

HAVEN'S HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 ~ PRAYER VIGIL 7 am – 7 pm

Set aside an hour with the Lord.

A prayer vigil is an intentional and watchful time set apart for the purpose of prayer. We at Haven are setting apart 12 hours during Holy Week for individuals or groups to sit with our Lord. During that time, you are invited to pray for those concerns and persons for which members of our congregation have requested prayer. Those prayer requests will be available on cards in the church. You can take a few, lift them up in prayer in whatever way you wish, and then return them to a second basket. You can continue taking prayer request cards, praying and re-turning for new requests as often as you wish during your time.



You may also choose during your vigil time to simply sit in the quiet to listen to the Lord or read and meditate on Bible passages or hymns. You may pray while sitting, kneeling or walking around the sanctuary. Whatever you find meaningful is good.

During the vigil, we will have printed instructions for praying with the Prayer Request cards. We will provide a prayer to use at the beginning and end of your vigil time. We will also provide Bible verses and hymns for use as devotions or for meditation. You may bring your own material for your time with the Lord.

Our GOAL is to have SOMEONE in Haven's sanctuary during EACH HOUR of the vigil. We will post a schedule for the vigil hours and ask you to sign up to be in the church for a half hour or one hour. You may sign up alone or with a friend, family or group.

If you've never participated in a vigil, you will find the time goes much more quickly than you imagined. You will find it incredibly meaningful to know you are supporting others with prayer for the concern of their hearts. Let us set aside time to rest in the Lord this Wednesday of Lent and fill Haven's sanctuary with our prayers to the Lord who promises to hear and care.



THURSDAY, APRIL 14 ~ MAUNDY THURSDAY

12:00 noon Worship with Holy Communion

(A light lunch provided.)

5:30 - 7:30 pm "Agape" Meal and Worship

The Agape ("Love") Feast dates to apostolic times when Christians gather to "feast" on God's Word, a simple meal, fellowship and the Holy Eucharist. Following in this ancient tradition, our **evening Maundy Thursday worship** will be an Agape Meal and Service (in the parlor) that will conclude with the stripping of the altar (church sanctuary) in preparation for Good Friday. We'll begin by gathering at tables in the parlor, praying and listening to God's Word together before we share a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese and fruit. After eating, we will continue our worship by sharing the Lord's Supper with bread and wine at each table. We'll conclude with a procession across the narthex to the darkened church sanctuary to watch the altar and sanctuary being stripped in preparation for Good Friday as Psalm 22 is chanted.

Our Worship Team hopes this Maundy Thursday "Agape" Meal and Worship will be a meaningful way to mark this day of Holy Week.

So, we can have enough tables and food prepared, we ask that you sign up to attend on the attendance form in the Sunday bulletin or by calling the church office **no later than April 10**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Alessandri.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 ~ GOOD FRIDAY **12 noon Service of the Word Commemorating the** **Passion of our Lord** **7:00 pm Tenebrae Service**



The Tenebrae Service is a traditional Good Friday service of Light and Word commemorating the Passion and Death of our Lord. As we move through the events leading to the crucifixion, we extinguish candles, letting the darkness of the betrayal, abuse and abandonment Jesus experienced surround us. Be ready to be moved. Be ready to leave marveling at the depth of the Lord's love for us. Be ready to walk into Easter with deeper appreciation.



SATURDAY, APRIL 16 ~ HOLY SATURDAY **Trinity Lutheran Church and Haven Lutheran Church to** **sponsor**

A NEW HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

An Easter Vigil, April 16 8:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church (Hagerstown)

We all love Christmas Eve. While most of us have given up on having worship beginning at 11pm, that service is actually the vigil of Christmas. Vigil means to "keep watch and pray as we wait for something to happen." In this case we are waiting for the dawn of Christmas Day when we welcome the Baby Jesus into our midst.

Traditionally, one of the most important services in the life of the Church is the vigil of Easter. It, too, is to begin at 11pm so the liturgy takes us past midnight when we celebrate the first Eucharist of the resurrection of our Lord. Unfortunately, in our tradition, the Easter Vigil does not receive the attention it deserves!

Trinity and Haven Lutheran will celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday beginning at 8pm. We gather outside the doors to Trinity's Memorial Hall (far right side of the front of the building). There we kindle a "new fire" and with it, light the Pascal Candle which then represents the presence of Jesus amongst us. We place the date on the candle. We remember that Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the first and last of all things. We bless the candle with incense. We light individual candles from the Pascal Candle and process into Memorial Hall. The doors to All Saints' Chapel are closed. The celebrant bangs on the doors three time while saying, "O tomb, open now your doors." We enter the darkened chapel.

Then follows the *Exsultet*. This powerful, chanted blessing includes references to God leading God's people out of bondage in Egypt into the freedom of the Promised Land. The Passover figures prominently in this narrative. A favorite line in the *Exsultet* thanks the "worker bees who gave us the wax to make the candle." The candle must be at least 50% real wax. At one-point candles in the worship space are lit. With the conclusion of the *Exsultet* we extinguish our individual candles, and the chapel is partially illuminated.



APRIL 17 ~ EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Fellowship Time

11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

(Babies to Grade 5)



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