

Holy Week is only days away and I wanted to take just a moment to describe some of the changes we made this year to our services.

It is our hope that the weather will cooperate with us and we will begin **Palm Sunday** services with the blessing of the palms outside on the labyrinth. We will distribute palms to everyone upon arrival and you will be invited to hold your palms high during the blessing. We will then process following the celebrant into the church for services. If you are more comfortable finding your pew and being inside the church during the liturgy of the palms, that will be fine too because the clergy will be microphoned and will be heard inside the church.

**Noonday prayers** will be offered in the Chapel of the Cross on Mon, Tue, and Wed. Everyone is invited.

Wednesday evening we will gather for our traditional **Tenebrae** Service at 7pm in the church.

**Maundy Thursday** service will take place at 7pm in the church. Foot washing will return this year! And as always, we will observe the stripping and washing of the altar as well as the beginning of the Altar of Repose.

**Good Friday** service will also take place at 7pm in the church. You are invited to bring a stone with you to lay at the foot of the cross symbolizing the burden you are releasing to God during the veneration of the cross.

**Holy Saturday** prayers will take place at 9am in the chapel. An ancient homily from the 3rd century will be read which discusses the actions of Jesus during his time in the tomb.

**The Great Easter Vigil** will be celebrated on Saturday Evening at 7pm. This service begins with the lighting of the New Fire - a flame from this fire will be used for the coming year as the candle near the tabernacle is replaced each week and the new candle is lit from the old candle. During the stripping of the altar (Maundy Thursday) this flame will finally be snuffed out after an entire year. This service is the first Easter Eucharist and the resurrection of our Lord is celebrated. If you are attending this service be sure to bring a bell of some sort to ring during the Great Noise!

**Easter Sunday:** Because our 2nd service (on Sundays) has been getting quite full recently, we have determined to offer 3 services on Easter morning. 8am, 9:30am, and 11am. The first service will be a said service and the choir will lead us in worship at the following services.

Rest up and prepare yourself for a wonderful and meaningful worship experience this coming Holy Week.