prayer”	<b>Matthew 6:1-15 &amp; Small Catechism “The Lord’s Prayer”</b>
<b>March 17</b>	“Holy Baptism”	<b>Mathew 3:13-17 &amp; Small Catechism “The Sacrament of Holy Baptism”</b>
<b>March 24</b>	“The Sacrament of the Altar”	<b>1 Corinthians 11:22-27 &amp; Small Catechism “The Sacrament of the Altar”</b>

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 28</b>	Palm Sunday – Worship and Sunday School
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 29</b>	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross: Stations 1-5
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 30</b>	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross: Stations 6-9
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 31</b>	7:00 pm Stations of the Cross: Stations 10-14
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 1</b>	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 2</b>	7:00 pm Good Friday
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 3</b>	7:00 pm The Vigil of Easter
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 4</b>	7:00 am and 10:45 am Easter Day Liturgy 8:30 am Easter Pancake Breakfast followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Puppets