
THE MESSENGER

Holy Week 2020

The newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

COVID-19 RELATED UPDATES

Visit www.christmerrill.com/covid19 for the most up-to-date information.

Pastor Behm will post a **sermonette Palm Sunday (9:00 am), Maundy Thursday (6:30 pm), Good Friday (6:30 pm), and Easter Sunday (7:00 am)** to the church's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).

From **11 am to 1 pm each Sunday**, people may **drive up** to the church to deliver their offerings and to pick up paper copies of the sermonette, Adult Bible Study guide, and *The Messenger*. Offerings may also be mailed to Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, 1204 N. Sales St., Merrill 54452.

If you would like to have a paper copy of *The Messenger* mailed to you, please include your name and address and email Messenger@ChristMerrill.com or call or text 715-921-5132.

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This Sunday evening, Palm Sunday, WELS President Mark Schroeder will deliver a brief message to the members of our synod in an online video broadcast. The message will be broadcast live at 6:00 p.m. Central.

<https://vimeo.com/402639801>

If you are not able to view the video when it is broadcast live, it will be archived on the WELS' Vimeo account, accessible by the same link above.



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March through Holy Week (Part Two)

In last month's Messenger I wrote a devotion for marching through Holy Week focusing on the bigger days of that week. Since this week is Holy Week I have decided to have us focus on the other days of Holy Week and all that happened.

Monday: Two things happened on this day. Jesus entered into the temple courts and cleared it. He overturned the tables of the money changers and drove them out of the temple. The reason for this was because they had changed God's temple from being a house of prayer and made it into a den of robbers. Also on this day Jesus made a fig tree wither since it had no fruit even though it was in bloom. After the tree withered Jesus used this as a lesson to teach his disciples that when they pray they should not doubt but believe. Let what Jesus did on this day serve as a reminder for us as well. When we come to church it is to be a time of meditation, of prayer, and of listening to God. And as we pray let us not doubt but trust that God listens and answers our prayers.

Tuesday: This day is sometimes called "Busy Tuesday" because of everything that happens. This is the day where the Pharisees and the Sadducees really tested Jesus with their questions. They questioned Jesus about his authority to do things. They asked him if it was right to pay taxes to Caesar. They questioned him about the resurrection and which commandment was the greatest. Jesus answered all of their questions and the people were amazed at this teaching. During the evening of this day Jesus taught about the end of days, and how one day he would return in all of his glory and authority to judge all people.

Wednesday: This day has the nickname "Silent Wednesday" because we are not told of anything Jesus did on this day. What Scripture does tell us is that on this day the religious leaders were looking for some way to arrest Jesus. They found a way to do this because on this day Judas Iscariot went to them to betray Jesus for money.

Saturday: By now Jesus had died on the cross and was quickly buried in a tomb. You might think that the religious leaders would have been done dealing with Jesus since he was dead, but they approached Pontius Pilate and said, "We remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'" They wanted permission from Pilate to have guards posted at the tomb so that the disciples wouldn't steal Jesus body and deceive the people that Jesus was alive. Pilate agreed to this, and the tomb was made as secure as possible by putting a seal on the tomb and had guards stationed at the tomb.

Easter Sunday: Even though the religious leaders tried their best to stop the disciples from stealing Jesus' body, they didn't expect Jesus to rise from the dead. But that's exactly what happened. The angels rolled away the stone from the tomb, not to allow Jesus to exit out of the tomb but to allow others to see that Jesus was no longer dead but alive. But Jesus' resurrection is important not just by showing us that Jesus is alive, but since Jesus rose from the dead our sins have been forgiven and he will give us eternal life.

So as we once again march through Holy Week let us grow in our appreciation for what Christ did. Even though during this week he would be betrayed, denied, abandoned, beaten, and killed, Jesus still entered into Jerusalem to endure all of this in order to save us, to make us triumphant over sin, death, and the devil, and to bring us to our eternal home.

- Pastor Neal Behm

If you or a loved one is need of some assistance during this time, please contact Pastor or a member of council. Whether it's a trip to the grocery store, the pharmacy, home/personal essentials, or just a check-in call we would love to help. Also feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

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LIVESTREAM WORSHIP SERVICES: View the WELS Yearbook for a list of congregations that offer their worship services via livestream at <https://yearbook.wels.net/streaming>.

CONNECTING WELS MEMBERS: The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways to connect members through social media. Join the WELS online community at one of the following:
facebook.com/welslutherans
twitter.com/welstweets
vimeo.com/wels
instagram.com/welslutherans

WELS DEVOTIONS: WELS offers many free devotional options, including a daily devotion, that can be e-mailed directly to you at <https://wels.net/subscribe> or through the WELS App (<https://wels.app>).

FREE HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS made available by [Martin Luther College](https://www.martinluthercollege.edu) "Christ in the Tabernacle" consists of eight devotions for Palm Sunday through Easter, each explaining a component of the tabernacle and how Christ fulfilled all that was foreshadowed there. Go to mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions to access MLC devotions in multiple ways: download or read them online, request that we send them to your personal email on a daily basis (April 5-12) or listen to podcasts read by the authors.



INTERIM ADULT BIBLE CLASS:

Topic is "Reviewing the Basics of Luther's Small Catechism."

The same lesson will be offered three times per week.

Sundays at 10:00 am; Tuesdays at 2:00 pm; and

Thursdays at 6:00 pm.



There are two different ways to join the live study:

- 1) Call **1-408-418-9388** and enter the meeting number (access code listed below).
- 2) Go to <https://globalpage-prod.webex.com/join>. Enter in the meeting number (access code) and meeting password (case sensitive) to join the class of your choice.

Sunday number (access code): **623 780 608**

Sunday password (case sensitive): **hPfp4QVhj56**

Tuesday number (access code): **627 643 694**

Tuesday password (case sensitive): **PTcEKmm2W43**

Thursday number (access code): **622 745 434**

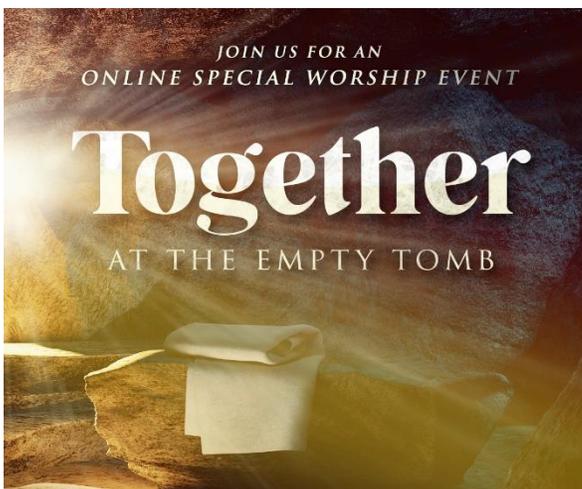
Thursday password (case sensitive): **EqtAPpJA296**

A [study guide](#) is available. If you would like to have a paper copy of the study guide mailed to you, please include your name and address and email ChristMerrillEducation@gmail.com or call or text 715-921-5132.

Each week's class will be recorded and posted to the church's [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#) so they can be viewed at any time.

The study will be conducted through an online service called Webex. A tutorial is available at <https://help.webex.com/en-us/n62wi3c/Get-Started-with-Cisco-Webex-Meetings-for-Attendees> on how to participate. For technical assistance, call Ken C. at 715-218-5393 or Scott S. at 715-539-0250.

Mark your calendars and let's gather together from all over the world this **Easter Sunday at 6:00 pm.**



Join us online for a synodwide Easter Sunday evening of worship. Gather "Together at the Empty Tomb" as an entire synod and a family of believers, from across the country and around the world, not only to celebrate our Savior's Easter victory but also to express our unity of faith and mission as members of the Wisconsin Synod.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Earle Treptow will deliver the Easter message and WELS President Mark Schroeder will deliver the liturgy. A small choir, along with a few instruments, will enhance the worship with music and songs of praise. Immediately following the service Pastor Jon Hein, director of WELS Congregational Services, and President Treptow will host a live Q&A session.

Livestream: <https://livestream.com/wslive/togetherattheemptytomb>