



St. John's Church, in the City of Detroit

The Eagle

Special Insert



Holy Week Explained

Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday Services**
8am and 10am
- **Monday & Tuesday**
Holy Communion 12:15
Evening Prayer - 4:00pm
- **Wednesday**
Holy Communion 12:15pm
Evening Prayer - 4:00pm
Tenebrae Service - 7pm
- **Maundy Thursday**
Evening Prayer - 4:00pm
Holy Communion - 7pm
- **Garden Watch** in Chapel
Thursday 8:00pm to 10pm
Friday 9am to Noon
- **Good Friday Liturgy**
Noon to 3pm
- **VIGIL OF EASTER**
Saturday - 6pm
- **EASTER DAY**
7:30am Morning Prayer
8:00am - Holy Communion
9:30am - Brass Prelude
10:00am - Festive Communion

Egg Hunt for Children

follows the 10am Service

*Don't forget to invite someone to
Easter services!*

Holy Week Explained

In the ancient days of the Church, the week between Palm Sunday and The Feast of the Resurrection, known as Holy Week, were kept with great liturgical activity and solemnity. The entire Christian Community gathered in prayer, penance and fasting in preparation for the great Feast of our Lord by remembering the last week of our Lord's earthly life. The keeping of the fullness of this week was a priority for those Christians in the first centuries of the Church.

As the years passed, the richness of this week's services became confined to the Monastic and other Ecclesiastical communities in Western Christen-

dom, as the world seemingly became too busy for this much intense religious activity.

Since the second half of the 20th Century there has been a revival of the use of these services by all members of the Body of Christ. This reclaiming of the full richness of the Holy Week Services has been a great grace-filled blessing to the Church as people could enter into the great mystery of our Lord's Passion, His death on the Cross, and His Resurrection on the third day for our Salvation.

I pray everyone will also make this week of devotion a priority, to our greater sanctification!

*Ride on! Ride on in
majesty! In lowly
pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs
now begin o'er
captive death and con-
quered sin.*

Hymn 64



Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which is a blend of the old Palm and Passion Sundays.

There are two distinct liturgies this day. The first liturgy is the Liturgy of the Palms. Beginning

at the back of the Church we read the Collect, hear the Palm Sunday Gospel, and bless the Palms. We then have a palm procession around the Church.

The second liturgy is a our celebration of the Ho-

ly Communion, with Passion Gospel (the account of our Lord's Trial and Death) being read in parts by the congregation. Our having to cry "Crucify Him" is a powerful reminder that it is for OUR sins that Jesus died!

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday in Holy Week

Holy Communion - 12:15pm

Having meditated upon and celebrated our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we go with him back to Bethany during the week as he prepares for his final trip into Jerusalem, this time not as as one proclaimed King, but arrested as a threat to the Jewish authorities.



On Monday through Wednesday in Holy Week we will follow the Lessons that cover this crucial week in our Lord's life, the various accounts of the Passion Gospel.

Additionally, Monday through Thursday we will continue to have our daily recitation Evening Prayer at 4pm. Here too we will follow closely the lessons for that relate to the last week of our Lord's earthly life.

Frequent reception of the Sacrament is ALWAYS a great blessing, but particularly efficacious during this holiest week of the year.



TENEBRAE - Wednesday 7:00pm (excerpt from the Anglican Service Book)

Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning "darkness," and is the popular name for the special forms of the Offices of Mattins and Lauds appointed for the last three days in Holy Week (called the *Sacred Triduum*). Because it is now a nearly universal practice to hold the liturgies for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the afternoon or evening, it has become customary, in some places,

to offer *Tenebrae* in the evening on Holy Wednesday, at times drawing elements from *Tenebrae* of Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of the

candles until only one is left, which is then concealed for a time until a loud noise is made (signifying the earthquake at the Resurrection), whereupon the hidden candle is restored to its place in anticipation of the Resurrection. All depart in silence.

*Jesus Christ became obedient
for us unto death, even the
death of the Cross....*

Making time for eternity

Our lives are busy. The world around us is busy. Everything is rush, rush, rush.

On that first Good Friday, it was probably the same story. The world around Jesus was busy, busy, busy. For most of the residents of Jerusalem that way of sorrows that Jesus trod, from the place of Judgment to his Crucifixion, was just

another procession of people being led away by the Romans to be punished by example of outside the city walls. Few would have looked twice to see what the commotion was about.

Yet passing by was the Second person of the Holy Trinity himself, going to pay the price for their sins. Their very disregard is one reason

for his treading past them!

Make time in your life for eternity. For it is only through Jesus Christ's death on the cross that we have eternal life.

Make time for Holy Week. Come to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. Make time with a grateful heart!

Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm

We begin this evening with the celebration of the Holy Communion with 3 special meanings.

First, it is where the *Maundy*, the anglicized version of the Latin *Mandatum* - is given, that new Commandment that we love one another as Jesus loves us. This is symbolized in the liturgy by The Rector washing the feet of the parishioners, in obedience to our Blessed Lord's command to his



Apostles (John 13:14-15).

Secondly, it is the this evening at the Apostle's commemoration of the Passover Meal that Jesus institutes the Sacrament of the Holy Communion.

Therefore the priest wears white vestments and we sing with gusto this evening since it is a High Feast.

Related to this, thirdly, it is also the night that our Lord institutes the Sacred Priesthood to the Apostles to

carry on His sacramental ministry.

After the glory of the Liturgy, in commemoration of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane after Supper, and the abandonment by the Apostles, we strip the Sanctuary and Altar bare as we solemnly recite Psalm 22.

My God, My God, why hast thou abandoned me.....

In about an hour we go from joyous celebration for the *Mandatum*, Communion, and Priesthood, to shock and horror at our Lord's betrayal, arrest, and impending crucifixion!

This is my body - This is my blood

The Garden Watch - Thursday 8:00pm to 10:00pm, Friday 9am to Noon

A great devotional tradition during Holy Week is to spend an hour with Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, in our own Garden of Gethsemane. At the end of the Maundy Thursday Service the Sacrament will be moved in procession to the Chapel.

The Chapel Sanctuary will be decorated with plants to recall the Gar-

den, and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the Altar for you to adore Him and meditate on the Saving Acts that He has endured for our Salvation.

There will be devotional material available to read during this time to

focus your mind and your heart, or you can just sit there quietly and gaze with love upon Him.

"What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

Matthew 26:40

In future years we hope that we will be able to sign up for one hour shifts to cover the entire night until Good Friday Liturgy!

Good Friday Liturgy - Noon to 3:00pm

The most sorrowful and solemn day of the year is commemorated with the most beautiful and moving liturgy the Church has to offer!

Made up of 4 distinct parts, this Service begins with the Liturgy of the Word. This is followed by the ancient prayers for Good Friday,



I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me!

the Solemn Collects.

The third portion is the Veneration of the Cross, an opportunity to thank your Lord for his Atoning sacrifice, as the Reproaches are Sung.

Finally, we will have the Mass of the Pre-

sanctified, receiving the Holy Sacrament consecrated on Maundy Thursday and watched in our Garden. Multiple sermons will also be preached, and you are free to come and go as your schedule allows.

The Choir will be present, with wonderful hymns, and Stainer's *Crucifixion* will be sung!

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, 6:00pm

We take for granted coming to Christmas Services on Christmas Eve, but the more ancient practice is to come to Easter Services on Easter Eve! We will celebrate this ancient liturgy in the Chapel.

The liturgy has several parts. The service begins in darkness. Then a fire is lit and the Paschal (large Easter Candle) is blessed and lit, symbolizing Jesus as the Light of the World. Hand-candles are lit for participants. Then is sung the Exsultet, a recounting of the saving acts of God in history.

Next, several Old Testament readings makeup the Liturgy of the Word, reminding us of God's faithful promises to the people of Israel.

Then water and the baptismal font are blessed, and baptisms (if any are scheduled) are done. It is also an opportunity for us to start off the Easter Season right by renewing our own baptismal vows.

After the Litany of the Saints is chanted, the lights are turned on and the Easter Proclamation is announced - "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" To which all respond - "The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!" The first celebration of the Holy Communion for Easter then commences.

It is a very rich, symbolic ancient liturgy. Since the ancient days of the Church it has been one of the most beloved of liturgies!



The Feast of the Resurrection - Easter Day

8am Holy Communion, 9:30am Brass Prelude

10am Festive Communion Service with Brass

The central tenant of our faith - Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead! He was born for this. Although God, he condescended to take flesh as a human being. He was like us in every way but sin. He lived, taught, and ministered among us. He taught the truth about His heavenly Father. He was loved and followed by many. He was despised and rejected by many. He was betrayed by one of his own closest followers. He was arrested, falsely accused, and condemned. He was executed as a common criminal. **AND IT IS ALL GOOD NEWS!** Because he came to pay the price for sin and death, and then rose again on the third day! **HE IS RISEN INDEED!** Death cannot conquer love, and Jesus is LOVE incarnate.

Evil cannot destroy Good, and Jesus is Goodness incarnate. Darkness cannot quench light, and Jesus is Light incarnate. His Resurrection was the reason He came to earth, and by His Cross and Passion we obtain eternal life by His merits. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Be sure to join us for our yearly remembrance of this wondrous event on Easter Sunday. And also invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to be a part of the Festivities!

The Brass Prelude starts at 9:30am. After the 10am Service there will be an egg hunt for the Children, and coffee hour to catch up with friends who join us or this celebration!

