

Come and Experience Our Holy Week Services

The Sunday of the Passion, (Sunday, March 24: 8:30 AM | 10:45 AM)

This day, the last Sunday in Lent, is a hybrid. Palm branches in hand, we join a procession of children and their elders singing sweet hosannas. This process, begun centuries ago in Jerusalem, encircles the earth with ceaseless praise and now winds around our worship space. We are part of a long line of people in need of God's saving grace who rejoice as Christ comes to open the gates of justice and bring heaven's peace.

The procession leads us, in a striking contradiction then, to the cross of Christ and into the mystery of his passion. The one we praise as Savior is the servant who suffers our betrayal, denial, cruelty, and fear. Through these mortal wounds flow streams of mercy, filling the death-bound world and bringing it to life.

We proceed from the passion reading into the meal that, as always, holds together Christ's death for us and his life for us, feeding us with both. "Hosanna!" we sing again. Blessed is the One who comes in gifts of bread and wine. Blessed is Christ Jesus, the infinite love of God.

The Sunday of the Passion is the only Sunday during the year set aside for a complete reading of the passion narrative. For many Christians, there is no other occasion during the year on which they will hear the entire synoptic passion read. The centrality of this story to the Christian faith makes this reading profoundly important.

Maundy Thursday (March 28th, 12 PM | 7:30 PM)

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum", meaning "to give" or "to order" — command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper, Jesus taught them a new commandment — "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

Our worship service that day will be experiential, with a set of love filled rituals enacted by the church for centuries. We will include corporate confession and forgiveness then the individual laying on of hands and absolution of sins. We will remember Jesus who, illustrating his humility, performed the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging us to do the same for one another. We will share a meal, using the freshest of breads and wine. Finally, we will strip the altar to symbolize the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. The altar will be empty, draped in black, with a crown of thorns resting on top. We will depart in silence.

Good Friday (March 29th, 12 PM | 7:30 PM)

It's "Good" Friday because the events that led to Jesus dying on that cross were primarily about God – God acting in such love for the world that he allowed his beloved son to die. We will enter in silence into the empty room, the unfolding story, the widening hour, and the mystery of faith. We will enter in silence and the shadows of darkness. We will hear the seven last phrases spoken by Christ during the time of his crucifixion, revealing both the divinity of Jesus as well as his humanity. A cross will enter into our space, and we will repent our sins, those known and left unknown, nailing them into the cross. We leave in silence. In darkness. Prepared for the celebration of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY (March 31st, 8:30 AM Traditional | 10:45 AM Praise | Easter Brunch between services)

Finally, join us for Easter Sunday when God's love in Jesus transformed the cross, an instrument of terror and death, and made it a symbol of life, hope and forgiveness