



# A WEEK FULL OF EMOTION...

## **Palm Sunday - March 25th**

*8:30 and 10:45 Palm Sunday Liturgy*

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, reenacts triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem the week before his death and resurrection. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week which concludes on Easter Sunday.

The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem the crowds greeted him by waving and covering his path with palm branches. We begin our Palm Sunday services outside (weather permitting) and process in with our palm branches. The Passion Narrative is read by members of the congregation as the Gospel reading for the day.

## **Holy Wednesday - March 28th**

*6:30pm Tenebrae*

*Tenebrae*- meaning “shadows” or “darkness” is a contemplative preparation for Good Friday during Holy Week. The *Tenebrae* ceremony is the reading of psalms followed by responses from the congregation and the gradual extinguishing of candles in the sanctuary. After the fourteenth candle is extinguished any remaining lights in the church are dimmed and the priest and the congregation leave in silence. Finally, the *strepticus* (Latin for “great noise”) which symbolizes the earthquake that followed Christ’s death ends the service.

## **Maundy Thursday - March 29th**

*6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service with Stripping of the Altar*

Maundy Thursday from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning *commandment*, remembers the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper in John 13:34.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist in obedience to Jesus’ command, *Do this in Remembrance of Me*. Maundy Thursday services are typically more solemn occasions marked by the shadow of Jesus’ betrayal. Sometimes there is a voluntary Foot Washing ceremony where we reenact what Jesus did for the disciples as a reminder to serve. At the conclusion of the service we strip the Altar of all linens and hangings, symbolizing the abandonment at Gethsemane which shortly followed the Last Supper. We then dim the lights as Psalm 22 is read aloud. The service ends with silent prayer and the congregation quietly goes into the night.

## **Good Friday - March 30th**

*Noon- The Way of the Cross or Stations of the Cross*

During the Stations of the Cross the liturgy reenacts the Via Dolorosa, the Road of Suffering in Jesus’ final hours. Beginning with his betrayal in the Garden at Gethsemane, we move from station to station with the congregation stopping at each one to read a passage of scripture, a Psalm and a prayer. There are fourteen stations with the final station representing Jesus being placed in the tomb. The service concludes with prayers before the Altar.

*6:30pm-Good Friday Liturgy*

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, commemorates the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Church celebrates a special liturgy in which the account of the Passion according to the Gospel of John is read, a series of intercessory prayers (prayers for special intentions) are offered, and the faithful venerate the Cross. The Good Friday liturgy concludes with the distribution of Holy Communion using hosts that were reserved from the service on Maundy Thursday.

## **Holy Saturday - March 31st**

Holy Saturday, also known as Holy Sabbath and the Great Sabbath, is the Saturday before Easter. It is an empty day, the day when Christ rested in the tomb and all of creation is awaiting the Resurrection. Sometimes Offices are held on this day. This day in the evening we celebrate the Great Easter Vigil.

*8:30pm Great Vigil of Easter*

The Great Vigil of Easter gets its name from what it used to be, a vigil overnight for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Now it is generally celebrated any time between sunset on Holy Saturday to sunrise Easter Morning. During this special liturgy we celebrate with four parts.

The Service of Light – We start a new fire and light the Paschal Candle signifying the renewal.

The Service of Lessons – We read lessons, Psalms, Canticles, and Collects reflecting on the Creation, Israel’s Deliverance from Egypt, A new Spirit, and the Gathering of the Church.

Christian Initiation, or the Renewal of Baptismal Covenant Vows – We have a baptism or renew our Baptismal Covenant Vows symbolizing our participation in Christ’s death and resurrection.

The Holy Eucharist with the administration of Easter Communion – together we celebrate as a community by receiving the body and blood of Christ. Forever joining us with Him and with each other.

## **Easter Day - April 1st**

*8:30am Holy Eucharist: Rite I*

The Traditional Service. It is traditional to have Baptisms on Easter Day. If there are none we all renew our Baptismal Covenant Vows as a congregation.

*10:15am Flowering of the Cross*

Jesus’ death on the hard wood of the cross is a hard symbol of the passion of our Lord. The tradition of flowering of the cross came about to symbolize how an instrument of death is transformed into something new – a thing of beauty.

*10:45am Holy Eucharist: Rite II*

Using more contemporary language, the Rite II service will include full music. It is traditional to have Baptisms on Easter Day. If there are none we all renew our Baptismal Covenant Vows as a congregation.

# AN ENDING LIKE NO OTHER!!!