

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when we shout “Hosanna!” and “Crucify him!” – two contradictory cries in the ears of Jesus. One is a hopeful hail of Jesus as king, the long-awaited Messiah who will deliver God’s people from oppression. The other is a call for his execution, perhaps driven by anger or a sense of betrayal at seeing this “king” in custody, beaten, and seemingly powerless.

The liturgy of Palm Sunday is a condensed version of the walk to the cross. In these last Lenten days, explore and experience that walk by joining us in worship throughout Holy Week. Fill in the details of the narrative. Let the ritual take you deeper into why “Hosanna!” and “Crucify him!” still ring true. Come, and you will discover “He is risen!” to be the greatest truth of all. Read more below to learn more about the services we observe throughout Holy Week and on Easter Day.

Adrian+

TODAY AFTER CHURCH!

12:30 to 1:00 p.m. Bring your coffee and grab a seat near the front of the church for a roundtable discussion with the preacher about the sermon. This will be a time when you can ask questions, give feedback, and in general, help us all to deepen the conversation that the sermon has only just begun.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Holy (Spy) Wednesday, April 13

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Organ

In the Church’s tradition, this day half-way between Palm Sunday and Easter is known as Spy Wednesday. We remember how Judas (the aforementioned “spy”) leaves the Last Supper to betray Jesus by leading the Temple guard and Roman soldiers to find him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil in the Chapel of the Nativity

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word “mandatum,” as in “mandatum novum,” or the “new commandment” that Jesus gives to his disciples. Our service of Holy Eucharist on Maundy Thursday celebrates the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, during which he gave them the new commandment to love one another as he has loved them, washed their feet, and instituted the Eucharist. This year, we introduce the ritual of foot washing to commemorate Jesus’ commission to serve. All those who would like to have their feet washed by a member of the clergy will be invited forward.

The liturgy ends with the Stripping of the Altar (pointing toward Jesus’ arrest, trial and execution) and Reservation of the Sacrament in the Chapel of the Nativity in preparation for the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday. The Chapel of the Nativity remains open for prayer until 10:00 p.m. We remember how Jesus asked his disciples to keep watch while he struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane with his impending sacrifice. You are invited to come and go as you’d like during this time of prayer.

Good Friday, April 15

12:00 p.m. Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday

2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross Prayer Service

The church will remain open for meditation until 3:00 p.m.

Good Friday services focus on prayer and reflection on the death of Christ. We call it “good” because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter. At Incarnation, we have an hour-long liturgy for Good Friday at noon, and then a time for silent prayer and devotion until 3:00 p.m., representing the three hours that Jesus hung on the cross before he died.

During this time, we also have a service of Stations of the Cross, featuring stations created by children of the parish, at 2:00 p.m. This is a devotion to the Passion of Christ, which recalls a series of events at the end of Jesus’ life from his condemnation to his burial. There are fourteen events and therefore fourteen stations spread throughout the sanctuary. We offer prayers and readings at each station, imitating the practice of visiting the places of Jesus’ Passion in the Holy Land by early Christian pilgrims.

Easter Eve, April 16

6:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

The Great Vigil begins in darkness, when Jesus is still in the tomb. We gather outside the church to kindle the new fire, symbolizing the light of Christ. Then we process into the church to recount, by candlelight, stories of God’s loving-kindness and plan for salvation. From there we move to Christian Initiation (Holy Baptism) before the church is filled with light and we proclaim “The Lord is risen!” remembering that through baptism, we share in Christ’s death and resurrection. Then we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Sunday, April 17

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist with music for Organ, Strings and Choir

Easter Day expresses the very center of our faith: Jesus appears, risen from the dead. The joy and wonder of his followers are matched by the joy and wonder of our worship.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, we will have mimosas at Coffee Hour and an Easter Egg Hunt for children.

FREEING JESUS BOOK DISCUSSION – Maundy Thursday, March 7

8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our Lenten Book Discussion on *Freeing Jesus* continues in the Parish House (and also on Zoom). The Rev. Dr. Nate Lee will lead this week’s discussion on chapter 6, “Jesus as Presence.” All are welcome, even if you haven’t read the book. Email the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org with any questions.

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH – Good Friday, April 15

3:00 to 4:30 p.m. All are invited to help decorate the church with flowers. Many hands make light work! Please join us in placing beautiful spring flowers throughout the sanctuary for Easter and then enjoy some light refreshments.

SIGN UP FOR THE PARISH EASTER LUNCHEON – Easter Day, April 17

The Easter Luncheon will be held in a private room at Slattery’s Midtown Pub on East 36th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues. The buffet menu includes Chicken Marsala, Baked Ziti, Beef Tips in a Burgundy Sauce, sides and dessert. Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children. There is also a cash bar.

To make a reservation, contact Thomas Reefer, Parish Administrator, at treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org or 212-689-6350 ext. 2. You can also add your name to the sign-up list in the Narthex near the Usher table.