



Thorns take the shape of a crown. Popular acclaim turns to public execution. Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Life ends and begins. Holy Week reenacts a powerful story of change—a story that continues to change the world, and to change people's lives, because God, in Christ, enters into the complete vulnerability of human life.

It's possible to fast-forward to the great celebration of Easter and hear only the story of joy that came on that resurrection morning. But the impact, indeed the change, will be deeper and more powerful if we walk with Christ through these holy days.

Join us in the joyful procession of Palm Sunday and be astonished at how quickly the whole story turns to tragedy with the reading of St. Luke's account of the Passion and on Maundy Thursday, discover something about the transforming gift of love expressed in simple acts of care.

On Good Friday, enter into the mystery of God's love revealed on the hard wood of the cross, "a perfect sacrifice for the whole world," nothing is held back in loving us.

Then comes the profound shift from darkness to light on Easter Day as we celebrate the transforming evidence that the worst that can happen in this life is never the last thing that can happen. Jesus takes our human nature through the experience we call "death" and shows us beyond it, in ways we might never have dreamed, there is resurrection life and new creation already breaking into our world. It is this story the Gospel of Easter proclaims.

We offer the following annotated guide to Holy Week as a way to encourage you to find your own path through these important days. Keep it in a place where you can find it and make plans to enter deeply into a service, or two, or three this week. You may find more than you can ask for or imagine.



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY, April 14

PALM SUNDAY EUCHARISTS

7:30 AM* Blessing of Palms, Eucharist and reading Luke's Passion
9:00 AM (childcare)

11:15 AM* (with incense, childcare)

These later services begin with the great festivity of the procession of palms. The mood shifts quickly with the dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel, Jesus' journey to Calvary, leading to the Eucharist and the entrance into Holy Week.

**Indicates change from regular service schedule*



MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 15

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 16

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 17

12:10 PM Eucharist in St. Mary's Chapel

Join us for worship in the quiet setting of our beautiful chapel. Each of these three days comes with its own focus. On Monday, we reflect on the story of the woman who anointed Jesus before his death. On Tuesday, we explore with St. Paul the mystery of the power of the cross. And on Wednesday, the theme of betrayal surfaces.



TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, April 16

7:00 PM Centering Prayer in St. Mary's Chapel

Join us for a brief teaching on centering prayer and minutes of silence.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 18

The word "maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum which means "commandment," as Jesus commands his followers to love one another.

7:30 PM The "Mandatum" and Holy Eucharist (with incense, childcare)
8:30 PM Garden of Gethsemane Vigil in St. Mary's Chapel

At 7:30 PM, we reenact Jesus' demonstration of what it means to be a servant through the care of serving one another in the washing of feet. At the conclusion of this service, the altar is stripped and the sacrament is reserved. **At 8:30 PM**, the Garden of Gethsemane Vigil begins until noon on Good Friday. Spend time in the Chapel in quiet, in prayer, in watchfulness. Sign up for a segment of the Vigil in the narthex.



GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

12:10 PM The Way of the Cross with spoken and musical devotions

The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation of an ancient custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. The Stations of the Cross at the Church of the Holy Comforter, a gift from the Episcopal Church Women, are made from hand carved Lindenwood by the Demetz Studio in Val Gardena in the Alps of Northern Italy. The liturgy consists of prayers at each of the 14 traditional stations, interspersed with readings from Scripture, prayers, silence, and music offered by musicians and singers.

7:30 PM The Liturgy of Good Friday (childcare)

Good Friday is a day of intense sorrow, but of sorrow that holds tightly to Christian hope. The remembrance of what Jesus Christ suffered for us cannot fail to arouse in us feelings of sorrow and regret for our share in the brokenness of the world.



SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER DAY, April 21

7:30 AM* Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Festival Choral Eucharist – Easter Bells, Brass Quintet, (childcare)

(No Sunday School or Adult Forum)

11:15 AM* Festival Choral Eucharist – Easter Bells, Brass Quintet, (with Incense, childcare)

**Indicates change from regular service schedule*

Alleluia Bells, Brass, Organ, and Choirs singing music to uplift the soul. Easter anthems and favorite hymns for congregation and choir are sung with the incomparable joy of Easter Day.

The full Fifty Day Season of Easter that follows Easter Day, celebrates what happened in and through the remarkable life of Jesus—what he said and did before he died, and what we believe he accomplished after his death. There are good reasons to believe, to give one's heart to God's mission in this world, and to deeply trust the One "whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning." **Come early for seating in the Sanctuary.**

A Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

The Rev. Jon C. Strand, Rector

The Rev. Jacqueline C. Thomson, Pastoral Associate



HOLY SATURDAY, April 20

9:30 AM HOLY SATURDAY PRAYERS

On Holy Saturday, no Eucharist is shared, only a brief solemn service to remember Christ's death.



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