

“Holy Week” is the name given to the week that begins with the blessing and procession of palms on Palm Sunday and culminates in The Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. Holy Week is the heart of the Christian year during which we celebrate the central event of our Christian faith, Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Palm Sunday, also known as the Sunday of the Passion, commemorates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and reminds us of the events to come with a reading of the passion gospel, the narrative of Jesus’ suffering and death. Palm Sunday, April 1, services will be at 8 & 10 a.m. Come a few minutes early and join us for the Procession of the Palms. We will meet in the courtyard for the 10 a.m. service.

Maundy Thursday is the day on which we remember the institution of the Lord’s Supper (Eucharist) and Jesus’ washing of his disciples’ feet. The word “Maundy” comes from a medieval English form of the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment, which is taken from John 13:34 – “I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.” The Maundy Thursday, April 5 service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus’ death. Good Friday is one of the Church’s two fast days (the other being Ash Wednesday). The Good Friday liturgy usually includes a veneration of the cross, the so-called “Solemn Collects” (some of the oldest prayers still used in the Church) and Eucharist from the reserved sacrament, i.e., bread and wine that was previously blessed. The Good Friday, April 6 service will be at 7:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the first service of Easter, celebrated after sunset on Holy Saturday. If you want to know what we are about as Christians, come to the Vigil! Those who have been to the Vigil often say it is their favorite service of the Church year. The service begins with the lighting of a fire and of the Paschal Candle. We then move inside to hear – in candlelight – scriptures telling of God’s saving deeds in history (e.g., creation, the flood, Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea, God’s offer of salvation to all, etc.). At the reading of the Easter Gospel, light is restored and our celebration of Easter continues with Eucharist. The Great Vigil of Easter is at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 7th.

Easter Day services are at 8 & 10 a.m.