



& ST IGNATIUS
ST LUKE'S
5 April 2020

ON HOLY WEEK

Our observance of Holy Week, the final week of Lent (running from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil), reenacts the main events of Jesus's last days: his entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the Last Supper (Holy Thursday), his arrest and trial, the carrying of the cross, and the Crucifixion itself (Good Friday).



The early Christians at first commemorated Christ's suffering, death and resurrection in a single, unified liturgical celebration known as Pascha (Greek for the "Passover" which, borrowing from their Jewish roots, the early Christians celebrated as the final realization of God's saving action, an exodus out of slavery to sin). This yearly paschal observance occurred either on a fixed day of the lunar month, which would have been according to the Jewish tradition, or on the Sunday that followed it.

It was during this service that people were baptized and that adult catechumens were received into full communion with the Church. It was originally an all-night vigil held in the hours of darkness between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day. In the earliest Jerusalem usage, the vigil was preceded by a day of fast. Originally observed only by the catechumens, over time the entire Christian community would join with them in their final preparation for baptism. After darkness fell on Holy Saturday, the vigil began with Psalm 118; then followed twelve Old Testament readings, all but the last being followed by a prayer with kneeling. As dawn approached the bishop would baptize the catechumens, and then confirm them; then he would begin the Eucharistic rite where they received for the first time the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord, themselves now resurrected from the sin and death to new life in Christ.

After much internal struggle over the issue, the ancient

Jewish date was eventually set aside, and it was determined that the Christian "Passover" (Easter) would always fall on Sunday, which the Christians traditionally regarded as the Lord's Day and as the church's weekly opportunity to celebrate the triumph of Christ over death in his resurrection.

A marked liturgical development to this practice occurred in the fourth century in Jerusalem. Under their bishop St. Cyril [c. 315-386], the earlier unified celebration of the Christian Passover was now split into a series of liturgies that reenacted in greater detail the events of Jesus' final week of earthly life in the numerous shrines which had already grown up on the very sites where these events were believed to have happened. We know of this from the account of a fourth-century Spanish nun named Egeria, who made a three-year pilgrimage through modern-day Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Syria—offering detailed descriptions of biblical sites, monastic communities, and worship practice in late fourth-century antiquity.

Writing to her sisters back in Spain, Egeria described the Sunday before Easter, now known as Palm Sunday, as it was celebrated in Jerusalem at the end of the fourth century:

As the eleventh hour draws near ... all the children who are [gathered at the top of the Mount of Olives], including those who are not yet able to walk because they are too young and therefore are carried on their parents' shoulders, all of them bear branches, some carrying palms, others, olive branches. And the bishop is led in the same manner as the Lord once was led. [In the gospel accounts, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.]... From the top of the mountain as far as the city and from there through the entire city ... everyone accompanies the bishop the whole way on foot, and this includes distinguished ladies and men of consequence.

Likewise, Egeria's description of Holy Week in Jerusalem also includes the first eyewitness account of the practice of venerating the cross—in her case, the "true cross" recently discovered by St. Helena—on Good Friday. Here she describes all that she saw going on in what is now the Church of the Holy Sepulchre:

A throne is set up for the bishop on Golgotha behind the Cross, which now stands there. ... The gilded silver casket containing the sacred wood of the cross is brought in and opened. ... It is the practice here for all the people to come forth one by one, the faithful as well as the catechumens to bow down before the table, kiss the holy wood, and then move on.

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

5 April Palm Sunday

Matthew 21: 1-11 *in procession*

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24;

Philippians 2: 6-11; Matthew 26: 14 — 27: 66

6 April Monday in Holy Week

Isaiah 42: 1-7; Psalm 27: 1-3, 13-14; John 12: 1-11

7 April Tuesday in Holy Week

Isaiah 49: 1-6; Psalm 71: 1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17;

John 13: 21-33, 36-38

8 April Wednesday in Holy Week

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 69: 8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34;

Matthew 26: 14-25

9 April Thursday in Holy Week, commonly called Maundy

Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18;

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-15

10 April Good Friday

Isaiah 52: 13 — 53: 12; Psalm 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25;

Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; John 18: 1 — 19: 42

11 April Holy Saturday

Genesis 1:1-2:2 and Psalm 104; Genesis 22:1-18 and Psalm 16;

Exodus 14:15 — 15:1 and Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14

and Psalm 30; Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6; Baruch 3:9-15,

3:32-4:4 and Psalm 19; Ezekiel 36: 16-28 and Psalm 42, 43;

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 143; Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Psalm

98; Romans 6:3-11 and Psalm 118; Matthew 28:1-10

12 April Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23;

Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 4 April

special intention [Susan White]

Sunday, 5 April

Palm Sunday, the Second Sunday in Passiontide

Pro populo

Monday, 6 April

Monday in Holy Week

Edward Guinivan and companions

Tuesday, 7 April

Tuesday in Holy Week

Paul and Helen Michalco + [Rebecca Michalco]

Wednesday, 8 April

Wednesday in Holy Week

Bill, Norma, and Monica Hayes + [Susan White]

Thursday, 9 April

The Mass of the Lord's Supper

pro populo

Friday, 10 April

Good Friday

The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, 11 April

The Easter Vigil

Pro populo

Sunday, 12 April

Easter Sunday

Pro populo

Fr. Vidal will be saying private masses daily until the coronavirus protocols permit public celebration once more. Mass intentions will therefore be covered.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. **Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person for a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.** Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.*

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