

## **Holy Week 2019 – St. Stephen the Martyr**

The Three Days (Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening) are drawing near. Preparations are being made. Anticipation is growing. Our Easter celebration is near.

We celebrate The Three Days amid the particularities of our lives and world this year, 2019. As the Three Days begin Thursday, slow down your pace. Notice your breath. Maybe spend time in solitude and silence. And come to worship hungry and thirsty to be refreshed by the life-giving grace of these days.

**Maundy Thursday** - Worship at 7 p.m. On this night we hear Jesus' new commandment to love one another. We gather at the Lord's Table to remember the sacrifice of Jesus' life. His love was revealed in the emptying of his life for us. If you are so inclined, you may have your feet washed as we follow Jesus example of servanthood. As the liturgy ends, the sanctuary is stripped of its furnishings, recalling that Jesus was abandoned by his followers.

**Good Friday** - The liturgy of the Three Days continues Friday. An ecumenical cross walk will begin at St. Thomas of Canterbury in the Village at 12 p.m. We will carry an old wooden cross and stop and pray along the way as we journey to St. Alphonsus for worship at 1 p.m.

We will gather in the evening at 7 p.m. at SSM, where we hear the Passion according to John. John proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. On this solemn day we use the ancient Bidding Prayer, offering petitions for the whole world for which Christ died.

**Easter Vigil**- Worship at 5 p.m. At the Vigil on Saturday we gather to celebrate Christ's Passover from death to life. A new fire will be kindled in front of the church, representing the new creation we share in Christ. We will hear stories of faith, and Hailey Mae will begin her baptismal journey through the waters.

**Easter Morning**- Worship at 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. We gather and rejoice together celebrating Christ's victory over death shouting out, Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Easter breakfast will be served at 8 a.m.