

2011
HOLY WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH

Two thousand years ago, Christ's life, death, and resurrection exploded into history. Holy Week, the week proceeding Easter, invites us to enter into the saving acts of God and to experience anew the reality of God's saving power in our lives.

April 17--Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

8 am: Holy Eucharist

10:30 am: (beginning in the Parish Hall and processing to the Church) Holy Eucharist

6 pm: Holy Eucharist

The liturgy for Palm Sunday carries us into Holy Week. Services begin with the reenactment of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds waved palm branches and greeted him as the messianic king. But the mood shifts with the reading of the passion story, and we begin the journey through the events that culminate in Jesus' crucifixion and death.

April 18--Monday in Holy Week

5:30 pm: Evening Prayer

7 pm: Holy Eucharist

The Eucharist recalls the night when, as civil and religious authorities plot to take Jesus' life, Jesus gathers for an evening meal with friends, and a woman lovingly anoints him, as if to prepare his body for burial.

April 19--Tuesday in Holy Week

5:30 pm: Evening Prayer

7 pm: Holy Eucharist

On Holy Tuesday we hear Jesus predict how his death on the cross will be the path towards his (and our) glory; we are invited to contemplate the foolishness of the cross and how the love of God "makes an instrument of shameful death to be none other than the means of life."

April 20--Wednesday in Holy Week

12:10 PM: Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Healing

5:30 pm: Evening Prayer

7 pm: Tenebrae (with music by members of Singers' Project)

The service of Tenebrae (Latin: shadows) draws us into the anguish of the Passion story. As we listen to a series of readings, psalms, and musical offerings, the candles are gradually extinguished.

The Paschal Triduum (the Sacred Three Days) is a three-fold liturgy, beginning Maundy Thursday, continuing through Good Friday and culminating with the Great Vigil of Easter.

April 21 -- Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm: Evening Prayer

7 pm: Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper;

Stripping of the Altar

All-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)

The liturgy for Maundy Thursday invites us into the intimacy of Jesus' last meal with his disciples, his loving care for them in the foot-washing, and his self-offering for them in the bread and wine. "Maundy" (Latin: *mandatum*, 'command') refers to the commandment that Jesus gave his disciples to love one another. After the sermon, all are invited to have their feet washed. Those who come forward for foot-washing may then wash the feet of those who come after them, transforming this symbol of service into a sacramental action shared by all. The service continues with the celebration of the Eucharist and the reservation of the sacrament for Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday Vigil: As a way to deepen intimacy with Our Lord, all are welcome to share in the all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, beginning with the end of the Maundy Thursday Rite. You may sign up for an hour or more, or simply come.

April 22--Good Friday

12 pm: Ecumenical Service at Grace Church

4 pm: Youth Stations of the Cross (Town Common)

7 pm: Liturgy of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Good Friday Liturgy includes readings, hymns, prayers, and anthems, interspersed with silence. The service concludes with Communion, using bread and wine consecrated at the Maundy Thursday Rite. We are in the desolate valley of our three-day journey, the valley of the shadow of death.

April 23--Holy Saturday

9:00 am: Liturgy of Holy Saturday

In the Liturgy of Holy Saturday we gather for a short service to remember the time between Jesus' death and resurrection.

9:15 am- 12:15 Noon: Holy Saturday Retreat (Parish Hall)

Holy Saturday is a powerful day for Christians. Jesus has died and descended into the darkness, and the Risen Christ has not yet appeared. In this morning retreat, led by Dr. Robert A. Jonas, we will open ourselves to the liberating power of God and take time to perceive where God in Christ - in powerful but sometimes hidden ways - is at work in our lives, healing what is broken and lifting up what has fallen. If you have a poem related to the themes of Holy Saturday, please bring it. *Suggested donation: \$15*

8:00 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism, and the Feast of the Resurrection (begins in Columbarium)

The Great Vigil of Easter begins in darkness, as we kindle the new fire of Easter, light the Paschal candle, and carry it in the procession to the church. There we hear the chanted words of the ancient *Exsultet* (Latin: Rejoice!), with its announcement that God is at work in this mysterious night. The service continues by candlelight with the dramatic stories of salvation history. Rejoicing in the Resurrection, we bring new members into the Body of Christ through the waters of baptism, and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. The fast is over and the feast begins.

April 24--Easter Sunday

8 am & 10:30 am: The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

6:00 pm Contemplative Eucharist

Easter is the great feast of the Christian year, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. We mark the occasion with unbridled festivity, pulling out all the stops in our liturgy and music. We hope you can be with us on Easter Day, as we greet one another with those great words of hope: "Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!"