

Holy Saturday
We wait

There is a calm stillness during the day on Holy Saturday, as we sit with the disciples in their grief, loss and confusion, each in our own homes. The church stands empty of Christ's Eucharistic presence. Like the disciples, we are thrown back into our ordinary lives. And we wait.

Read: John 19. 38 – end

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The Easter Vigil
We rejoice

On the evening of Holy Saturday, we gather in the darkness outside the church, just as Mary Magdalene went to the tomb before dawn. A solitary candle is lit, from which we light each other's candles and process into the dark church. We hear the prophecies of old and, like the women at the tomb, begin to spread the news that Christ is risen. (Our service begins at 8 pm.)

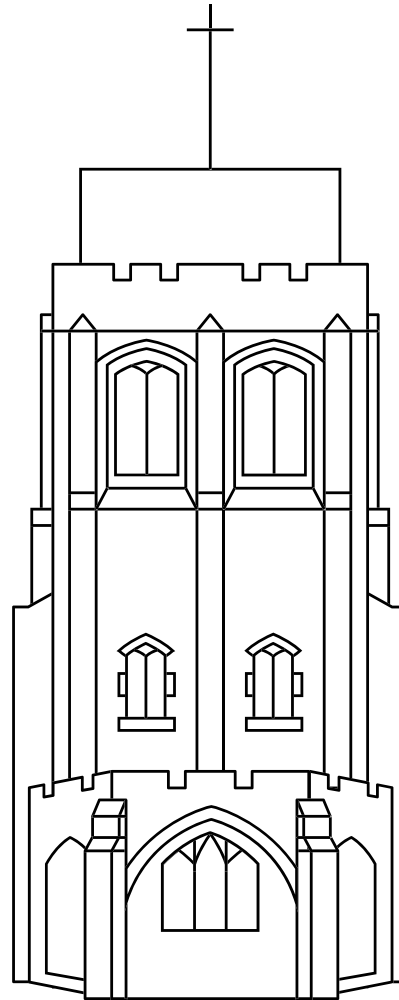
Read: Matthew 28. 1 – 10

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Easter Day
We celebrate the Resurrection

On Easter morning, our joy is complete as we gather to celebrate the Lord's resurrection from the dead. His victory over death means the start of our new, everlasting life in Christ. (Our service begins at 10 am.)

Read: John 20. 1 - 18



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Holy Week and Easter

A Devotional Guide

29 March - 5 April 2026



Palm Sunday

We celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

We begin our worship on Palm Sunday outside the church. As the crowds gathered to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem by laying palm branches before him and singing, so too our worship begins on a triumphal note. We receive palm crosses and sing as we enter the church. The palm crosses we carry are a symbol to us both of the palm branches waved by the crowds, and of what is to come – during the liturgy of Palm Sunday, we hear the upcoming story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest and execution. (We gather for the service beginning at 9:45 am.)

Read: Matthew 21. 1 – 11

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Holy Monday

The tension builds

On the Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, we read how the mood starts to darken only a day after the crowds acclaimed Jesus as king. In the Gospel today, Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus' feet, but Judas objects and we see how the seed of betrayal is planted in his mind. (This year we will not be holding a Holy Monday service in the church. Let us prepare our hearts by meditating on Mary's act of worship.)

Read: John 12. 1 – 11

Holy Tuesday

Jesus shockingly foretells his death

Some Greeks come to see Jesus, about whom they have heard much. Jesus speaks openly to them about how the Messiah must suffer and die. So Jesus subverts their expectations – and ours - of power and status, and we are left in doubt about where the events of this week will lead us. (This year we will not be holding a Holy Tuesday service in the church. Let us prepare our hearts by examining our own expectations of Jesus.)

Read: John 12. 20 – 26

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Spy Wednesday

Judas betrays Jesus

This day gets its name from Judas' act of betrayal. We hold a special service of readings called Tenebrae (shadows). Prophecies from the Old Testament are interspersed with pieces of music, helping us to reflect on the coming days. Over the course of the service, the leader gradually extinguishes fourteen candles, until the church is plunged into darkness and a loud noise symbolizes the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death. The final candle, however, is only hidden and not extinguished – a reminder to us that Christ is the light that the darkness cannot overcome. (Our service begins at 7 pm.)

Read: John 13. 21 – 32

Maundy Thursday

We celebrate the Last Supper

Our service today begins on a joyous note. The celebrant wears white vestments, and we sing the Gloria for the first time since the start of Lent. We hear how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and first shared the meal we now share. The mood changes, however, as we go with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to watch and wait with Jesus before his arrest – in our case to a specially constructed garden-altar. As the disciples abandoned Jesus to the soldiers, so we abandon him, each leaving the church after a time in silence and darkness. (Our service begins at 7 pm.)

Read: John 13. 1 – 17, 31b – 35

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Good Friday

Jesus is crucified

The solemn liturgy of Good Friday begins starkly as the priest lies prostrate in front of the altar. We hear the story of Jesus' suffering and death, and pray for the world he came to save. We are invited to the foot of the cross set up at the front of the church for a moment of silent prayer and recognition of the magnitude of what is happening. Rather than a celebration of the Eucharist today, we receive the bread consecrated earlier this week. Once it is consumed, Christ's Eucharistic Presence is no longer there in the church – a symbol of his death. (Our service begins at 7 pm.)

Read: John 18. 1 – end of 19