

Rector's Note

3.19.26

Holy Week is coming soon!

There are many ways to pray and worship during Holy Week, to enter and experience the story of Jesus' suffering (Passion), death, and resurrection.

On **Palm Sunday**, March 29, we will have our usual three Sunday services at 8, 9, and 10:30, each with the **blessing of palms and Passion reading**. The 10:30 opening procession will be led by [Positive Movement drumline](#). At 5:00 on that same day, our choir will join the choir at [Christ Church](#) for a concert of sacred music.

Tuesday evening March 31 at 7 pm there will be a [Stabat Mater concert](#) (ticketed) featuring section leaders Lisa and Marisa and the Fairmount String Quartet.

Wednesday at 7 we will have **Tenebrae** service featuring music in the Taize tradition, meditative, simple, and beautiful songs from the Taize community in France. Tenebrae is a service of psalms, readings, and darkness, a time of quiet and preparation.

Then comes the **Triduum**, the three great days before Easter Sunday.

Thursday is **Maundy Thursday** (Maundy meaning commandment, remembering Jesus' commandment that we love each other). Thursday's service will have foot-washing, Eucharist, and stripping of the altar. The consecrated bread and wine will be brought to the chapel altar and stay there in repose all night, as Jesus sat in the Garden at Gethsemani the night before he was condemned. Everyone is welcome to spend time with Jesus in the chapel garden, in silent meditation, for a minute or an hour or more. It will be open until 11pm and you can sign up ahead of time if you like.

On **Good Friday** (good meaning God's Friday), we will have Good Friday service at noon, with veneration of the cross, sung Passion, and communion with the reserved sacrament brought in from the chapel. At 7 pm there is a service of the **Seven Last Words of Christ**, with reflections by St Martin's members and music by the Fairmount Strings.

On Saturday at 8, we have the **Easter Vigil**. It is a multisensory celebration, with stories and music, fire, candles, baptismal water, and finally, bell-ringing and light. We do our first Easter celebration and have Eucharist. Then we have a blow-out feast!

If you haven't been to some of these services before, or have not experienced them at St Martin's, this is your invitation to try one or more this Holy Week! Experiencing some or all of the week can help to sink into all that we are feeling in these times, to connect our story to the Gospel story. And it can make it even sweeter to say and hear "He is risen indeed!" on Sunday morning.

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