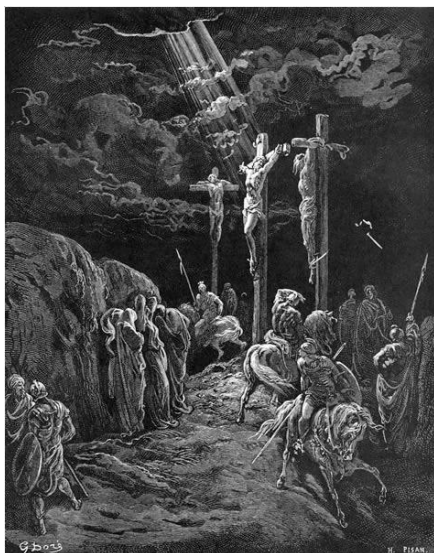


Walking through Holy Week



2020

St. James Anglican Church

Holy Week **April 5 – 12th, 2020**

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Between Palm Sunday and Easter Day lies Holy Week – the most incredible events and extraordinary fulfillment of God's plan to save us and all people.

Let's encourage one another to walk with our Lord during Holy Week, to read and ponder the historical records of these events – that we might grasp once again just what the LORD has done for us – and come with a renewed sense of joy to celebrate the full significance of the Resurrection on Easter morning. You can find the traditional Passion Reading, according to Luke, Chapter 22: 39 through to Chapter 23:49

On Maundy Thursday, the night of the Last Supper, we remember that night Jesus gave us (until His return) the precious gift of communion with Him.

As a community, we shall gather digitally on Good Friday, the crucifixion, we gather for a time of reflection upon the Cross in words and music.

Following the Good Friday service, there will be a Prayer Vigil through to Easter morning. You are invited to participate and sign-up for the time(s) you will praying at home, to provide a complete prayer cover for this period.

Your participation is warmly invited in some (or all) of these events from home.

Confession

There is a longstanding tradition in the Church prior to significant feast days. When our personal confession (one-on-one before God) doesn't seem to 'work', we sometimes need to confess to another (or priest), and have them pronounce God's forgiveness of our sin(s). This may be arranged if desired and necessary; call Tony. The number for such a situation is on the Church's answering message.

Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.

The evening prior to Passover and the inauguration of The Lord's Supper. We remember Christ came to serve, not be served. We watch as he washes his disciples' feet. As he gives the bread and the cup we hear him say 'Do this in remembrance of me'. At the end of the service the altar is stripped as a symbol of abandonment and desolation. And as the disciples all fled, we leave in silence. You might like to read Matthew 26:30-56

Good Friday 10:30 a.m.

A contemplative service of Meditations and Hymns around the death of Christ on the Cross and its significance to us today. Being together on Good Friday is one of the most significant worship times of the year.

Scripture Readings for Holy Week
(see over)

Prayer Vigil

Jesus asked His disciples to ‘watch and pray’ in Gethsemane, before His death. Beginning Friday mid-day through to Easter morn, the Vigil is an opportunity for individuals to take their part, for an hour or two, in a ‘watch’ during the time our Lord hung on the Cross and then lay in the tomb.

Some know the benefit of praying as a church together, setting aside time to simply be quiet for a time, or to meditate on the Scriptures that tell us the story of our Lord’s final week leading up to his death and resurrection, *this year we ask that you pray at home*. It can be a time when you reflect on what this means for you personally. It can also be a time to pray for personal need.

Others find the vigil as a way to focus on the Lord’s offering for the whole church, and to express our request for the continuing work of His Holy Spirit in all aspects of our life together.

Vigil Hours at your home:

- Good Friday: 12 noon to 11.00 p.m.
- Holy Saturday: 6.00 am. – 11.00 p.m.

Prayer ‘helps’ and intercessions will be on the website to encourage you during your hour of vigil

Bible Readings for Holy Week

Here is a devotional guide to help us symbolically ‘walk’ through and experience, in the present, some of the final scenes and moments in Jesus’ earthly life.

Monday: Scene 1

The Last Supper

Read: Matthew 26:17-30

- **Pray:** The disciples, who innocently shared this last supper with their Master, later became martyrs for their belief.
Help us, O Lord, to weigh the cost of discipleship before we sit at the table with Christ.

Tuesday: Scene 2

The Garden of Gethsemane

Read: Matthew 26:36-56

- **Pray:** As Jesus struggled with his destiny, he prayed for strength and courage (‘to hold fast to that which is good’).
Help us, O Lord, to pour out our doubts and fears openly, and to be willing to accept your will for our lives, as Jesus shows us.

Wednesday: Scene 3

The Courtyard

Read: Matthew 26:69-75

- **Pray:** Peter followed Jesus to the judgment hall. But when the test came, he failed.
Forgive us, O Lord, for the many ways in which we have let you down, and for the many times we didn’t find the courage to stand up for what is right.

Thursday: Scene 4

The Trial

Read: Matthew 27:11-26

- **Pray:** This was a trial of trumped up charges and a judge who gave in to the demands of the mob.
Help us, O Lord, to side with the victims of oppression and injustice, wherever it occurs, and not condemn the innocent by our silence.

Friday: Scene 5

The Walk to Golgotha

Read: Matthew 27:32-44

- **Pray:** The weight of the cross on the shoulders of a beaten and abused man would feel like the weight of the whole world, getting heavier by the moment.
Help us, O Lord, to step forward, like Simon of Cyrene, to shoulder the burdens of others who can no longer carry their load.