



**SAINT
PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

CHESTNUT HILL • PHILADELPHIA

JOURNEYING THROUGH HOLY WEEK TO EASTER

PALM SUNDAY, morning worship, and 5 p.m. Sung Passion

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with a procession which echoes Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, when the train of events which led to his death and resurrection took place. Through Holy Week Christians set aside time to meditate on these events.

A reading from The Gospel of Matthew: chapter 21

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him, and that followed were shouting; 'Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

A Prayer: True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross
which is the path of glory. Amen.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 5:30 p.m. Agapé Meal, 7 p.m. Worship

The Maundy Thursday meal, we remember the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples.

A reading from The Gospel of Luke: chapter 22

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him, He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer' ...

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying. 'This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

A Prayer: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

At worship, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and set an example of loving service by washing the feet of his disciples.

A reading from The Gospel of John: chapter 13

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.'

A Prayer: God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him;
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY, a fast day, Worship at noon

On Good Friday, we remember the death of Jesus on the cross, a brutal act of torture and an awe inspiring act of sacrifice through which our relationship with God is restored. The focus of our worship is the cross.

A reading from Isaiah: chapters 52, 53

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. .. For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account ...

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

A Prayer: Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love;
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TENEBRAE, Good Friday at 7 p.m.

The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles, to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin, meaning "darkness." This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise also sounds, symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

A reading from Hebrews: chapter 4

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

A Prayer: Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross. Amen

HOLY SATURDAY, worship with Flower Guild at 9:30 a.m.

Jesus' body lies in the tomb. This is a time of desolation and of waiting between the crucifixion and the resurrection. We search the scriptures to find hope in God's promises to his people throughout human history.

A reading from Ezekiel: chapter 37

The Lord said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, "Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.'

A Prayer: In the depths of our isolation
we cry to you, Lord God,
give light in our darkness
and bring us out of the prison of our despair,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EASTER VIGIL, Baptism and Eucharist, 7 p.m.

As the darkness falls we gather around the fire and as the light is kindled we hear the Easter proclamation; 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' and, through the waters of Baptism, we rejoice in the new life we share with the risen Christ.

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Romans: chapter 6

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

A Prayer: Grant, we pray Almighty God, that we who celebrate with awe the Paschal feast may be found worthy to attain to everlasting joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

EASTER DAY, worship at 8, 9, and 11:15 a.m.

We hear the story of the first Easter Day when the women went to the tomb and found it empty, and Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ in the garden.

A reading from The Gospel of John: chapter 20

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord;' and she told them that he had said these things to her.

A Prayer: God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of sin and death,
fill your people with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned,
and the way of life stands open
in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



We are delighted that you have been here with us during this most significant week in the year for Christians. If you are able to join us for one of the services you will be most welcome, and you can find further details of these in the Lent, Holy Week, and Easter leaflet, or on our website - www.stpaulschestnuthill.org

Wherever you go from this place, may the sacrificial love of God and the joyful hope of the resurrection go with you.