

A Breakdown of the Holy Week Services into Their Essential Components
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The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Note: We all call it “Palm Sunday,” but its full name, as above, tells us that the true focus of the day is in being the Holy Eucharist at which the passion narrative is the gospel reading. In 4C Jerusalem (the main source for our liturgy) the Eucharist of the Passion was the Sunday morning celebration. The procession with palms happened at 3:00 PM from the Mt. of Olives.

The Pscho-spiritual issue of the day is selfhood. The people abandon their selfhood to go along with the crowd, yelling “Hosanna,” one moment and “crucify him,” the next. Barabbas, the bandit rebel, undoubtedly held his own self to be more valuable than all others. Only Jesus gives his self for the good of all others, as in Mt. 10:39 (“Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it”).

Pre-Service	Story of the Entry into Jerusalem Blessing & Procession of Palms
Transition	Collect at the top of P. 272
Holy Eucharist	The Word of God with Passion Narrative The Holy Communion

The Triduum 3 services forming 1 liturgy

Maundy Thursday

Note: “Maundy,” comes from the Latin word, “mandatum,” which means “commandment” and from which we get the word, “mandate.” This service commemorates the new commandment given by Christ, “Love one another as I have loved you,” and its related Eucharistic commandment, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

The psycho-spiritual issue of the day is intimacy. Both foot-washing and the kind of remembering which makes present (anamnesis) require intimacy.

Holy Eucharist	The Word of God Option: Foot Washing The Holy Communion
Post-Service	Option: Reservation of the Sacrament Option: Stripping of the Altar Option: Agape Meal

Good Friday

Note: The psycho-spiritual issues of this day are tenderness and compassion. In his tender compassion for all, Christ gives his life for the life of the world. His act inspires our compassion. Hence the central act of this service is The Solemn Collects, which are prayers for the whole world at the foot of the cross. We also express our tenderness for Christ through the veneration of the cross.

The Word of God	Story of the cross with the passion narrative from John
The Solemn Collects	prayers for the whole world at the foot of the cross
Devotions at the Cross	expressing tenderness to Jesus
Option: Communion	sharing from the reserved Sacrament

Holy Saturday

Note: The psych-spiritual theme of this liturgy is waiting and ambiguity. Jesus is in his tomb and meaning lurks in things, but we have to wait for it and deal with the ambiguity of waiting.

The Word of God	the anthem “In the midst of life,” replaces Prayers of the People
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The Great Vigil of Easter

Note: The psycho-spiritual theme of this liturgy is resurrection and the abundance of life. In therapy and spiritual direction we discover that the stories we create from our experiences often carry more implications, more meaning, than we realize. With the resurrection of Christ and our participation in him (baptism & eucharist), we discover an eternal abundance of meaning and life. This eternal life is much more than we previously realized.

New Fire	Lighting a bonfire and lighting/blessing the Paschal Candle
Lessons	Stories around the bonfire (as represented by the Paschal Candle)
Baptism/Renewal of BV	Living awash in the story of salvation
Easter Proclamation	Shouting eternal life
The Word of God	Proclaiming the Resurrection as the implication and fulfillment of all the above
The Holy Eucharist	Feasting on the Word of Life