

Trinity



Holy Week and Easter *2019 Family Guide*



Each year our church tells the story of the last days of Jesus' life on earth and subsequent resurrection through a series of worship services. The series begins with Palm Sunday and ends on Easter morning. We remember many scenes, including Jesus' last night with the disciples and his subsequent betrayal, condemnation, crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection.

We tell the story over the course of five varied and unique services. Throughout them all, no sense will go unstimulated! Children and families are welcome and encouraged to attend any or all services. The times of the services were set with the intention of small children participating.

What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the only time of year when we take a whole week to tell a single story about Jesus. It gives us time to listen and think deeply. There are many people who attend all the services in Holy Week, so that they can hear the beginning through to the end. And for those who do, they will tell you it makes Easter morning more meaningful, powerful, and joyous.

Palm Sunday

(Sunday, April 14, 8:00 & 10:15 am; Parade at 9:15 am)

On this day we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In biblical times, royalty rode donkeys in times of peace rather than horses, which were associated with wartime. As crowds of people streamed into Jerusalem for Passover, Jesus rode a donkey into the city. When people saw him, they covered the road with their garments and laid palm leaves in his path, shouting, "Hosanna in the highest!"



Join us at 9:15 for a parade around Excelsior! Children love to participate in this walk, blowing bubbles and carrying pinwheels.

Maundy Thursday

(Thursday, April 18, 6:30 pm; Dinner provided)

Jesus knew that the time was near. And so he gathered his disciples for a Passover meal in an upstairs room of a Jerusalem home, doing his best to prepare his friends for what was ahead. First Jesus washed each of the disciples' feet, teaching them to serve one another just as he had served them. Then Jesus gathered them around the table and told them to remember him after he was gone by breaking the bread and drinking the wine – the very first Eucharist.

This service is led primarily by our senior high and middle school youth and **includes a special meal woven into the service**. It is a wonderful experience for young children. We end in the Sanctuary with the stripping of the altar, which is done slowly and methodically. Children watch with rapt attention as each piece is ceremoniously removed by a member of the Altar Guild.

Good Friday

(Friday, April 19, 6:30 pm)

On Good Friday, Trinity has a Way of the Cross service. This service began many hundreds of years ago, when pilgrims went to Jerusalem and retraced Jesus' last steps on earth. Different stations were marked throughout the holy city for prayer and song. Trinity's service will include 14 stations, each one created by a different member of Trinity Church. Together we will walk the stations, stopping at each one for scripture and prayer, and then singing as we walk to the next station, ending in the Sanctuary.

Holy Saturday Children's Service

(Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am; Lunch provided)

This observance of Jesus' death is designed specifically for children and their families. The service will not frighten its participants, but rather will engage the elements and characters of the story. Together we will walk a series of interactive stations. We'll sing "Hosanna in the highest!" and wave our palm branches, wash each other's feet, eat bread, meet Pontius Pilate, and carry our crosses. We will end up in at the baptismal font, connecting Jesus's resurrection to baptism.

The service concludes with lunch in the Parish Hall. It is inclusive of all generations, engaging children, youth, and adults.



Easter Sunday

(Sunday, April 18, 8:00 & 10:15 am)

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! These words are the first words spoken on Easter morning and they launch a festive worship service full of light and life. The service begins with a huge procession, with children invited to process with streamers. After the 10:15 service there will be a big party in the Parish Hall and an Easter Egg Hunt outside, weather permitting.