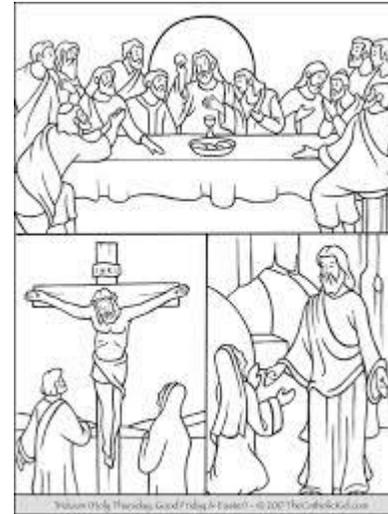


GOSPEL READINGS

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|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | John 13:21-32 | Tuesday of Holy Week |
| 2 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35 | Maundy Thursday |
| 3 | John 18:1-end of 19 | Good Friday |
| 4 | Matthew 27:57-end | Easter Eve (Easter Vigil) |
| 5 | John 20:1-18 | Easter Day |
| 6 | Matthew 28:8-15 | Monday of Easter Week |
| 7 | John 20:11-18 | Tuesday of Easter Week |
| 8 | Luke 24:13-35 | Wednesday of Easter Week |
| 9 | Luke 24:35-48 | Thursday of Easter Week |
| 10 | John 21:1-14 | Friday of Easter Week |
| 11 | Mark 16:9-15 | Saturday of Easter Week |
| 12 | John 20:19-end | 2nd Sunday of Easter |
| 13 | John 3:1-8 | |
| 14 | John 3:7-15 | |
| 15 | John 3:16-21 | |
| 16 | John 3:31-end | Isabella Gilmore, deaconess |
| 17 | John 6:1-15 | |
| 18 | John 6:16-21 | |
| 19 | Luke 24:13-35 | 3rd Sunday of Easter |
| 20 | John 6: 22-29 | |
| 21 | John 6: 30-35 | Anselm, abbot, archbishop |
| 22 | John 6:35-40 | |
| 23 | John 15:18-21 | George, martyr |
| 24 | John 6:52-59 | <i>Mellitus, bishop</i> |
| 25 | Mark 13:5-13 | Mark the Evangelist |
| 26 | John 10:1-10 | 4th Sunday of Easter |
| 27 | John 10:11-18 | <i>Christina Rossetti, poet</i> |
| 28 | John 10:22-30 | <i>Peter Chanel, missionary</i> |
| 29 | John 12:44-end | Catherine of Siena |
| 30 | John 13:16-20 | <i>Pandita Ramabai, translator</i> |

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Most people celebrate Christmas, even if it's only for 2 days and they are not church goers. Very few celebrate Easter and see it just as a long weekend. For us as Christians it is much more than that. It is the Great Festival of the religious year for 2 weeks. Starting with Holy Week.

At the end of the week comes the Triduum a three day celebration including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. It concludes on Easter Sunday evening.

On Maundy Thursday we recall the servant Jesus washing his disciples feet and the institution of the Eucharist at the last supper.

Good Friday services commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus and adoration of the cross.

The Easter Vigil begins outside the church with a Service of Light, where a new fire is blessed and the Paschal Candle is lit to symbolize the Risen Christ dispelling darkness. It is carried into the church and the light is shared. The Liturgy of the Word is followed by the singing of the Gloria (for the 1st time since lent began) and the ringing out of bells and organ for the first time since Maundy Thursday. Baptismal vows are renewed, the Eucharist is celebrated and a blessing given. Some of this is repeated in our services here on Easter Sunday. *Rev. Deacon Pat Wright*

Preparation

Take time to become still and ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray. You might like to use something to help you like lighting a candle.

We pray that the Gospel may come into our lives

not in word only but also in the power of the Spirit,
and that our love may not be a matter of words or talk
but be genuine and show itself in action.
Help us, our Father, to mean this our prayer
as we ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Reading

Read the Gospel passage set for today slowly.
(see back cover)
Notice if any words or phrases jump out to you.
Meditate on these and what they might be saying to you,
your church and the community you live in.

Time for prayer for others and ourselves

Take time to think about and pray for:
what you have learned today from the Gospel
the world which God made and loves
those with whom we share our lives
anyone in special need
our parish

The Lord's Prayer

Ending

Creator God,
I offer you this day.
Give me grace to love and serve you
to the praise of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Prayers

Maundy Thursday

*Infinite, intimate God;
this night you kneel before your friends
and wash our feet.
Bound together in your love,*

*trembling we drink your cup
and watch.*

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Good Friday

Christ our victim,
whose beauty was disfigured
and whose body was torn upon the cross;
open wide our arms
to embrace our tortured world'
that we may not turn away our eyes,
but abandon ourselves to your mercy.

Janet Morley

Easter Eve

*Lord God, you have brightened this night
with radiance of the risen Christ:
may his light so shine within the Church
that we may be renewed in mind and body
to serve you with all our being
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Province of Southern Africa

Easter Day

May the risen Lord Jesus
watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love.

Celebrating Common Prayer