

# GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



St. John's  
Episcopal Church

SPRING 2025

# Holy Week at St. John's

**H**oly Week is the culmination of our Lenten journey, a sacred time when we walk with Jesus through the final days of his earthly life—from his entry into Jerusalem to the sorrow of the cross and the triumph of resurrection. It gathers up the whole of our faith and places us inside the story of salvation—where grace is poured out, love revealed, and everything made new.

As Holy Week unfolds, time seems to bend upon itself. We are not merely remembering past events—we are stepping into them, living them in real time. On Palm Sunday, we wave branches, joining the crowds that shout "Hosanna!" as Jesus enters the holy city. On Maundy Thursday, we kneel as Jesus washes our feet, commanding us to love one another as he has loved us. Good Friday leads us to the foot of the cross, where silence and sorrow deepen our longing for redemption. And then, in the darkness of the Easter Vigil, light bursts forth as we proclaim the resurrection, rejoicing in the victory of life over death.

This is the heart of our faith. These days draw us into the great story of salvation. Step fully into the mystery. Pray deeply. Walk the path of Holy Week with Christ.

## Holy Week Services



### Palm Sunday

April 13  
8 & 10 AM

Weather permitting, the Palm Sunday service begins outdoors with the blessing of the palms. We join the crowds of Jerusalem in joyful procession, waving palm fronds and singing "Hosanna!" as we welcome Christ as our King. Yet, as the service unfolds, the mood shifts. The triumph of Jesus' entry gives way to the shadow of the Passion. We are invited to walk this journey with Christ, from exaltation to sorrow, as we enter the solemnity of Holy Week.

**8 AM: Begins in the south transept breezeway.**

**10 AM: Begins on Call Street, which will be closed for the morning.** 📍 🛒 ?



### Maundy Thursday

April 17  
6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday draws us deeper into Holy Week as we walk with Jesus on the night of his betrayal. We gather as his disciples did, sharing in the sacred meal he left us and witnessing his act of humble service as he kneels to wash their feet. All who wish may receive the gentle gift of foot washing, a sign of the love and servanthood Christ calls us to embody.

After Communion, the altar is stripped bare, echoing his abandonment in the garden. The word maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," for on this night, Jesus commands us to love one another as he has loved us. 📍 🛒 ?



# Gethsemane Watch

April 17-18

8 PM - 12 PM

After the Maundy Thursday liturgy, the story continues. Just as Jesus asked his disciples to stay awake and pray with him in the garden, we, too, keep watch—hour by hour—before the Blessed Sacrament in Carter Chapel. In the mystery of Holy Week, we are not simply remembering Gethsemane; we are there, with Jesus. All are invited to sign up for an hour long watch at: [saint-john.org/event/gethsemanewatch2025](http://saint-john.org/event/gethsemanewatch2025). A sheriff's deputy will be on the grounds throughout the night for safety.



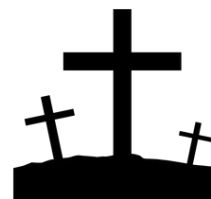
# Great Vigil of Easter

April 19

6:30 PM

**The Great Vigil of Easter is a night of wonder, light, and triumphant joy—the pinnacle of our Christian journey.** Steeped in ancient tradition, we kindle the new Easter fire, hear the sweeping story of God's saving love, baptize new believers, and proclaim the risen Christ with shouts of "Alleluia!"

This is the brightest jewel of Christian worship, the climax of the year, the feast of feasts, and the moment when darkness gives way to dazzling light. Come and rejoice—this is the night when everything changes! 🎵 🛒 🙏



# Good Friday

April 18

12:10 PM

At the hour of Jesus' crucifixion, we gather at the foot of the cross. We hear the Passion according to John, pray for the world, and kneel in solemn veneration. This is not a reenactment—it is the mystery of the cross made present. Communion is shared from the reserved Sacrament as we remain in the shadow of that saving love. 🎵

# Stations of the Cross

April 18

6:30 PM

This devotional liturgy invites us to walk with Jesus on the path to his crucifixion, pausing at each station to reflect on his faithfulness and love. At St. John's, the beauty of this service is deepened by music—hymns sung by the congregation and gorgeous choral reflections offered by the choir. The result is a prayerful journey that draws us into the heart of Christ's Passion, where sorrow and beauty meet. 🛒



# Easter Sunday

April 20

7:30, 9 & 11:15 AM

Easter Sunday bursts forth in joy as we celebrate the triumph of Christ's resurrection. Join us for one of our three festive morning services, filled with glorious music, radiant flowers, and the gladness of joyful gatherings. Rejoice—Christ is risen! 🎵 🛒 🙏

HOLY WEEK



EASTER 2025

### PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13

8 AM | 10 AM    | CALL ST. CLOSED

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

6:30 PM | LITURGY & FOOT WASHING   

### GETHSEMANE WATCH

Thursday, April 17 - Friday, April 18

8 PM - 12 PM | OVERNIGHT VIGIL IN THE CHAPEL

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18

12:10 PM 

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 18

6:30 PM 

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19

2 PM

## THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, April 19

6:30 PM   

### EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 20

7:30 AM | 9 AM   | 11:15 AM

 = Livestreamed Services

 = Childcare Provided

 = Incense Used

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAINT-JOHN.ORG