

Spiritual Act of Worship

By Penny Lee

God showed me something recently that I am going to share with you. I hope you don't mind. When I started ushering, I had an unusual experience the first few times I went forward to receive the Collection Plate from Pastor. As I stood there waiting for Pastor to hand me the plate, I felt as if I was standing, waiting to receive from God something very special.

As I took that plate and took it to each row, you diligently and faithfully put your envelope/offering into that collection plate. But to me, it wasn't just a typical action that we do 52 times each year as we've done for all these years. It was a gracious act of worship – God giving you something (His Holy Word) and each of us giving back to Him our meager lives, our tiny acts of service, our little bits of finances. Then, as I would take it back up to Pastor, it became that gift – that joyous gift of giving all we could (or all we deemed was enough) to give to our Creator and Lord. It was our Spiritual Act of Service (Romans 12:1 1984).

I just want to share this with you. I know you probably think I'm a little on the crazy side or that I am making something much larger than what it is. Then I have to ask you, "Am I?" Is this tiny thing – giving your offering each week a small thing? Is that how God sees it? Does He see your gift of giving as something miniscule? Does He see it as He did the woman at the temple who gave a simple "mite" (the smallest amount of money at that time)?

Have you given any thought to what your "Spiritual Act of Worship" is or is supposed to be? Romans 12:1 says,

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 NIV (1984)

The next time you offer something to God, I encourage you to put your heart in it – look at it from His perspective and understand that there is a lot more going on than simply putting a check/envelope in an offering plate.



April 9	Saturday	Church Cleaning	9:00 a.m.
April 10	Sunday	Palm Sunday Service	11:00 a.m.
April 14	Thursday	Seder Meal Service	5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
April 15	Friday	Good Friday Service	7:30 p.m.
April 17	Sunday	Easter Sunday	11:00 a.m.

If you have been reading along with us over the past year, we are just about finished reading the entire Bible! You will finish May 9th! How exciting!

Keep in mind, we have read the Old Testament in the order of the Hebrew (Jewish) Bible. For them, Chronicles is the last book of their Bible since it gives you the final history up to the Babylonian captivity.



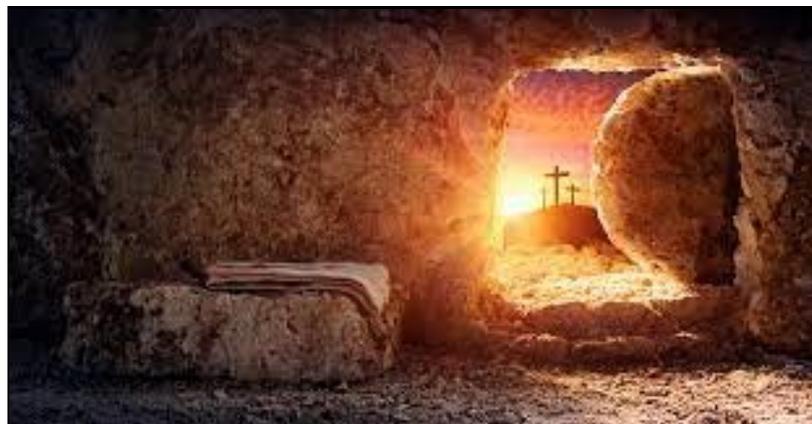
Lutherans For Life

April 3 – Lent V – The vineyard tenants parable issues a stern warning about using death as a solution like abortion or assisted suicide. Paul’s words – “for his sake I have suffered the loss of all things” (Philippians 3:8) – acknowledge the difficulties surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis bring. But Isaiah prophesies the sweet assurance of God’s salvation in these difficulties: “a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (Isaiah 43:19).

April 10 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord – Philippians 2 outlines how the humble love of our Lord Jesus involved Him in human nature and our life from embryo until His own flesh failed in crucifixion. Not only does this sanctify every member of our race whatever their circumstances, but it also rests the rights and responsibilities for deciding the manners of our lives and the timing of our deaths in His hands (Deuteronomy 32:39). Both now come as gifts for our good!

April 17 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Christ is risen, in the body! This makes every other human body precious from fertilization to forever (Isaiah 65:20). Death belongs to the old things and the former ways (Isaiah 65:17) from which our God and Father has set us free (1 Corinthians 15:26). The grave lies empty and has nothing to offer, not even by means of physician-assisted suicide or abortions. Neither we nor our neighbors need submit to it any longer!

April 24 – Easter II – The patient gentleness of Jesus with Thomas extends joy to him and not judgment. In like manner the Savior’s forgiveness embraces also hearts guilty and grieving because of aborting their own children or accelerating their parent’s death. “Peace be with you,” Jesus says to you who have participated in violence against life, “receive My absolution and My Holy Spirit.” Come, praise Him who has made you precious alongside men and maidens, infants and aged (Psalm 148:12)!



April, 2022

Serving this month

LAY READER

USHER

3 Chuck Gray

3 Carol Gray

10 **Palm Sunday**
Michelle Brennan

10 Gary Jo Lee

17 **Easter Sunday**
Gary Jo Lee

17 Penny Lee

24 Bill Heierding

24 Joan Heierding

Communion Deacon

Bill Heierding

Alternate - Chuck Gray

Communion

Laura Waller

April, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3 COUNCIL MTG 8:30 Adult Bible Study 10 Children's SS 10 Worship w/ Communion 11 Nehemiah 7-8	4 Nehemiah 9-10	5 Nehemiah 11-12	6 Nehemiah 13	7 1 Chronicles 1-2	8 Nehemiah 3-4 Kaitlyn Lee	9 Nehemiah 5-6 Michelle Brennan
10 PALM SUNDAY Adult Bible Study 10 Children's SS 10 Worship 11 1 Chronicles 7-8	11 1 Chronicles 9-10	12 1 Chronicles 11-12	13 1 Chronicles 13-14	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL 5:30 P.M. SERVICE 7 P.M.	15 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 P.M. 1 Chronicles 17-18	16 1 Chronicles 19-20
17 Adult Bible Study 10 Children's SS 10 Worship w/ Communion 11 1 Chronicles 21-22	18 1 Chronicles 23-24	19 Elaine Chard	20 1 Chronicles 27-28	21 1 Chronicles 29 2 Chronicles 1	22 2 Chronicles 2-3	23 Haleigh Kiene
24 Adult Bible Study 10 Children's SS 10 Worship 11 2 Chronicles 6-7	25 2 Chronicles 8-9	26 2 Chronicles 10-11	27 2 Chronicles 12-13	28 2 Chronicles 14-15	29 2 Chronicles 16-17	30 John Ray