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An Invitation to Holy Week 2023

Come experience Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond this year at St. Mark's. Holy Week is a time when we experience the joys, sorrows, and mystery of the greatest story ever told through story-telling, food, and embodied worship. We put this celebration together as a community - see below for how you might go deeper into the story in each event.



Sunday, April 2 - Palm & Passion Sunday, 8am & 10am

On Palm Sunday, we tell the story of Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem with a palm procession at the 10am service. Blessing of the palms begins in the Great Hall at 10am. We'll process around the church building and then begin the Eucharist service in the parish hall. We read the passion narrative as our Gospel passage at the 8am and 10am services.

How to go deeper:

- Be a passion narrative reader at the 8am or 10am service. Email Rev. Mia.
- Help rearrange the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter Season after the 10am service.

Thursday, April 6 - Sharing the Passover Story with dinner, 6pm

A great St. Mark's tradition started by our own Dan Tapper, we gather in the Great Hall to learn about Jewish Passover Seder foods, songs, storytelling, and rituals from folks who grew up in the tradition. Over a simple shared meal, we make connections between Jesus' Last Supper in the Gospel of John and the themes liberation and hope in the Passover story.

How to go deeper:

 Sign up to bring soup, salad, bread, or other parts of our meal. Help to set up or clean up. Sign up in the Great Hall or <u>email Dan Tapper</u>.

The Triduum April 6 - April 8

"The Triduum" is actually one service spread over three days. We begin on Thursday with the Maundy Thursday liturgy, watch with Christ through the night, meet again on Good Friday evening, then end with the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. You are encouraged to experience as much of the celebration as you can!

Maundy Thursday, 7pm

After our shared Seder meal in the Great Hall, we will move into the sanctuary for foot-washing and a Eucharistic memorial of the Last Supper. We end in solemn silence by stripping the altar and sanctuary of all decoration and symbols of Christ's presence. We process the reserve sacrament to the Garden of Gethsemane (Chapel) where the Night Watch begins.

How to go deeper:

- Come forward to wash someone's feet and have your feet washed.
- Come forward to help the Altar Guild remove items from the sanctuary.

Night Watch, Thursday 8pm - Friday 8am

Christ asked his disciples to stay and watch with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. We remember this by praying with Christ presence in the reserve sacrament in the Chapel over the course of Thursday night and early Friday morning. The Night Watch ends with Morning Prayer at 8am.

How to go deeper:

 Sign up for an hour of the Night Watch on our signup sheet in the Great Hall or email Meg Schoenemann.

Good Friday, 7pm

We gather at the foot of the cross on Good Friday to remember Christ's death and sacrifice for us. This service includes chant and song with our choir. There is no celebration of Eucharist; we consume the reserve sacrament together.

How to go deeper:

• Come forward to venerate the cross during the service.

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, 7pm

St. Mark's is famous for our Great Vigil of Easter! We start with lighting the Paschal flame and the chanting of the Exultet. We tell the story of God's salvation beginning with musical story-telling of Seven Days of Creation. We renew our Baptismal vows and celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter!

How to go deeper:

- Become part of the Seven Days of Creation story as a background character, set artist or stage crew! <u>Contact Sue Matsui.</u>
- Bring bells and noise-makers from home.

Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, April 7, 12noon

We walk the way of the cross with Jesus on Good Friday at noon. We'll find the story written into creation in the nature around our church. We'll reflet and pray together.

How to go deeper:

• If you can't attend on Good Friday, pick up a Stations of the Cross guide at church and find the stations around your yard or neighborhood.

Holy Saturday, April 8 9am

We remember the women who came to lovingly wash and prepare Jesus' body. Folks who will be helping prepare the sanctuary for Easter services will gather at 9am for a special Morning Prayer service.

How to go deeper:

- Assist the Altar Guild in decorating the church for Easter celebrations.
- Donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one. Email Nancy LaBrie.

Easter Sunday, April 9 8am & 10am

We celebrate Christ's resurrection on Sunday morning at 8am and 10am Eucharist services. We are excited to be baptizing Teddy Stallworth at the 10am service! Small Easter egg hunt for the little ones after the 10am.

How to go deeper:

- Donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one. Email Nancy LaBrie.
- Bring bells and noisemakers!
- Bring treats to share for after the 10am service.