

Celebrating Holy Week at Home

Diocese of Tucson

The celebration of Holy Week is the center of our Life in Christ! Easter Sunday, the day of the Resurrection of the Lord is the core of our Faith and our deepest belief as Christian people. The Celebrations and Prayers of Holy Week recall the events of those final days of Jesus' time on earth 2000 years ago. They remind us that as we walk with him on the journey of his suffering and death this week, we too will be on our own journey of life that will bring us to eternal life with him.

Holy Week begins with Passion "Palm" Sunday. This year the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ will be proclaimed from Matthew's gospel. While we are unable to gather in our churches, we are invited to participate in the liturgies by live stream or video. As we listen to the readings and prayers of this day, we can be with one another in spirit. Thursday of Holy Week begins the great time of the *Triduum*, which consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

We soon will have completed the forty days of Lent and will then enter the fifty days of Easter. In Lent we were given many reminders of how to let the Lord transform our lives and cleanse us of our sinful ways. During the fifty days of Easter, we will hear many stories of the early Christian Church in the Acts of the Apostles reminding us of how they embraced the invitation to be a follower of this man called Jesus, the Christ!

It is helpful to understand that the three days of the *Triduum* are actually one great liturgical celebration broken up in time. These three liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter invite us to a sort of slowing down and focusing thoughtfully on the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. In this way we hope to enter into the Mystery of our faith more deeply.

The three days formally begin on Holy Thursday with the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. However, note that there is no official ending of the Holy Thursday liturgy. After Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, and the people leave in silence. The liturgy is more "suspended" than ended. The liturgy begun on Holy Thursday is sort of "resumed" as the celebration of Good Friday begins. Note, Good Friday has no solemn beginning; it begins instead with the ministers laying prostrate on the floor and then a prayer. Just as Good Friday's liturgy has no formal beginning, it also has no formal ending. The Passion of Our Lord is proclaimed, from the Gospel of John each year, the Cross is adored, and those present receive Holy Communion. Following Holy Communion, the community disperses in silence. Again, the great Triduum is more "suspended" than ended. We then gather on the evening of Holy Saturday to continue the great liturgy. The celebration begins by lighting the new Easter fire that illumines the Easter Candle. We then listen with great reverence to the story of our saving history from Creation to the resurrection of the Lord. New members are received into the Church, the faithful renew their baptismal promises, the Eucharist is celebrated, and the liturgy truly concludes with a Solemn Easter Blessing and joyful dismissal rite: "Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia! Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!" What began at the beginning of Holy Thursday's Mass is now concluded.

Easter Sunday morning gathers us yet again to welcome the Gospel with the Alleluia which we have put to rest during the Lenten days. Echoing the Easter Vigil, the faithful renew our Baptismal promises, are sprinkled with new Holy Water, and the Eucharist is celebrated with great joy.

LITURGY REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS

April 9, 2020 **HOLY THURSDAY**

This is the Mass that commemorates Jesus great gift of the Mass. We celebrate his enduring gift of himself in the Eucharist. It is also the Mass which includes the Washing of Feet, reminding all Christians that *service* offered in love, is the hallmark of true Christians. You are invited to pray this prayer together with your family on Holy Thursday and reflect on the Scripture readings for the Mass (listed below)

Let us pray: O God, who has called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I - Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

*The memorial feast of the Passover is recalled
as the Israelite people escape the bonds of slavery in Egypt.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116

Our Blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ

READING II - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me,
...This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

GOSPEL - John 13:1-15

*If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,
you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do."*

HOMILY

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts + Eucharistic Prayer + Our Father + Lamb of God
Holy Communion of the Priest

Following Holy Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the Tabernacle.
All leave in silence.

April 10, 2020 **GOOD FRIDAY**

This is the one day of the year that the whole Church is required to *fast from Mass!* The only sacraments permitted are penance and anointing of the sick. No Mass, ever, is permitted on Good Friday which is why the liturgy on that one day of the year is quite different. It begins with the priests and ministers laying prostrate at the stripped/barren altar. They arise, say a simple prayer, and the readings from Scripture follow. *The Passion of Jesus Christ* is, perhaps, the very heart of Good Friday's Liturgy. After extended intercessory prayers, prayed almost identical around the world, we have *the adoration of the Holy Cross*. Following the *adoration of the Cross*, Holy Communion, which was consecrated the day before, on Holy Thursday, is distributed to the faithful.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I – Isaiah 52: 13- 53: 12

*Because of his affliction
he shall see the light in fullness of days;
through his suffering, my servant shall justify many,
and their guilt he shall bear.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31

Father, into our hands I commend my spirit

READING II - Hebrews 4:4-16, 5:7-9

*Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.*

GOSPEL - John 18:1 - 19:42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,
“It is finished.”
And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.*

The Intercessory Prayer

The prayers are longer and more numerous than the Prayer of the Faithful for the Sunday and Daily Liturgy. These prayers remind us of the universal nature of our salvation in Christ Jesus and of our participation in the prayer of Christ. Today we add a special prayer in light of the COVID-19 situation worldwide. Pray this prayer as we anticipate the day when we can gather in our Churches once again

XI: For an end to the pandemic:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Almighty Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith. *Prayer in silence.*

Then the priest says: Almighty and merciful God, source of all life, health and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us, and grant recovery of the stricken, comfort to their families, strength for those who care for them and success to those working to find the necessary medical response to this illness.

Veneration of the Cross

As you watch the Bishop, Priest and other ministers venerate the Cross during the service, hold on to a cross or crucifix of your own. Bow or genuflect to that cross as a form of reverence and veneration. This ancient ritual demonstrates a personal and communal way of accepting the meaning of the cross in one's own identity and in the identity of the Church.

Holy Communion

Recite the Prayer of Spiritual Communion as the priest receives Holy Communion that was consecrated on Holy Thursday and leads us to Easter.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

April 11, 2020 – HOLY SATURDAY

This is the day of great preparation for Easter! This year is an exception as we are asked to remain in our homes. We will not experience the excitement of the Easter Vigil celebration with the community this year. The blessing of the *Easter Fire* opens the liturgy, symbolizing the light of the risen Christ overcoming all darkness of sin and death. An extended Liturgy of the Word, listening to the great story of our salvation from creation to the resurrection, follows. The celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation for the new adult members of the Church, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the solemn final blessing are also hallmarks of this pinnacle liturgy of the year. What began with a solemn *signing of the cross* at the opening of Holy Thursday's Mass is now, with the solemn blessing and dismissal, complete.



This year we will have to remember the processions we have seen in the past years or imagine what it would look like this year since we cannot have the full assembly gathered. The Paschal Candle will be lighted and placed at the ambo. The Exulted Proclamation can be sung or read, then we are seated for the great proclamation of our Salvation History in the readings from the Old Testament.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The citations are listed here for your reading and reflection with your family. Usually three of the Old Testament readings are proclaimed each year. Different from the usual Liturgy of the Word, **each reading** is followed by a Responsorial Psalm and Prayer. The psalm and the prayer remind us of the deeper meaning of this scripture passage for our spiritual lives.

Genesis 1:1 - 2:2, The Story of Creation

Psalm 104 - *Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.*

Genesis 22:1-13, 15-18, Abraham's sacrifice

Psalm 16: *You are my inheritance, O Lord*

Exodus 14:15 - 15:1, The crossing of the Red Sea

Psalm Exodus 15: 1-6, 17-18 *Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory*

Isaiah 54:5-14 – God’s love is forever
Psalm 30 *I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.*

Isaiah 55:1-11 The everlasting covenant with the Lord
Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6 *You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation*

Baruch 3:9-15, 32; 4:4 Walk in the way of God
Psalm 19 *Lord, you have the words of everlasting life*

Ezekiel 36: 16-28 I will give you a new heart and a new spirit
Psalm 42 *Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God*

GLORIA + OPENING PRAYER

Romans 6:3-11 We live in Christ
Psalm 118 – *Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia*
Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10 – Do not be afraid, He has been raised from the dead.

BAPTISMAL LITURGY

At this time those to be baptized are presented and brought forth to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They are called by name, express their Baptismal promises for the first time, receive the white garment and the light of Christ. They are then anointed with the Oil of Chrism along with those who are completing their full initiation in the Church. These candidates for full Communion renew their Baptismal Promises with the whole assembly and are then given the sacrament of Confirmation. During the Eucharist they will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts + Eucharistic Prayer + Our Father + Lamb of God
Holy Communion of the Priest

Dismissal Rite

♪ **Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia**

♪ **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia**

EASTER SUNDAY



Acts of the Apostles 10:34, 37-43 - He commissioned us to preach!

Psalms 118 - *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*

The Sequence for Easter *Share the good news, sing joyfully His death is victory!
Lord Jesus, Victor King, show us mercy.*

Colossians 3:1-4 Seek heavenly things! Or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Change your hearts

John 20:1-9 – He is risen, he is not here!

HOMELY RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES UNIVERSAL PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Presentation of Gifts + Eucharistic Prayer + Our Father + Lamb of God
Holy Communion of the Priest**

Dismissal Rite

♪ Go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia

♪ Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

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