



Walking the Way:

Easter and Holy Week at St. Clement's



Holy Week and Easter invite us into the heart of the Christian faith: the journey of Jesus' final days, his passion, death, and ultimately his resurrection. Each service is rich with meaning and invites us to not only remember, but to enter the story ourselves.

Here, we'll explain the services we will observe in Holy Week and on Easter, exploring the traditions, their meaning, and how you can be a part here at St. Clement's.

Throughout this sacred week, the Church moves step by step through the story of Christ's love for the world—from the shouts of "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday, through the quiet reflection of the Last Supper, the sorrow of the cross on Good Friday, and finally the great joy of Easter morning. Each service has its own character and purpose, helping us slow down, reflect, and experience the depth of these events in a meaningful way.

Whether you have walked through Holy Week many times or are encountering these traditions for the first time, we invite you to join us. There are many ways to participate—through prayer, worship, quiet reflection, and shared community—as we journey together toward the hope and new life of Easter.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Palm Sunday
Mar 29 | 9:00 & 11:00 am

Tenebrae
Wed, Apr 1 | 6:15 pm

Maundy Thursday
Apr 2 | 7:00 pm

Morning Watch
Apr 2 | 8:00 pm-12:01 am

Good Friday
Apr 3

- The Three Hours
12:00-3:00 pm
- Stations of the Cross
6:30 pm
- Good Friday Liturgy
7:00 pm

Holy Saturday
Apr 4 | 9:00-9:30 am

Easter Sunday
Apr 5

- 7:30 - 9:00 - 11:00am Services
- 10:15 - Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday– March 29 | 9:00 & 11:00 AM

The Tradition:

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Crowds welcomed him by laying cloaks and palm branches in his path, shouting "Hosanna!" This day sets the stage for the emotional and spiritual arc of the week to come, reminding us of the tension between the adoration of the crowd and the rejection to follow.

At St. Clement's:

Our service begins outside, on the patio in front of Davis Hall, where all ages gather for the blessing of the palms. We process into the church with joyful hearts, waving palm branches, led by the beautiful sounds of the Choir and/or Chimes of St. Clement's. The liturgy quickly shifts tone as we move into the Passion Gospel, inviting us into the depth of the week ahead.

On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Ways to Participate:

- **Arrive a few minutes early to receive your palm and line up for the procession.**
- **Children and youth are especially encouraged to participate in the palm procession.**
- **Take your palm home and place it somewhere visible as a reminder of the journey you are taking.**

— BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, LITURGY OF THE PALMS p. 271



Tenebrae – Wednesday, April 1 | 6:15 PM

The Tradition:

Tenebrae, Latin for "shadows," is a contemplative service of scripture, silence, and diminishing light. As candles are extinguished one by one, we descend into darkness, reflecting the abandonment Jesus faced from his disciples and the encroaching darkness of the cross.

At St. Clement's:

Held on the Wednesday of Holy Week, our Tenebrae service features a series of readings from the Lamentations and Psalms. It concludes in near-total silence and darkness, offering a profound space for personal reflection.

Ways to Participate:

- **Attend with an open heart and embrace the silence.**
- **Bring older children or teens who may appreciate this powerful, meditative experience.**
- **Use this time to reflect on your own experiences of shadow and light.**

*“You call me
‘Teacher’ and
‘Lord,’ and rightly
so, for that is
what I am.*

*Now that I, your
Lord and Teacher,
have washed your
feet, you also
should wash one
another’s feet.*

JOHN 13:13-14 (NIV)

*“My soul is
overwhelmed with
sorrow to the
point of death.
Stay here and
keep watch with
me.”*

JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES
IN GETHSEMANE

MATT. 26:36-46

Maundy Thursday – April 2 | 7:00 PM

The Tradition:

Maundy Thursday recalls the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples, where he instituted the Eucharist and demonstrated servant leadership by washing their feet.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum, meaning commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." Egeria, a fourth-century pilgrim to Jerusalem, describes elaborate celebrations and observances in that city on Maundy Thursday.

At St. Clement's:

Our Maundy Thursday service includes Holy Eucharist, the ceremonial foot washing, and the solemn stripping of the altar. All are invited to the altar to participate in this The Sacrament is then placed in the Lady Chapel, in a 'garden' prepared by the Altar Guild, symbolizing Jesus and his disciples walking out of Jerusalem, down the Kidron Valley, up to the Mount of Olives and into the Garden of Gethsemane.

Ways to Participate:

- **Come forward for foot washing — all are invited.**
- **Stay for a time of silent prayer in the garden chapel.**



Morning Watch – April 2 | 8:00 PM – 12:01 AM

The Tradition:

After the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, asking his disciples to keep watch with him. The Morning Watch is a response to that call: a time of silent prayer and presence before the reserved Sacrament.

At St. Clement's:

Our Lady Chapel is transformed into a prayer garden. Parishioners sign up in 30-minute increments to keep vigil in this sacred space. It's a beautiful opportunity for stillness, intimacy, and devotion.

Ways to Participate:

- **Choose a time that fits your schedule, even late at night.**
- **Come as a family or pair with a friend.**
- **Use your time to pray, journal, or simply sit with God.**
- **Be mindful as silence is maintained.**

Sign up for a 30-minute time slot on the chart in the Narthex or just come as you are able.

Good Friday – April 3

The Three Hours | 12:00–3:00 PM

The Tradition:

Known as the “Tre Ore,” this service reflects the time Jesus spent on the cross. It is traditionally a time for meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ, scripture, music, and silence. The unhurried pace invites worshippers to linger with Jesus in his final hours.

At St. Clement's:

The sanctuary is open for three hours of prayer, reflection, and quiet devotion. Readings, hymns, and meditations guide us through Jesus' final words. You may come and go as you are able; some stay the full three hours, while others attend a portion.

Ways to Participate:

- **Drop in for 20–30 minutes or stay for the full service.**
- **Reflect on each of Jesus' last sayings with your own prayer journal.**
- **Sit in silence and allow the scripture and music to speak to your heart**

Stations of the Cross | 6:30 PM

The Tradition:

The Stations of the Cross follow the path Jesus walked from his condemnation to the tomb. Each station marks a moment of his journey and invites us to walk beside him. This practice roots us in Jesus' suffering and compassion.

At St. Clement's:

We will walk the Stations inside the church, pausing at each one for prayer and reflection. This service is especially meaningful for families, as it provides a visual and physical way to engage with the story of Good Friday.

Ways to Participate:

- **Walk with us as a household or join a friend in prayer.**
- **Reflect on how Jesus' journey intersects with your own experiences of suffering or perseverance.**

Good Friday Liturgy | 7:00 PM

The Tradition:

The Good Friday Liturgy includes the reading of the Passion according to John, solemn prayers for the world, and the Veneration of the Cross. It is a stark and powerful service where we confront the reality of the crucifixion and lay our burdens at the foot of the cross.

At St. Clement's:

The church will be in near-darkness. The Passion Gospel will be read dramatically, followed by a time to come forward and reverence the cross—some may kneel, touch, or bow. It is a deeply moving experience of mourning and hope.

Ways to Participate:

- **Be a part of the dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel**
- **Come forward to venerate the cross in your own way: by touch, kneeling, or silent prayer.**

Good Friday is one of the most solemn days in the Christian calendar. It commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.

Traditionally observed with fasting, prayer, and silence, Good Friday invites us into the depth of Christ's suffering and ultimate act of love.



O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so may we await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BOOK OF COMMON
PRAYER, - HOLY SATURDAY
COLLECT OF THE DAY p.
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Holy Saturday – April 4 | 9:00–9:30 AM

The Tradition:

Holy Saturday is a day of quiet and stillness, commemorating the time Jesus lay in the tomb. It is a pause between grief and joy, inviting us to wait in hope.

At St. Clement's:

Our brief morning liturgy offers scripture, prayers, and silence. It marks the end of Lent and prepares us for the joy of Easter. This is a gentle, contemplative space to gather your thoughts and center your spirit.

Ways to Participate:

- **Join us for this short service before the busyness of Easter preparations.**
- **Use the day to reflect on the themes of waiting, grief, and hope.**



How You Can Be Involved This Holy Week:

- Join the Palm Procession and wave your branches with joy.
 - Come forward for foot washing on Maundy Thursday.
 - Sign up for the Morning Watch and keep vigil.
 - Bring your family to the Stations of the Cross and teach them the story.
 - Take time for stillness and reflection on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.
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Celebrating Easter – April 5 | 9:00 & 11:00 AM

The Tradition:

Easter is the most joyful day in the Christian year. After the solemn journey of Holy Week, the Church proclaims the resurrection of Jesus Christ — the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over sin. The empty tomb changes everything.

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have gathered at dawn on Easter morning to celebrate the resurrection. The Gospels tell us that the women came to the tomb early in the morning and discovered that Jesus had risen. Because of this, many churches begin Easter celebrations at sunrise and continue throughout the day with music, celebration, and the Eucharist.

Easter worship is marked by joy: flowers fill the church, bells ring again after the silence of Good Friday, and the Church proclaims its most ancient Easter greeting:

“Alleluia! Christ is risen.”

“The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

This celebration of resurrection is not only about remembering what happened long ago. Easter proclaims that new life, hope, and transformation are possible for us today.

At St. Clement's:

At St. Clement's, Easter morning is a joyful celebration shared by our entire community. We gather in several different ways throughout the morning, allowing people to worship in the style that best helps them celebrate the resurrection. We begin the day outdoors with our Sunrise Service at 7:30 AM, greeting the new day together as we remember the discovery of the empty tomb.

At 9:00 AM, our Contemporary Service offers joyful worship with uplifting music and a welcoming atmosphere for families and guests. Between services, children are invited to take part in our Easter Egg Hunt at 10:20 AM, a fun tradition that celebrates the joy and new life of Easter.

At 11:00 AM, we gather again for a Traditional Festival Eucharist, a beautiful service filled with music, celebration, and the rich liturgy of the Episcopal Church.

Whether you join us outdoors at sunrise, for one of our Eucharistic celebrations, or simply come to experience the joy of Easter morning, you are warmly welcome.

*“Alleluia!
Christ is risen!”*

*The Lord is
risen indeed.
Alleluia!”*

— BOOK OF COMMON
PRAYER, EASTER
ACCLAMATION

Ways to Participate:

- **Start the day with the Sunrise Service (7:30 AM) outdoors (bring a chair as we will sit at the outdoor altar).**
- **Join us for the Contemporary Easter Service (9:00 AM).**
- **Bring children to the Easter Egg Hunt at (10:15 AM).**
- **Celebrate the resurrection at the Traditional Festival Eucharist (11:00 AM).**
- **Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to experience Easter with you.**

We hope this newsletter enriches your experience of Holy Week and Easter. Whether you join us for one service or all, let us walk this journey together as a community of faith, trust, and hope.



Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at St. Clement's. Whether you are exploring faith for the first time or returning after time away, whether you're new to the area or have lived here your whole life, you will find a community here ready to walk with you.

We are a congregation of all ages and backgrounds, striving to follow Jesus in the Episcopal tradition with open hearts, thoughtful worship, and a deep commitment to serving others. We would love for you to be part of what God is doing here.

ST. CLEMENT'S WELCOMES EVERYONE INTO OUR LOVING COMMUNITY, IN WHICH WE DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER, SERVICE, EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP, SO WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.



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