



Re-living Jesus' Last Days Brings Us to New Life

Holy Week is to Christians what Ramadan is to Muslims and the High Holy Days to Jews. Holy Week is the apex of the Church Year. It is the time of deepest devotion, prayer, and concentration on the essential mystery of salvation. It is a time of solemn obligation when the faithful throughout the world gather to re-live the last days of Jesus' life and to thank God for those might acts by which he won our freedom.

In the fourth century there grew a strong desire to relive the history of the final week of Jesus' life. In Jerusalem people began retracing Our Lord's steps down the Mount of Olives and up onto the Temple Mount. The Sunday which opens Holy Week became known as the Sunday of the Passion, or "Palm Sunday" from the custom of using palm branches during the re-enactment of that Triumphal Entry.

Maundy Thursday became the day when the Church remembered the institution of the eucharist. According to the first three gospels it has its genesis in the Passover meal. But John's gospel contains a different chronology. John tells us of Jesus' being put to death at the very time that Jerusalem was filled with the bleating of lambs being slaughtered. From John's account the Church took the washing of the disciples' feet and made it the centerpiece of the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

The Way of the Cross, sometimes called Stations of the Cross, began in the same way. Pilgrims and others

wanted to retrace the steps between Jesus' condemnation by Pilate at the headquarters of the Roman cohort and the place of his crucifixion. They developed a route through the Old City of Jerusalem that approximated the way in which Jesus might have carried the cross. Centuries later, when Crusaders went to the Holy Land they, impressed with the custom of walking the Way of the Cross on Good Friday, brought the idea of stations back to Europe. The veneration of the cross had become a part of the Good Friday liturgy as well. In time other elements were added to Good Friday devotions, including a sustained intercession for the church and the world, and holy communion from previously consecrated ("pre-sanctified") bread and wine.

Holy Saturday became over the years a day of rest and relaxation as the Church made ready to begin Easter in the darkness with the striking of the new fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle. Then, while the faithful gathered to listen to scriptures and to pray, candidates who had been prepared for Holy Baptism were rounded up, taken to the river, lake, or pool, and baptized. When they joined the gathered community it was the first time that they had ever been present for the celebration of Holy Communion. Easter became not only a celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection but a celebration of everyone's new life in him through baptism and reception of communion.

Our experience of Holy □ page 2

BREAD

April 2, 2006

The Fifth
Sunday in Lent

Number 1546

HOLY WEEK
SERVICE SCHEDULE

THANK You!

Thank you to the folks who contributed for new hymnals and prayer books. We have added a total of 40 books for our growing congregation.

BREAD

is the newsletter of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church

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□ **page 1** Week and Easter is largely patterned after these imaginative efforts to relive the experience of Christ's last days, his passion, his death, and his resurrection. In doing so, the faithful have

always believed that we are present with him, just as our Jewish friends believe that in keeping Passover they are united to Moses and the ancient Israelites whose experience they vicariously share.

Practical Ways to Keep Holy Week and Easter

- Follow the Lenten Guide, "Return to God with All Your Heart"
 - Come to church on Maundy Thursday evening at 5:30 for a simple dinner, followed by the Maundy Thursday Liturgy
 - Stay for an hour or longer in the chapel keeping watch with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, recalling his plea to his disciples to stay awake and watch with him during his final hours
 - Be a part of one of the liturgies on Good Friday:
 - Noon – Stations of the Cross / Good Friday Liturgy
 - 7 pm - Good Friday Liturgy
 - Come Saturday morning at 10:30 for a brief Service of the Word, recalling Christ's burial in the tomb and his descent to the dead
 - Participate in the Great Vigil of Easter at 8:00 p.m. on Easter Eve
- And celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day!

Adult Forum After Easter: Start Reading Now!

Join us at Adult Forum starting April 30 for "**Themes for Christians from a Muslim Writer,**" a three-week exploration of the powerful novel "Tiger," by Mochtar Lubis, an Indonesian journalist. As always, we meet Sundays at 9:15am (prompt!) in the auditorium.

The topics for the series are:

- April 30 "Guilt and Forgiveness"
- May 7 "Terror"
- May 14 "Community and Healing"

Copies of the novel are available to borrow from Jane Lincoln at each Sunday service. If you start the book you won't be able to put it down before you finish! Come, even if you can't read the whole book over three weeks. Discussion leaders include Jane Bishop.

Space User Update: Into Afrika Departs

"After six years of sharing office space at St. Stephen's with many wonderful kindred activist souls, and having program space in several locations, Into Afrika has gained a home that can house our meditation community, yoga classes, administrative office, and cultural arts programming in one place," wrote the Rev. Marjani Dele when her organization departed St. Stephen's in March.

Taking Into Afrika's place in the office leased by the Community Coalition for Justice and Peace is Words, Beats and Life, "a hip-hop non-profit dedicated to the development and support of a community of young artists by providing consistent artistic instruction through hip-hop, with a focus in ward 7."

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday: 8am, 10:30am, 5pm

Palms are blessed to begin the services, and the liturgy continues with the Passion—this year, Mark 14:1 – 15:39. The 5pm service is in Spanish.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8am

The first three mornings of Holy Week we'll celebrate the eucharist at 8am. Attending the mass each day during Holy Week is one way to make the week Holy.

Tenebrae: 7pm

On Wednesday night we hold Tenebrae, Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”. Psalms are said or chanted, interspersed by lessons, including one from the Lamentations of Jeremiah. Candles on the altar are extinguished one by one until a single candle remains. This single candle is removed from the altar and hidden, to represent the apparent victory of the forces of evil over Christ. A loud noise is heard, reminding us of the earthquake at the time of the resurrection. Then, the candle is brought back, and all depart in silence.

Maundy Thursday: Dinner at 5:30; Liturgy at 7pm

We'll experience the ceremony of the foot washing during this Eucharist, commemorating the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. The service ends at the altar of repose, so called because on the chapel altar the Body and Blood of Christ are kept during a vigil into the night. Before, we'll have a simple dinner at 5:30.

Good Friday: Noon, 7pm

The Good Friday Liturgy—with sermon and hymns, the Veneration of the Cross, and communion from the Sacrament consecrated on Maundy Thursday—is held at Noon and at 7pm. The noon liturgy begins with the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: 10am

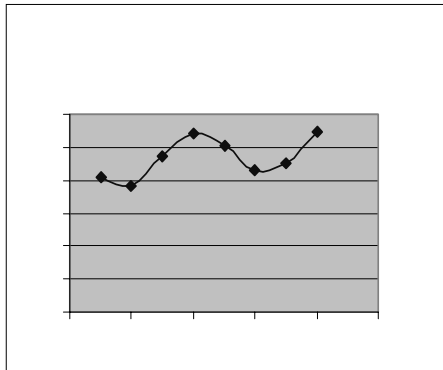
This is a simple service of readings and prayer. At its conclusion we prepare the Sanctuary for Easter. **Volunteers are needed for the preparations.**

The Great Vigil of Easter: 8pm

The liturgy begins outside with the lighting of the new fire and the Paschal Candle; the telling of holy history follows. We renew our baptismal vows, and Christ's resurrection is announced and celebrated in the first eucharist of Easter. Afterwards, the breaking of the Lenten discipline occurs with the sharing of refreshments (**please bring food or drink to share!**).

Easter Day: 8am, 10:30am, 5pm

We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at our regular Sunday liturgies. The 5pm service is in Spanish.



WORSHIP at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00a—

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30a—

Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Children's Spiritual Formation

5:00pm—

Misa en Español
Celebrants and Preachers

4/2: The Rev. Frank Dunn; The Rev. Linda Kaufman, Celebrant (10:30)

4/9: The Rev. Linda Kaufman; The Rev. Frank Dunn, Celebrant (10:30)

LECTIONS

5th Sunday in Lent
(April 2)

Jeremiah

31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Palm Sunday
(April 9)

Liturgy of the

Palms:

Mark 11:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2,

19-29

Liturgy of the

Word:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:

5-11

Mark 14:1 -

15:39

THE SAINTS

Sunday, April 2

JAMES LLOYD BRECK, PRIEST,
1876

*Birthday: Colette
Chabbot*

Monday, April 3

RICHARD, BISHOP OF
CHICHESTER, 1253

Tuesday, April 4

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
1968

Wednesday, April 5

*Heavenly Birthday:
Christopher Hilton,
1985*

Saturday, April 8

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,
PRIEST, 1877

Sunday, April 9

*Heavenly Birthday:
Margaret Keys, 1986*

THE PRAYERS

Here's who we've been praying for recently:

•Jennifer Blackman, Martha Carty, Craig Eder, Bill MacKaye, Elizabeth Palmberg, Judith Timol, and all who desire to be restored to health; those who are home-bound; and all who care for aging relatives, the sick and the homebound;

•Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), Martin Bullock & Jason Walker and Donna (Martin is a new parishioner; he and Jason will be adopting a baby in the next month; Donna is the birth mother), Romel Dick, Stephanie Holodnak (daughter of Martin Padarathsingh), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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ON THE COVER...

Cosby Hunt

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