

Sumner Center UMC Newsletter

April 2025

A 7-Day Holy Week Devotional

How Jesus Spent His Final Days Before the Cross

Over one fourth of the book of Matthew is devoted to the last week before Jesus' death. All of Scripture builds to this pivotal week, pointing to the moment when Jesus would bear the weight of humanity's sin.

As you prepare for Easter, this 7-day reading plan will guide you through some of the critical moments in Scripture leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.

Monday: Matthew 21:12-19 (Jesus cleanses the temple)

Tuesday: Matthew 21:23-46 (Jesus rebukes the Pharisees)

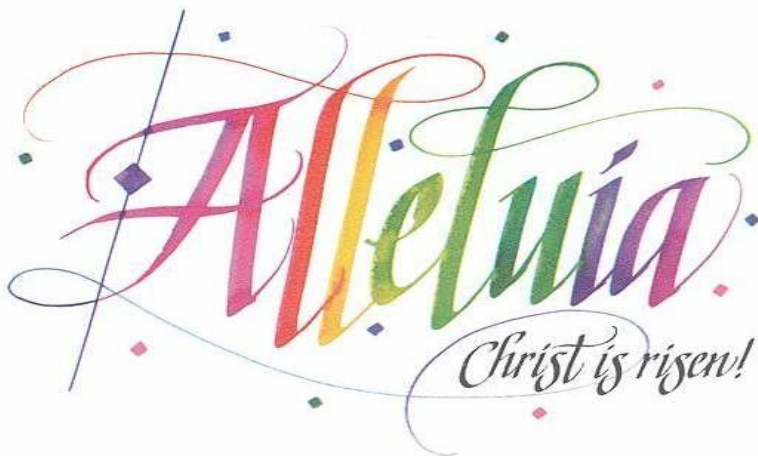
Wednesday: Matthew 24:1-36 (Signs of things to come)

Thursday: Matthew 26:20-75 (The Significance of the Last Supper)

Friday: Matthew 27:1-61 (Jesus' crucifixion)

Saturday: Matthew 27:57-61 (Responding to the Cross)

Sunday: Matthew 28:1-20 (Startling Implications of the Resurrection)



**Sunday Worship:
In Sanctuary at
11:15am**

**&
Sumner Center UMC
Facebook Page**

Visit our Church
Website at:

<http://www.sumnercenter.com>

**Donations may be sent to our mailing
address:**

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Spring Valley, Mn 55975**

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**Grace and Peace in
the name of Jesus
Christ**







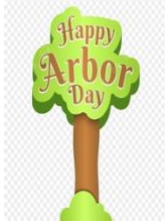

If you have items you
would like to be
published in the
newsletter, please

contact Pastor Bridget by the 3rd Thursday of
the preceding month by emailing your
information or dropping at Church

Calendar of Events

(Subject to change and/or be added to as the need arises)

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 Parish wide Lenten gathering with Soup & the word hosted at Wykoff UMC 6 pm	3	4	5
6 11:15 am Worship 	7	8	9 Parish wide Lenten gathering with Soup & the word hosted at United Church of Grand Meadow - 6 pm	10	11	12
13 11:15 am Worship  	14 Brownsdale UMC Noon Potluck Dinner	15	16	17 	18  Service at Dexter UMC 7 pm	19
20 11:15 am Worship 	21	22 	23	24	25 	26
27 11:15 am Worship 	28	29	30			

April Worship Schedule



April 6, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

We who have been gathered up in Jesus now pour ourselves out for him. We make of ourselves an offering that is pleasing to both God and to those around us. Can we make the world a better place, a more beautiful and sweet-smelling place because we live a life of praise and service? We could examine the impact we have on the world by making it a better place because of how we live in community. We could consider our influence on human community and how we enhance relationships and encourage others because of our fundamental belief in the image of God inherent in every created being. Our life of praise and witness to the glory of God has an effect; it brings a fragrance into all that we do.



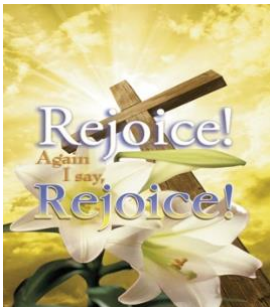
April 13, 2025

Pastor Jon Leading

The story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, tells us that after his celebrated arrival He went into the Temple and looked around at everything. As we gather for worship today may it be with a sense that Jesus has walked in too and is looking around. May our eyes be open to see Him, may our hearts be ready to be seen by Him, may our worship be worthy of His presence, and may we be transformed so that we see the world through His eyes. Amen.



April 18, 2025
Prairieland Parish Service
Hosted by Dexter UMC
7pm



April 20, 2025

Pastor Bridget Leading

EASTER SUNDAY!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Death has been swallowed in victory.

People: The grave has lost its sting.

Leader: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed!

And we are alive in Christ! Glory to God! Alleluia



April 27, 2025

Pastor Bridget Leading

The Christ who gathers us up invites us to live a life of fruitfulness. That's the call hidden in our text for this week. We all want our lives to amount to something. Jesus gives us that sense of purpose and direction. We are called to bear fruit. What does that mean? What is fruitful? What kind of fruit? Who benefits from this fruit? That's part of today's lesson: to learn to understand and experience our own fruitfulness.

April Prairieland Parish Events

BROWNSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Located east of intersection Hwy 56 & Pleasant Street Downtown Brownsdale



Noon Community Lunch

**Monday, April 14th
12 O'clock – Noon**

Come One – Come All!

Bring your friends!

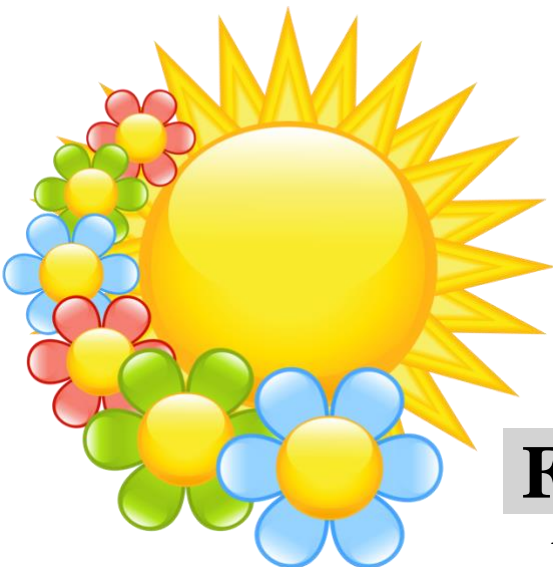
Serving: hot dishes

Salads - Desserts

Beverages

FREE WILL DONATIONS

Any questions you may contact the church at 507-567-2316



What is Easter?

The Easter celebration is a bit of a strange holiday. Is it about bunnies and eggs? Is it Pagan, or Christian, or Jewish? Why does the date move? Below is a history of the Easter season and the days preceding it, known as Holy Week. Easter is a Christian holiday celebrating the day Christians believe that Jesus returned from the dead after being killed.

So why does the date of Easter move? And where did the eggs and bunnies come from? In early Christianity, the Christian church moved the celebration of Easter to coincide with an existing pagan festival on the first full moon after the spring equinox, which is why Easter moves every year. In old pagan customs, eggs were a symbol of new life and rabbits a symbol of fertility. These “Easter eggs” became ways for Christians to talk about the “resurrection” (when Jesus Christ came back to life) they celebrated.

How is Easter connected to the Jewish Passover Celebration? For Jewish people, Passover is a week of celebration that ends with a feast to remember God bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus had building tensions with Jewish leaders during His life, which culminated in His death on the day of Passover. Because many Jews became Christians following Jesus’ death and resurrection, some Jewish traditions became part of the Christian observance of Easter.

So... what is Holy Week? The timing of Jesus’ death is historically significant. Many ancient Jewish prophecies were fulfilled in the days leading up to Jesus’ death, and the week leading up to His death chronicles the climax of long-building tensions between Jesus and Jewish leaders. Known as Holy Week, the week before Easter is a time of remembering the historical events that took place in Jerusalem and set the stage for the birth of Christianity.

What The Bible Says...In many streams of Christianity, Easter is even more important than Christmas. Why? Because it celebrates Jesus’ divinity and the purpose of His coming to the earth. The Easter holiday commemorates Jesus’ resurrection from the dead and His promise of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

The account of Jesus’ resurrection can be found in all four of the Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each book (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20) tells a slightly different account of the story from the authors’ differing perspectives. What’s consistent across all books is that Jesus was previously in the tomb where He was buried after his crucifixion and that His body was mysteriously gone after three days.

In some accounts, Jesus Himself appears; in others, it’s angels that bring the news of His resurrection. But in any case, Jesus’ body has been removed from the tomb without explanation. The Biblical accounts then tell of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and other followers (Acts 1) before finally ascending into Heaven.

For three days following His crucifixion, believers at the time questioned whether Jesus really was the Son of God. By all appearances, it seemed death had defeated Him. But upon His resurrection, He proved that He was not just a human but divine. The apostle Paul summarizes the sequence of events in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 when he says, “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...”

This account is a declaration of what Christians believe: that Jesus Christ came to earth, died for the sins of humanity, and defeated the powers of death through His resurrection. Easter is the yearly celebration of this miracle and the hope for believers of their life in Christ, which includes the forgiveness of all their sins and the promise of their eternal life.



Outstretched Arms

By Kathy Hawkins

*His outstretched arms are lovingly calling
As the tears streaking down cheeks are falling
Hanging upon that cross on the hill
Giving all of himself, even his will
As I kneel in prayer to the Father above
Feeling warmth around me from his heavenly love
The sacrifice of God's son for my sake
Forgiving my sins that I constantly make
A heart so big and a love so deep
Yet I am so unworthy of the joy to reap
To know the love our Father gives so free
All can receive, even a sinner like me
Don't turn away from those outstretched arms on the cross
He welcomes all to come, even the lost
Across the horizon looking to the sky
In the name of Christ, his love I testify*



Easter



K	K	L	R	T	D	E	R	U	N	U	E	G	Y	T	Y	G	G	F	F
C	I	G	V	E	E	E	G	O	W	A	H	V	E	N	O	R	O	I	E
I	N	N	Y	S	S	K	C	G	O	C	I	N	E	O	N	R	A	F	S
H	G	A	T	A	Y	U	S	O	S	S	N	T	D	I	G	U	E	M	T
C	R	R	P	V	F	B	R	A	R	O	T	F	S	I	L	S	B	N	I
P	R	H	E	I	I	M	P	R	B	A	R	E	V	I	I	E	G	E	V
E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	E	I	T	E	R	V	R	U	B	W	A
V	J	Z	S	U	U	T	L	Y	D	C	N	E	A	J	A	H	G	T	L
T	N	E	L	R	R	F	M	A	D	D	T	L	A	R	L	N	C	E	H
N	C	H	U	R	C	H	Y	R	M	O	D	I	D	N	I	H	E	S	C
S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	T	A	O	N	S	O	N	V	S	A	T	S
N	E	W	L	I	F	E	A	E	G	A	S	K	R	N	E	I	S	A	E
N	E	V	A	E	H	N	C	B	P	O	G	O	E	V	V	W	T	M	L
T	G	V	P	H	N	I	J	R	R	C	M	X	Y	Y	S	E	E	E	P
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M	U	O	S	I	S	L	L	J	E	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	T	C
P	G	O	R	U	T	A	X	T	S	U	N	D	A	Y	D	I	E	D	S
T	H	C	S	N	M	P	S	D	A	E	R	B	C	R	O	W	N	U	I
Y	A	O	S	B	S	A	H	O	T	C	R	O	S	S	B	U	N	S	D
S	E	N	H	X	E	S	M	L	A	P	R	F	Y	R	G	U	F	A	X

ALIVE
 BASKET
 BONNET
 CALVARY
 CHRISTIAN
 CROWN
 DIED
 EASTER
 EMPTY
 FORGIVEN
 GUARDS
 HOT CROSS BUNS
 KING
 MARY
 PALMS
 RESURRECTION
 SAVIOUR
 SUNDAY

APOSTLES
 BELIEVE
 BREAD
 CHICK
 CHURCH
 CRUCIFY
 DISCIPLES
 EASTER MORNING
 FESTIVAL
 GOD
 HEAVEN
 JESUS
 LAMB
 NEW LIFE
 PASCH
 ROOSTER
 SLEPT
 THORNS

APRIL
 BETRAY
 BUNNY
 CHOCOLATE
 CROSS
 DECORATE
 DONKEY
 EGGS
 FESTIVAL
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HOSANNA
 JEWISH
 LENT
 NEW TESTAMENT
 PRAYED
 SACRIFICE
 SOLDIERS
 TOMB

