

HOLY WEEK GUIDE



CHURCH OF THE
SAVIOR

MARCH 23RD - MARCH 31ST

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY WEEK

WORD FROM FR. KEVIN

It's intense and only once a year. What is going on?

For Christians, the most important week of the year is Holy Week—the name we give the final and ultimate week of Jesus' earthly life.

We don't so much **study** that as **enter** it. Holy Week began in the 4th century, as Christians in Jerusalem wanted to worship Christ in the exact places where he had been, to retrace his steps during those momentous events. Therefore, our worship during Holy Week is even more tactile, often primal—waving palm fronds, touching a wooden cross, lighting a candle, washing feet, dancing, ringing bells. (This is also why it's a great week for kids. They often enter this worship better than we do.)

My final word of overview is that Holy Week works as **one unified week**, one giant wave rising and cresting and carrying us toward the shore. We aren't used to thinking this way. Most folks I know grew up viewing Maundy Thursday as wholly optional, Good Friday as like going to a funeral service, and Easter Vigil as that weird thing Anglicans do. Actually, those 3 services are 1 joint service. We don't "end" the service after Thursday or Friday; there is no closing hymn and no dismissal; we simply allow you a break to go home and sleep, then come back to continue in worship.

PRAYING FOR HOLY WEEK

"Unless the Lord builds a house,
the work of the builders is wasted." (Psalm 127)

- For the grace to open ourselves to God's Spirit and receive all He has for us in this Holy Week.
- For anointing on the reading, preaching, and singing of God's Word, that we would hear it with new ears and take it in deeply.
- For a palpable sense of our union in Christ, so that isolation would be swallowed up in Christian community.
- For creativity to live into these ancient practices in fresh ways.
- For people beyond Savior who view the services to meet God.
- For our Good Friday Gift to bless People's Resource Center in need of a new walk-in cooler for their new facility

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 15, 2:00-8:00PM

Saturday, March 16, 9:00AM-3:00PM

Please sign up for a time slot: [FriendsoftheSavior.org](https://friendsofthesavior.org)

In this self-guided, interactive journey, move through the final 14 key moments of Jesus's life, from his betrayal to his burial. Good for most ages.

Palm Saturday

Saturday, March 23rd, 5:00-6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28th, 7:00-8:30 PM

Good Friday

Friday, March 29th, 4:00-5:30 PM

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, March 30th, 5:00-7:00 pm

*All gatherings above are located at Pleasant Hill Community Church:
26W401 Geneva Road, Wheaton, IL 60187*

Easter Celebration

Eucharist & Continental Breakfast

Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Tyndale Publishing House:

351 Executive Dr, Carol Stream, IL 60188

LIVESTREAM

Unable to attend in-person?

We warmly invite you to attend the livestream services (Stations of the Cross and Easter Celebration will not be streamed).

Connect with our livestream on Church of the Savior's [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) channel. To follow along in the service, access the Orders of Worship on our website friendsofthesavior.org.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



PALM SATURDAY

Saturday, March 23rd, 5:00-6:30 PM

This service features two parts, in jarring juxtaposition: (1) An outdoor palm procession. We are the crowd along the road into Jerusalem, waving palm branches and singing to welcome Jesus as he enters Jerusalem as King. (2) The Passion reading—the account of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion. Now we are the crowd that turns against Jesus, shouting “Crucify him!” (Join in loudly at this part of the reading.)

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Good Friday: “Station 12 Jesus Dies on the Cross” 2019 ©Jen Norton
Easter Vigil: “Easter Morning” 2019 ©Jen Norton
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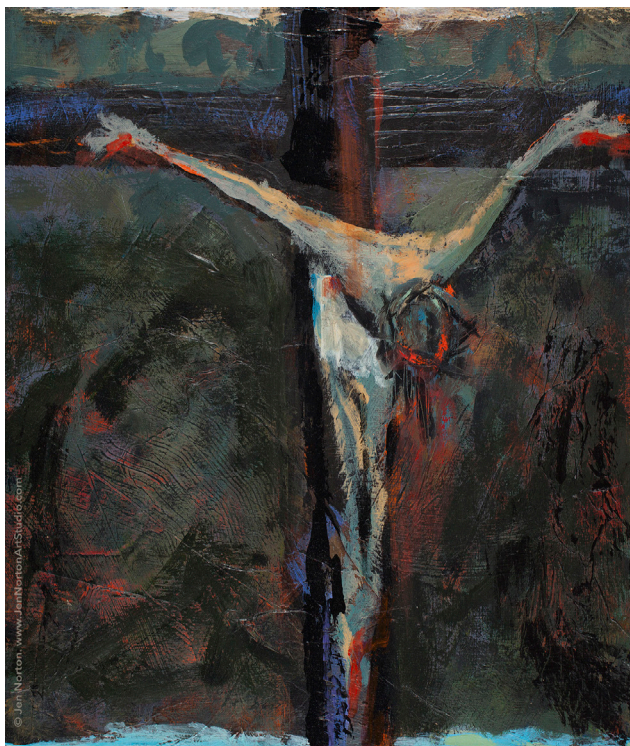


MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28th, 7:00-8:30 PM

The word “maundy” relates to “mandate,” because on the Thursday night before he died, Jesus gave his followers a mandate: “Love each other just as much as I love you” (John 13:34). In this service, we are the disciples, and we see how much Jesus loves us:

- (1) Footwashing: He washes our feet (optional; wear socks and shoes easy for you to remove);
- (2) Communion: He gives us his life in the Last Supper;
- (3) Prayer Watch: He prays in agony in Gethsemane until he can take on the suffering for our sake. (You’re invited to remain in prayer following the service, as the disciples were invited by Jesus to pray with him.)



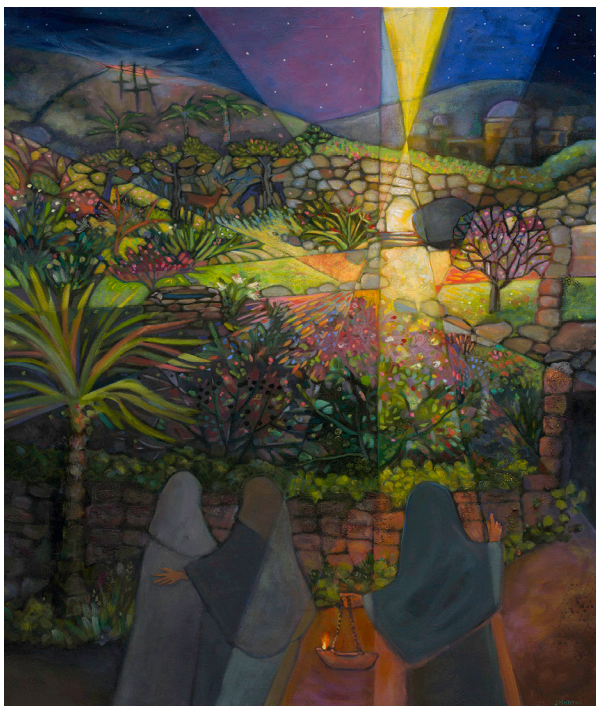
GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29th, 4:00-5:30 PM

Christians call this disastrous day in Jesus' life—an event of government-sponsored torture and public execution—"good." In what possible way could "Good Friday" be good? Because a greater plan was at work. Several times Jesus predicted that he would be betrayed, tortured, and killed (Luke 9:22; 9:44; and 18:31-33)—and, incredibly, this was part of God's plan (Luke 22:22) and the reason Jesus came (John 12:27-28). Therefore, our worship is subdued and grateful but not like a funeral. In the Good Friday service, we are eyewitnesses of Jesus' suffering and death. We hear and participate again in the Passion narrative. And we take time to pray at the cross.

Good Friday Gift

On this day of Christ's great sacrifice, we have a chance to give sacrificially for Christ's sake, to our neighbors in need. This year, we are excited to support People's Resource Center (PRC). Our gift will go towards the purchase and installation of a walk-in cooler, which costs approximately \$25,000. Please write "Good Friday Gift" in the memo line of your check or visit friendsofthesavior.org/giving and select "Good Friday Gift" fund.



THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, March 30th, 5:00-7:00 pm

In the early church, new believers could not receive the sacred mystery of Communion until they had been taught and trained. The final night of their training was the night before Easter. They would stay awake all night. At dawn, as the Easter sunrise began to light the sky, they would be baptized and put on white robes. That's how the Easter Vigil began.

Like those early believers, we spend a long time in worship (so bring water and maybe a power bar). The service comes in 4 parts:

1. Service of Light: The Paschal Candle (Easter Candle) is lit, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world. We share in that light by lighting our own candles
2. Service of Lessons: we hear how God saved his people in ages past and respond with songs and prayers. That culminates in the Acclamation that "Jesus is risen!," which is shouted and celebrated. (Bring a bell to ring!)
3. Baptism: we baptize new believers and renew our own baptismal vows.
4. Communion: we celebrate the victory of Life over Death in this holy feast.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION & BRUNCH

Sunday, March 31st, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Tyndale House Publishers

351 Executive Drive, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Our joy continues! We will hear the Gospel account of the 1st Easter, sing favorite Easter songs, and set up the flowering cross. Following the service, enjoy brunch, get to know people, and thank God for all he has done among us during Holy Week.



CHURCH OF THE
SAVIOR

Journeying Together: Loving God, Loving Others, Loving Life

FriendsOfTheSavior.org

630-387-9450

PO Box 507, Wheaton, IL 60187