

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Holy Week is the center of the Christian year—the great annual pilgrimage of the community of faith into the heart of the Paschal Mystery: through death and resurrection to Easter Life and the Easter Table, and the Easter Feast.

It all begins here, again, as if for the first time. When we step into the liturgy of Palm Sunday, we step over the threshold into Holy Week and liturgies that draw us into the experiences of Jesus and his disciples in the time of his Passion and death. We move beyond the limitations of the here and now; the curtain between the sensory world and the world of eternity dissolves, and we pass through it.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week – 7 pm

Evening Prayer – Shirley Teal Memorial Chapel

A reflective service followed by opportunities for individual confession, using the Rite of Reconciliation.

Rite of Reconciliation – Shirley Teal Memorial Chapel

To ensure privacy, please enter through the main door of the church and wait in a pew near the main altar until a priest calls you over.

In the Episcopal Church, we join in a corporate confession each week acknowledging together the sins we have committed, and those done on our behalf. However, *The Book of Common Prayer* provides for the opportunity for anyone to make confession and receive absolution on an individual basis through the Rite of Reconciliation (pp. 446-452). Whether you have some things you just can't seem to stop beating yourself up for, or something grievous that you would like to confess, this is a confidential liturgy, conducted in the sacred setting of the chapel. Although the rite may be requested at any time of year, Holy Week is an especially appropriate time. In addition to the times listed here, you may email rector@standrewsepiscopal.org to make an appointment.

Collect for Monday in Holy Week

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Tuesday in Holy Week

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Wednesday in Holy Week

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spat upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The Paschal Triduum (the Sacred Three Days) is a three-fold liturgy, beginning Maundy Thursday, continuing through Good Friday, and culminating with the Great Vigil of Easter. Through our celebration of these three holy days, we enter deeply into the mystery of Christ's passion, inviting the power of his resurrection to remake and renew us.

Maundy Thursday Liturgy – Noon & 6:15 pm

Both services include readings, a homily and Eucharist. The later service, begins at 6:15 p.m. with a hymn and a simple supper in the parish hall. After sharing a meal together, we process to the church at 7 p.m., where the liturgy continues with the traditional Footwashing, Stripping of the Altar, and Setting of the Watch. The evening liturgy invites us into the intimacy of Jesus' last meal with his disciples, his loving care for them, in the footwashing, and his self-offering for them in the Bread and Wine. These enacted signs reveal Jesus' desire for the sacrificial love and service of the Eucharistic community of his disciples. Everyone is invited to participate in the footwashing, so be sure your footwear is easy to remove. Sign up for the potluck supper online or on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Collect for Maundy Thursday

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The church will remain open for meditation for 30 minutes after the Maundy Thursday service.

Good Friday Liturgy – Noon & 7 pm

The Passion, Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross make up this disjointed liturgy; the familiar Eucharistic liturgy is stretched out on the cross until we no longer recognize it. Its brokenness evokes the brokenness of Christ. We are in the desolate valley of our three-day journey, the valley of the shadow of death, standing at the foot of the cross.

Collect for Good Friday

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Great Vigil of Easter – 7 pm

A grand celebration including the lighting of the New Fire and Paschal Candle, singing of the Exsultet, the First Eucharist of Easter, and, typically, baptisms! Tonight, we play with fire, water, and sweet smelling oil; we light a candle in the darkness and read from the Book of our story as people of God; we bring new members into the Body of Christ through the waters of baptism; rejoicing, we carry bread and wine to the table; and, thankful, we feast on Holy Food.

Collect for the Easter Vigil

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Easter Day – 8 & 10 am

Festival Choral Eucharist *with renewal of baptismal vows.*

Following the 10 a.m. liturgy: Children's activities and Potluck Brunch. Sign up on online or on the bulletin board in the parish hall to bring a dish to share.

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