



Holy Week

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Readings and Prayers for Home Observance

Worship videos will be shared on our website:
www.stdunstans.net

Art is © Heather Thum-Gerber



Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

This is the day in which we remember and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted by a crowd with palm branches shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

([Matthew 21:1-11](#)). Years ago the Episcopal Church realized that many people were not coming to the services later in Holy Week

and so were going from one Sunday service of celebration (Palm Sunday) straight into another Sunday service of celebration (Easter) without Jesus' death in-between! The joys of Easter cannot be fully felt unless you first work through the sorrow and terror of the crucifixion. Today, in the Episcopal Church, we also call this day the Sunday of the Passion and in the same service that we celebrate with palms we also read aloud the passion narrative (the account of Jesus' betrayal, trial, and death - [Matthew 26:14- 27:66](#)). *Other recommended readings:* [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#), [Psalm 31:9-16](#), and [Philippians 2:5-11](#)

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.*

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday

These days are not always remembered with a special service. St. Dunstan's will post a Holy Wednesday morning prayer service.

Holy Monday - [Isaiah 42:1-9](#), [Psalm 36:5-11](#), [Hebrews 9:11-15](#), and [John 12:1-11](#)

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.*

Holy Tuesday - [Isaiah 49:1-7](#), [Psalm 71:1-14](#), [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#), and [John 12:20-36](#)

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.*

Holy Wednesday - [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#), [Psalm 70](#), [Hebrews 12:1-3](#), and [John 13:21-32](#)

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.



Maundy Thursday

"Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum* which means "commandment." This comes from the story in John's gospel where Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and says "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34). On Maundy Thursday we remember that story and the story of Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Recommended Readings:

[Exodus 12:1-4, \(5-10\), 11-14](#)

[Psalms 116:1, 10-17](#)

[1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)

[John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives 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.*

Good Friday

This day we remember Jesus' crucifixion and death. We can call this day "good" even though it is sad because it was a holy and gracious day that showed us the depth of God's love for us when Jesus sacrificed himself for us on the cross.

Recommended Readings:

[Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#)

[Psalm 22](#)

[Hebrews 10:16-25](#) or [Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9](#)

[John 18:1-19:42](#)



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.*

Holy Saturday

On this day we remember Jesus' burial in the tomb. This was a day of sorrow and fear for the disciples, who did not realize that Jesus would rise from the dead the next day.

Recommended Readings:

[Job 14:1-14](#) or [Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24](#)

[Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16](#)

[1 Peter 4:1-8](#)

[Matthew 27:57-66](#) or [John 19:38-42](#)

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.*



Easter

Of course, this is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! Easter is the central feast day of the whole church year.

Recommended Readings:

[Acts 10:34-43](#) or [Jeremiah 31:1-6](#)

[Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24](#)

[Colossians 3:1-4](#) or [Acts 10:34-43](#)

[John 20:1-18](#) or [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*