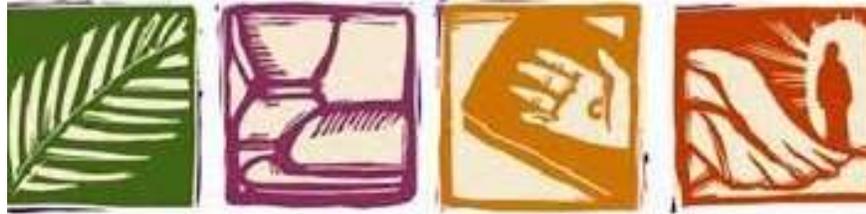


HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday through the Great Vigil of Easter
April 5-12, 2020

*Worship material for each day of Holy Week
to use together at home with matching online videos,
since gatherings at the church are suspended.*

EMMANUEL
MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GETTING READY FOR EMMANUEL'S HOLY WEEK AT HOME

For many centuries, followers of Jesus have gathered in Holy Week to make present again, through the power of group in-person liturgy, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, especially over the three sacred days that make up the Triduum. These three days cannot be separated from one another, so we normally celebrate them as one great liturgy that extends from Maundy Thursday night, through the watch before the Sacrament, into that Sacrament being brought in with the Cross on Good Friday, and on to waiting in darkness until the Resurrection breaks forth on Saturday night and we can feast again, rejoicing.

This year, we cannot gather as a community to live through these singular group events because of the COVID-19 virus. Though we must refrain from being together, we may still enter into the process of Holy Week in our homes and places of refuge through all using each day the same devotions closely keyed to what we would have done and said at church together.



To prepare: Make a holy place at home to use all week, where you can add physical symbols each day. Perhaps a simple side table covered with a napkin or cloth of any color. Whatever you have is enough. Place a few things there now to help you be aware of the presence of God: a cross, a bible, a BCP, a candle? If you have children, encourage them to choose one item for your holy place. Follow the prompts to use your holy place when you see the *home* icon to the left. Throughout the week, we will invite parishioners to share pictures of our holy places on Facebook to keep us connected. We hope you'll join in and encourage others in this way.



You will also find in this book links to YouTube playlists from Emmanuel, which may be a useful supplement to these actions and texts. When you see the video icon to the left, there is a playlist available at Emmanuel's YouTube page, with an easy short link to access it directly.

It is our hope that by this dispersed but shared observance of Holy Week, each of us at Emmanuel will connect with the passion, death, and resurrection that Jesus is living for us in the Heart of God even now. Jesus still does this work for each of us, even when our congregation cannot gather. But on that glorious day when we can again meet, when we can once again together make the Mass happen and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we will remember the poignancy of this Holy Week and Easter, and be able to celebrate Christ's resurrection with a new joy.

If you live alone, you may read and pray all the words. If you are living with others, share the reading and the prayers, especially when sections are in italics. Some may want to set up Zoom meetings or other videoconferencing between family groupings sheltering in place at different homes, or with some friends from church, and share the services that way.

Notes or instructions during the devotions will be found in **red text**. These are not meant to be read aloud but are to help guide you.

PALM SUNDAY + April 5



On this day, we bless palms to remember Jesus's entry into Jerusalem: "*As he rode along, they spread their garments on the road*" (Luke 19:36). Palm Sunday also includes the long reading of the Passion of Jesus, from his Last Supper to his death. This day ends with uncertainty, fitting for these uncertain times. Today encompasses the range of human behavior—the glory of celebration, the shame of betrayal, the anguish of death, and the hope of forgiveness.



Palms were set outside the Great Hall entrance last Thursday for you to pick up individually if possible. Alternatively, find or gather some branches from a garden or outside of your door, or something growing. A houseplant is fine, or even a picture of palms. Place it where you have set apart space to pray this Holy Week in your home.



If you wish to use our video resources during your service, have a computer open to our playlist on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/EMECpalm>

The Liturgy of the Palms

The Book of Common Prayer 270

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord:
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Matthew 21:I-II

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. 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!

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Prayer Over the Branches or Palms

Almighty God, we praise you for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. Let these branches be for

us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.



Children may wish to process around the house with the palms or branches. You may sing a traditional hymn (154 in the Hymnal 1982) at this time, or join with Emmanuel musicians singing it on the playlist.

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

The Passion of Jesus

Matthew 26:14-27:66



Using your own Bible, read this story. It is fine to read from a children's Bible if that is appropriate. You may instead want to watch Mother Beth and Fr. Caleb read it at Emmanuel.

Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day (*and remembering particularly my own parish*) I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



If you like, you may meditatively view Emmanuel musicians performing the hymn with which we usually close this liturgy, "O Sacred Head Sore Wounded," on the playlist.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Monday in Holy Week



Add to your place set apart for Holy Week something fragrant, like perfume, essential oil, or a hand cream you use. We invite you to share a picture of your holy place on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.

Psalm 36:7-8

- 7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

A Reading

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Having read this, think on these things: How can I offer help or healing to the poor close to me, or to my community? When have I been given help or care? Are you facing any hard choices between caring for yourself, or others? Offer your specific answers to God and ask his guidance.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Tuesday in Holy Week



Add to your place set apart for Holy Week something that can grow, like a seed or a grain of rice or even a bean. We invite you to share a picture of your holy place on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.

Psalm 71:5-6

- 5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, *
my confidence since I was young.
- 6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.

A Reading

John 12:20-26, 36

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Having read this, think on these things: What is dying inside of you in these days, and what is growing? What in our world is changing, and where might this change help us grow? How are you offering each day's losses to Jesus, so that through his powerful love they will bear fruit?

The Collect of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Wednesday in Holy Week



Add to your place set apart for Holy Week a coin or two. We invite you to share a picture of your holy place on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.

Psalm 70:5-6

- 5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
 come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
 O Lord, do not tarry.

A Reading

John 13:21-30

At supper with his friends, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples-- the one whom Jesus loved-- was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Having read this, think on these things: How are money and resources being used in the time we are in? When does their use glorify God? When does their use sadden God? What do you imagine Jesus was feeling and thinking as he saw Judas ready to betray him for a fee?

The Collect of the Day

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

MAUNDY THURSDAY + April 9



Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word *Mandatum*, “commandment,” and it is Jesus’ final commandment to his followers in John’s Gospel, “Love one another as I have loved you,” that we remember today. On Maundy Thursday we also commemorate the last supper that Jesus ate with his friends, when he instituted the Holy Eucharist. This year, we can remember the last time we received Holy Communion, and look forward to being together to receive this matchless gift again at Emmanuel soon.



Add to your place set apart for Holy Week an object that to you stands for love: a heart, wedding rings, a treasured memento or photograph. We invite you to share a picture of your holy place on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.



If you wish to use our video resources for your service, have a computer open to the playlist on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/EMECthu>

This devotion is observed in connection with your evening meal; we suggest you prepare simple, meatless dishes. If possible for you, include bread and wine. Begin these prayers before you eat, sitting at the table.

Psalm 116:15-17

- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the Lord’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Collect of the Day

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Mercifully grant that we may soon again receive it thankfully together in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in those holy mysteries gave us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Reading

Luke 22

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.’ They asked him, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for it?’ ‘Listen,’ he said to them, ‘when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, “The teacher asks you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ” He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.’ So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, Jesus 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; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'

Share your simple meal, first praying any of the blessings below that are appropriate. If you are eating as a group, it is good to serve one another. If you are eating alone, remember that you are in the presence of Jesus, who serves you.



During the meal, you may wish to listen to the YouTube playlist by Emmanuel musicians.

Over Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Over the Other Foods

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast we are now enduring, 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 for ever. *Amen.*

When you are finished with the meal, resume your prayers as follows:

The Lord's Prayer

Response

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you?"

I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done."

*Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you;
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.*

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

*Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you;
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.*

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

*Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you;
peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.*



After this response calling to mind Christ's final gifts to us, please observe total silence. Clear your dining space completely, including tablecloth and any decorative items, until the table is bare, and then one by one remove each of the objects you have added to your place set apart for Holy Week until it, too is bare.

Closing Hymn *Were you there?*

The Hymnal 172



Sing on your own, or sing with our Emmanuel musicians on the YouTube playlist for today.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my lord?
Oh—oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

...nailed him to the tree?

..laid him in the tomb?



From 8pm to 9pm Maundy Thursday evening, a live feed allowing us to “Watch One Hour” with the Blessed Sacrament, attended in person by one of our clergy, will be available for viewing on Emmanuel’s main YouTube page, since we cannot gather in person for the Watch. Feel free to come by the virtual “Chapel of Repose” during this hour for silent prayer and contemplation.

GOOD FRIDAY + April 10



Good Friday is the most stark and disturbing day of the Church year. Elements of the liturgy date to the 4th century practices of Jerusalem, which moved among the actual location of the events leading up to the Crucifixion. On this day, we remember Jesus' sacrifice, join him in intercession for the world, and reverence the Cross.



On Good Friday, begin your observance of the day by considering the emptiness of your home holy place. We invite you to share a picture of your holy place on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.



If you wish to use our video resources, have a computer open to the playlist on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/EMECfri>

Blessed be our God
For ever and ever. Amen.

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; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

The Passion of Jesus

John 19

Using your own Bible, read the 19th chapter of the Gospel of John. It is fine to read from a children's Bible if that is appropriate.



Alternatively, you may want to watch three Emmanuelites read it on the video as we do when we can gather in church.

Having heard this, consider how in Christ, God comes to share our sorrow, our sickness, and even our death, and yet transforms all of these into new life, salvation and hope. In union with this great transformative Love, you and your household now join Christ, the universal High Priest lifted up on the Cross, in praying for the whole universe.

The Solemn Collects

Book of Common Prayer 277

Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life. We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service

For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve

For Daniel, our Bishop, and all the people of this diocese

For all Christians in this community

For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Donald, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;
For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others
That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Now put a cross of any kind in your otherwise bare home holy place for veneration and meditation.



You may wish to listen to the Reproaches, traditional at Emmanuel, and/or our musicians performing a Good Friday hymn appointed in the Prayer Book, as you contemplate Christ's sacrifice. If you are not using the videos, read the words below:

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come to the whole world.
May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for by virtue of your cross, joy has come to the whole world.

Closing Prayer

Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Turn off the lights and depart from your home holy place in silence.

HOLY SATURDAY AND THE GREAT VIGIL + April 11



The day after someone has died is disorienting. After Good Friday, Saturday dawns, and we wonder what has become of our hope. The Church is waiting, as in the silence of a tomb, on this day, much as we are waiting for the time when we can again gather as a parish community. Use this first short devotion during daylight.

Holy Saturday Morning



In preparation for this evening, re-dress the place set apart in your home and prepare some joyful symbols to be used there, including a new, never-lit candle (if you have one), a flower or an image of flowers, an Easter egg, and a bell or other noisemaker for everyone present. You'll also want some party food and drink for after tonight's liturgy!

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 we may 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.

The Reading

John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Prayers

In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?
From you alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
shut not your ears to our prayers, but spare us, O Lord.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Saturday Evening

The Great Vigil of Easter

Plan to save this home devotion for after darkness has fallen. This Vigil is a night that begins in the shadow of death, but in Christ death is not the final word. Tonight we kindle fire as a sign that the love of God is ever-new, we renew our commitment to that love in Baptism, and then with joy we proclaim the Resurrection of Christ, looking forward to the time when we will again be gathered around God's Altar to eat and drink his Risen Life.



Make sure your home holy place has a way to light the new candle. Add to it a bowl of clean water, along with the bell(s), the new plant or flower, the Easter egg, or anything that is beautiful and hopeful to you. Dim the lights before beginning. (You may need a flashlight.)



If you wish to use our video resources, have a computer open to the playlist on YouTube.
<https://tinyurl.com/EMECsat>

On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites us, dispersed throughout the world, to watch in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord in which, by virtue of our baptism into his death and resurrection, we share in his victory over death, awaiting the time when we may gather again around his holy altar.

Let us pray.

O God, you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Bless this new flame, and grant that we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Light the new candle and say this adaptation of the Exsultet.

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and we are reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

God's Saving Deeds in History

The Bible sets the whole universe in the context of Salvation History, the record of God's liberating actions over the centuries, and this great story of redemptive love reaches its culmination this week in the death and resurrection of Jesus. All of history leads up to him.

Use your own Bible to read these passages. If possible, keep the room dim and use a flashlight. If you choose to skip a reading, under no circumstances omit the Crossing of the Red Sea. If you are in a household, everyone may read, or an adult may read from a children's Bible as appropriate.



Alternatively, families may wish to view videos retelling three memorable Great Vigil stories.

The Creation

The world is beautiful and good and made by a loving creator.

A reading from Genesis Chapters 1:1-2:2

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature; Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Crossing of the Red Sea

God hears the cries of his people and liberates them.

A reading from Exodus Chapters 14:10 -15:1

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A New Heart and a New Spirit

God himself will change our hearts and make us new.

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel Chapter 36:24-28

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Renew the vows of your baptism by recalling the baptismal promises and vowing "I will, with God's help." Use the water in the bowl in your holy place and make the sign of the cross on your forehead. You are beloved; you are Christ's, no matter what; you are sent to share the Gospel.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Now is the time to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus! Say it with gusto:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Turn on the lights and ring your bell. If you have a Hymnal 1982, sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" or another Easter hymn that you love.

Or launch the video online and sing along with our Emmanuel musicians from church!

Collect for the Great Vigil

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection; Stir up in your church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Read tonight's Gospel, or listen to Deacon Chris proclaim it on YouTube. Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Response

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

When we share our bread with one another

The Lamb of God will make us one.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Spiritual Communion

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day (*and remembering particularly my own parish*) I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us soon to his holy Table, and at the last day to our eternal inheritance, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us this Easter season and remain with us always. *Amen.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rejoice! Share festive food, break out the champagne. Jesus is alive now and forever!



Use the rest of the material on our Easter playlist for your break-fast home party! We invite you to share a picture of your Easter celebration tonight on Facebook or Instagram to keep us connected.

About this Project

This booklet is based on work by Mother Mary Kate Rejouis for St. Aidan's Church, Boulder Colorado. Readings from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education of The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. Artwork is used with permission.

Some of the appointed Prayer Book materials have been shortened or modified for the purposes of providing an appropriate private devotional for use in the exceptional context of physical isolation from each other.

Prayers are drawn from The Book of Common Prayer and The Book of Occasional Services. Some of the notes "Having heard/read this, think on these things:" are drawn from the work of Gail Ramshaw and Gordon Lathrop for Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Holy Week for 2020, used with permission. Modifications to the Book of Common Prayer were recommended by Dr. James Farwell, Virginia Theological Seminary, specifically for this season of the church's not gathering publicly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Word, this booklet is printed best in Centaur font.

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!