

Risking Everything

Lent 2020

In every good story, there is history and there is risk; and the stories of Holy Week, also called Passion Week, are brimming with both history and risk.

Amy-Jill Levine, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*

What does it mean to risk everything? This Lenten season, we will reflect on the ways that Jesus risked everything to love and save the world and consider what risking everything for our faith looks like for us today. We will deepen our worship life by coming together on Wednesdays as well as Sundays (beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26). Wednesdays will give us the opportunity to delve into the story of Jesus' Passion from biblical, historical and theological perspectives inspired by the book quoted above.

Wednesdays in Lent

- 6:00 pm Simple Supper (soup and bread) in Fellowship Hall (starting March 4)
- 6:00 pm **NEW** Book discussion group in the Adult Ed room (starting March 4)
- 7:00 pm Worship
 - February 26 - Ash Wednesday (Service of Holy Communion w/ashes)
 - March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 - Holden Evening Prayer

Simple Suppers are just that – a simple meal of soup and bread! Bring a pot of soup or a loaf of bread to share if you can but definitely bring yourself (and your family!) to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Simple Suppers start the week *after* Ash Wednesday and continue for five weeks (March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1). Soup's on at 6pm. All ages are welcome - booster seats are even available for the wee ones!

NEW this year – a Book Discussion Group! Dig deeper into our Lenten theme by reading the book and sharing conversation facilitated by one of the co-Pastors each week. Grab a bowl of soup and head into the Adult Ed room on Wednesdays at 6:00pm during Lent (March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1) to share discussion on the corresponding chapter of *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. Order the book on your own or contact the church office to reserve a copy. (If you don't read the chapter beforehand, you are still welcome to participate in the conversation!) Contact Pastor Hoffman if you have any questions.

Worship follows Simple Suppers and Book Discussion at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

February 26 (Ash Wednesday): Risking Reputation

Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 pm. *Book discussion starts next week!*

March 4: Risking Righteous Anger

March 25: Risking the Loss of Friends

March 11: Risking Challenge

April 1: Risking Temptation

March 18: Risking Rejection

Sunday Worship

Gathered in worship, fed by the means of grace at the table, we are sent into a world full of risk. Throughout the Sundays of Lent this year, we will consider the risks we encounter as we follow Jesus to the cross. What might it look like for us to risk everything for our faith?

March 1: Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

March 8: Nicodemus

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

March 15: The Woman at the Well

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

March 22: The Man Born Blind

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

March 29: Raising of Lazarus

John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

Adult Education (Sundays at 10am)

Watch the STAR for detailed information about the topics each week! On Palm Sunday (April 5), please join an all ages Education Hour opportunity to engage the Passion narrative through ritual and experience. Watch upcoming STAR editions for more details!

Holy Week/Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5: *Matthew 26:14-27:66* – The passion and death of Jesus

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 am with palm procession

Regular Sunday School classes do not meet; All ages gather at 9:45 am in the Sanctuary to engage the Passion narrative through ritual and experience!

Maundy Thursday, April 9:

Worship with Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 10:

Sanctuary is available for silent meditation beginning at 6:30 pm

Tenebrae Worship at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12: Alleluia, Christ is Risen! *Matthew 28:1-10* - The Resurrection of Our Lord

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11:00 am; No Sunday School or Adult Education

Pancake Breakfast hosted by the LYO at 9:30 am

All donations go toward funding the LYO summer trip to the 2020 Group Work Camp here in Rochester!