



# Holy Week Services

## Triduum

### The Three Great Days

**Triduum** is the ancient Latin title for the three days that complete Holy Week. From sunset on Thursday until sunset on Sunday, we celebrate one extended liturgy; from Maundy Thursday until the Easter Vigil, no service has a close or ending. In the Triduum we celebrate and remember the Christ event, the new Passover that redeems all humankind. Each of the primary liturgies is an act in this holy drama.

*Abba John the Little said: No one can build a house from the top down; rather, you build the foundation first and then build upwards. People said to him: What do you mean by that? He said to them: The foundation means your neighbor whom you must win, and you ought to start from there. For all the commandments of Christ depend on this.*

-Excerpt from "Sayings of the Desert Fathers"

## April 17 – Maundy Thursday Community Dinner & Service

The First Day 6:00 p.m.

Agape Meal and Liturgy of the Word (on the patio), Holy Eucharist and the Stripping of the Altar (in church):

This Dinner Eucharist commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples in the tradition of the North African desert monasteries. It reflects Jesus' bittersweet farewell, in which he tells them of his

love and makes one last attempt to illustrate the ministry to which he calls them by doing the work of a menial slave in washing their feet. It is this focus that gives the day its name. Mandatum, “**commandment**” in Latin, became “**Maundy**” in English.

*“A new commandment I give, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* The dinner service begins on the patio with the Liturgy of the Word and includes optional opportunities to take part in a symbolic ritual of service. We then process, chanting, to the church for the Eucharist. The altar is stripped and all ornamentation removed from the church in preparation for Good Friday. We depart in silence. All are welcome!

### April 18 – Good Friday

#### **The Second Day**

**12:00 p.m. A solemn service focused on the Stations of the Cross**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Quiet prayer or self-led Stations of the Cross**

Using a service that originated in the third century from Jerusalem, Constantinople, Gaul, and Rome, we will pray together in contemplation of the cross.

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth Our full homage to demand. –*

**Cherubic Hymn, 4<sup>th</sup> Century**

### April 19 – The Great Vigil of Easter at Christ Church, Los Altos

#### **The Third Day**

**7:30 p.m. – This Service hosted by our friends at Christ Church Los Altos, begins with the Great Fire, continues with Baptism Renewal and Eucharist.**

***Easter is the principal liturgy of the Christian year, the fullest act of Christian worship. It is the Christian Passover, the Paschal feast of the People of God bringing us from Lent to Easter.***

### April 20 – Easter Sunday!

**10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection, baptisms and Eucharist with Festive Music. Join us back at Christ Church Portola Valley to celebrate this great feast!**

**11:15 a.m. The Great Easter Egg Hunt!**

