

## Pastor's Lessons

### Confirmation #34

#### Holy Week

#### What is Holy Week?

Holy Week in Christianity is the last week before Easter. It includes the religious holidays of [Palm Sunday](#) (Passion Sunday), [Maundy Thursday](#) (Holy Thursday) and [Good Friday](#), and lasts from Palm Sunday until, but not including [Easter Sunday](#), as Easter Sunday is the first day of the new season of The Great Fifty Days. It commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus Christ culminating in his crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

#### Diving Deeper into the Days of Celebration during Holy Week

##### Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)

-Beginning of Holy Week.

-Remembrance of the entrance of the [Messiah](#) into [Jerusalem](#).

-Worship includes a reading of the Passion—narrative of Jesus' capture, sufferings and death. Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his [ultimate](#) goal of death on the cross

\* according to the Gospels Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a [donkey](#), reminisce of a Davidic victory procession and people placed palms on the ground in front of him.

\*In worship on this day, a procession with [palm leaves](#) (or other branches of plants, for example olive branches) takes place in many congregations

##### Between Sunday and Thursday

-The days between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday can also be recognized as Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and [Holy Wednesday](#)—In Some Traditions.

-During these days, various important events took place according to the gospels, such as Jesus' conversations with disciples, Jewish religious leaders, and Judas's preparation to betray Jesus.

## **Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday)**

-The day commemorates the [Last Supper](#) of Christ and his [Twelve Apostles](#) and the institution of the [Eucharist](#).

-At the evening worship service congregations celebrate the Lord's Supper. Many congregations will also hold "Confirmation Service" this night.

-On this day four events are highlighted through worship and readings: the washing of the Disciples' feet by Jesus Christ, the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot.

-Color White            Altar Stripped of all textiles, crosses, and images!

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

The morning celebration of these events marks the beginning of what is called the Easter Triduum or Sacred Triduum. The Latin word *triduum* means a three-day period, and the triduum in question is that of the three days from the death to the resurrection of Jesus. It should be noted that for Jesus and his followers a day ended, and a new day began, at sunset, not at midnight, as it still does today in the modern Jewish calendar.<sup>[1]</sup> The Last Supper was held at what present-day Western civilization considers to be the evening of Holy Thursday but what was then considered to be the first hours of Friday. Its annual commemoration thus begins the three-day period or triduum of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, days of special devotion that celebrate as a single action the death and resurrection of Christ, the central events of Christianity.

## **Good Friday**

-The celebration of Christ' Passion

-The Church mourns for Christ's death, reverences the Cross, and marvels at His life for his obedience till death.

-Colors—Black            Altars remained Stripped

-Worship services are very solemn and all exit in silence and reflection

-NO COMMUNION IN WORSHIP

-The service of Tenebrae (darkness) may happen this night or all of the last three days of Holy Week

-Services end with the slamming of book

### **Holy Saturday**

- Commemoration of the day Christ lay in the Tomb
- In some churches the “presence” candle is extinguished

### **Easter Vigil**

- Not all churches do this particular service**
- Celebrated on the eve of Easter or most typically the early morning of Easter Morning (before dawn)
- The Gospel reminds us to have our lamps ready, to be like men waiting for the Lord’s return so that when He arrives He will find us wide awake and will seat us at His table.

### **Easter Sunday**

- Celebration of Christ rising in victory (The heart of who we are as Christians)**
- Celebration of Christ conquering sin, death, and devil.
- Alleluia returns to the Church service (Alleluia Chorus is song)
- Easter Lilies in church
- Church decorated in White and/or Gold
- Greeting is “Christ has risen, He has risen indeed! Alleluia!”