

Holy Week Worship Schedule

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In Preparation for the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ And the Greatest Week in Human History

The Resurrection is the single most defining act God has taken on our behalf. We have traveled the liturgical traditions throughout the year. We celebrated and over indulged ourselves and our families during Christmas, we observed worship with the Magi and we've done our best to observe a holy Lent. These were all important observances but Resurrection really matters. Had God not raised Jesus from the dead we would have no hope of eternal life. We would have no help in this life or in the next! Now we again observe the Lord's passion and death in our observance of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

On Sunday, April 2 at 10am, we will re-enact the Lord's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. This was a well considered political act. In peace, the king would have ridden a donkey. Returning from war or in a demonstration of military might, he would ride a white horse. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey through the same gate as the sacrificial animals. He entered on the opposite side of Jerusalem in obvious contrast with the power and ruling elites who entered with the army through the gate on the opposite side of Jerusalem.

Pilate would have entered on a white horse indicating military might, reinforcing . Jesus entered in humility, riding a donkey, emblematic of peace while Pilate and those who believed they had power entered with a show of force and pomp. Jesus entered in fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy, Zechariah 9:9, and the people, recognizing the optics, threw down their cloaks and shouted "save us!" The crowd expected a military event where Israel would be ascendant and waved palm branches, a national symbol in Israel. The crowd held great expectations but they would soon call for Jesus' crucifixion. They had waved palms but would soon wave their fists in anger.

On Maundy Thursday April 6 at 7 pm we will observe the liturgy of the Last Supper. This is a mournful remembrance. At this meal, Jesus took the disciples through their last period of direct instruction. After supper, he prayed on the Mount of Olives and he prayed for us. If you are unable to have your feet washed, you may wash your hands in stead. We will venerate the cross and consider our complicity through our own sinful ways.

On Friday April 7 , we will walk the Stations of the Cross, accompanying our Lord on his final, mournful journey to crucifixion on Golgotha. At 6 pm the children will lead us in walking the stations. Our Good Friday Liturgy will follow at 7 pm.

Saturday evening April 8 at 7pm, we will celebrate the Resurrection At the Great Vigil of Easter. This is an ancient and joyful observance wherein we discover the empty tomb and embrace God's promise to us. We light the new fire and the priest will process the Paschal Candle. The congregation will light their candles from the Paschal Candle. We each hold the Light of Christ in our hearts. THIS IS THE TRUE RESURRECTION CELEBRATION. YOU NEED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.

On Sunday, April 9 at 10am, we will again celebrate the Resurrection.