

Holy Week: The Journey of Jesus the Christ from his Entry into Jerusalem to Resurrection

Observing Holy Week:

Palm Sunday: We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (**Luke 19: 28-40**) with people waving Palm Branches (our local option of cedar and fern), lining the streets with their cloaks and coats, as Jesus has his final entrance before his death. (The Sunday Service begins with this and then the Passion Narrative is read (this year **Luke 22:14-23:56**) so that those who are not able to attend Holy Week Services understand what Jesus has gone through.

Holy Monday: The Gospel is **John 12: 1-11**. This is the Gospel just before Jesus enters Jerusalem according to 'John'. It is the Gospel reading from the Fifth Sunday in Lent with Jesus having dinner with Lazarus, Martha, and Mary where Mary anoints Jesus' feet with fragrant oil and wiped them with her hair. And verses 9-11 we are given an account of the plot to kill Lazarus.

Holy Tuesday: The Gospel is **John 12: 20-36**. There were some Greek people who came to see Jesus; and Jesus said: **"Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will be my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor."** And then Jesus speaks about his death. And Jesus said to them: **"The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. ... While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light."**

Holy Wednesday: The Gospel is **John 13: 21-32**. Jesus foretells his betrayal which will come from one of the disciples. It is where we are told how 'SATAN': the power of Empire, the power of the Religious Elite and the pressure to maintain the status quo, enters Judas Iscariot. (Theological note: this was not the will of God.)

Maundy Thursday: The Gospel is **John 13: 1-17, 31b-35**. Jesus washes his disciples' feet. (In pre-pandemic times, this is re-enacted in the church by washing one another's feet.) After Jesus does this, he tells them: **"Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash another's feet. For I have set for you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."** Then Jesus gives them a new commandment: **"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."** A Maundy Thursday Service would celebrate communion to recall Jesus' last meal with his disciples before he dies.

Good Friday: (The Good Friday Service at St. Columba at 10 AM, April 15, 2022 is a contemplative service that connects to our own sufferings and offers sacred space and place for us to take them with Jesus to the cross).

The Gospel is **John 18:1- 19: 42**. This is the story of Jesus' betrayal, his arrest, his disciple (Simon Peter in this Gospel) cuts off the high priest's ear and Jesus rebukes this violence, Jesus goes before the High Priest Annas, then Peter denies Jesus three times (just as Jesus had foretold), the High Priest questions Jesus, then Pilate questions him, and Jesus becomes sentenced to death even though Pilate found no case against Jesus. (The powerful council and high priests were pressuring him, and the crowds followed their lead.) Jesus was then crucified by the Roman Empire under the direction of the Religious Elite. Jesus body was beaten and broken in every imaginable way, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and sexually, and he was shamed and humiliated. His body experienced the worst of what humanity has to offer, concluding with death on the cross. His life on earth had come to fully embody the human experience.

Holy Saturday: The Gospel is **John 19: 38-42**. Jesus is buried by Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes. They wrapped Jesus with the spices in linen cloths, according to Jewish custom. **"It was a new tomb, ... so they laid Jesus there."**

In Western Christianity, Holy Saturday is thought of as a day when Jesus lay dead, possibly in Hell, so that he could rise on the Third Day. In Western Churches, most of the depictions of Jesus' resurrection (anastasis: Greek), have him rising to God, alone.

In Eastern Christianity, the Orthodox Church, Holy Saturday is a very busy day for Jesus, you see, he spends the day raising the dead, everyone from Adam onward. Adam, Eve, David, Cain, Abel, through the entire bible and all the way to our current day. The book Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision by John Dominic Crossan & Sarah Sexton Crossan tells this story.

Easter Vigil (6 PM at St. Columba, Saturday April 16, 2022)

After this day of raising people with him, the scene is set for the Great Vigil of Easter! This is the first Service of Easter, it includes the bringing of the Christ light into the church, the return of Alleluias, and a reaffirmation (a remembering) of our own Baptismal Promises. This year, we will also include a remembrance of Harry Webber. He was baptised at St. Columba on November 18 2018, and in his suffering and death on March 29, 2022, he now joins the multitudes who rise in Christ. It includes the Celebration of the Great Supper as we each remember Jesus and the light and love that we are called to share with the world!

The Gospel is **Luke 24: 1-12**. Joseph and Nicodemus arrive back at the tomb. Jesus was not there. They and a group of women were told that Jesus had risen. The women tell of what happens, but the disciples do not really believe them. Peter runs to go see for himself.

Sunrise Service (7 AM outside [dress accordingly] at St. Columba, Sunday April 17, 2022, followed with hot cross buns and hot beverages). The Gospel is **Luke 23: 55-24:11**. (see above)

Easter Communion Service (10:30 AM at St. Columba/ 4 PM at St. John Port Alice) The Gospel is **Luke 24: 1-12**. (see above). Also followed with hot cross buns!