



Woodlawn Ev. Lutheran Church

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Pastor Thomas W. Kneser * Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Friday, April 3, 2020

Members and friends of Woodlawn,

We just finished recording the service for Palm Sunday when crowds of people gathered along the road from Bethphage to Jerusalem and hailed Jesus as the promised Messiah, calling on him to bring deliverance. For us as Christians it marks the beginning of Holy Week when we crowd our churches to celebrate the Lord's Supper, to view and reflect on our Savior's suffering and death, and then to rejoice in his triumphant victory over sin, death, Satan and hell. Alas! Because of the corona virus we will not be joining together as a congregation. But all of us are to gather around the Word, to confess our sins, to rejoice in the completed work of our redemption and in the certainty of our resurrection from the grave.

We are providing several different tools to help you worship "in church" this week from the comfort of your living room. We urge you to take advantage of all of them:

- 1) Our **Palm Sunday** service will be posted on our webpage sometime Saturday evening. The worship guide will also be available there, as well as attached to this update.
- 2) The **Good Friday** service will be live-streamed at approx. 1:00pm on Friday, April 10. Immediately after the service it will be posted on our webpage.
- 3) **Easter Sunday's** service will be recorded and posted to the webpage sometime Saturday evening, April 11.
- 4) There will not be a service on Maundy Thursday, nor a Tenebrae service on Saturday.

Additional resources for you to take advantage of:

- 1) From our Wisconsin Synod President, Mark Schroeder: *This Sunday evening, Palm Sunday, I will be delivering 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). I invite you to access that message at <https://vimeo.com/402639801> I look forward to speaking with you. If you are not able to view the video when it is broadcast live, it will be archived online. In addition, WELS will be offering an opportunity for our entire synod to gather online for a special Easter Sunday evening service to be broadcast from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at 6 p.m. (central). You can watch it at <https://livestream.com/wslive/togetherattheemptytomb> The theme of the service will be, "Together at the Empty Tomb."*
- 2) From Martin Luther College: *Please enjoy our new daily devotion book for Holy Week: "Christ in the Tabernacle." Go to <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/> to read it online, to listen to the devotion podcasts, or to sign up for daily devotion emails. (These are similar to the devotions which we used during this past Advent season.)*
- 3) From our Northwestern Publishing House: To download free issues of the March and April *Forward in Christ* go to <https://online.nph.net/fic-free-issue-form>

Again, thanks to all the members who have continued to give their **offerings** for the support of our ministry. We've been receiving about 80% of what is needed to cover all the expenses, so keep sending them in. Just press the green "Donate Now" button on the church webpage <woodlawnlutheran.org>. You can also mail your offerings to the church or drop them off between 9:00 and 4:00 weekdays.

Keep praying for the our congregation, our school, and our country, including our first responders and health care workers.

Blessings to all of you!

Pastor Kneser and Pastor Wessel