



April 13, 2022

From Fr. John

We have reached the middle of Holy Week. That may not mean much to some. Even some faithful Episcopalians do not have much experience with our yearly walk with Jesus as he makes his way toward the crucifixion on Golgotha and resultant three days in the tomb.

Every Lent, we participate in the Stations of the Cross (the service in which we remember the events of Good Friday, in a particularly detailed way). Here at St. James, we have been reading the Stations every Friday at 12:15pm.

Last night, we experienced the Stations in a way that was new to me, and to many others. We had a guest organist who played music that was responsive/reflective of the stories of the stations, which were read in poetic form. I thank Roy Rosenthal for introducing me to another way to experience this service. There were moments in the evening that struck me deeply and allowed me to “experience” the Passion through the power of music that was at times sadly melodic and at other times angrily dissonant.

Tonight, we have the service of Tenebrae (see the description below). This is another form of “walking the Way of the Cross” with Jesus, through short readings and Psalm recitation as the light of the world slowly goes out.

In the days following Tenebrae, we experience the evening of the Last Supper, along with Jesus’ arrest, in the Maundy Thursday service. Then we have Good Friday, with its three hours of offerings for people to experience as they can.

Why do we do all of this? I have had folks refer to Holy Week as a time of “wallowing in misery” with Jesus. I don’t know. Maybe there is some truth to that. But I believe that the real reason that we do this is to make sure that we never forget the depth of God’s love for us. Jesus proved just how much God loves us, by going through all that we remember in Holy Week, including dying on a cross. There is no Easter Resurrection without the Passion and death of our Savior on Good Friday.

The joy of Easter Day means much more to me after I have really experienced Holy Week.

God’s blessings,
Fr. John+



Join Us Tonight at 6:30 PM

The name *Tenebrae* (the Latin word for “darkness” or “shadows”) has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services (Matins and Lauds) of the last three days of Holy Week, which in medieval times came to be celebrated on the preceding evenings.

Apart from the chant of the Lamentations (in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet), the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of our Lord, remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection (Matthew 28:2), the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

Book of Occasional Services

WORSHIP SCHEDULE HOLY WEEK

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. Tenebrae - Church

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Washing of the Feet - Church

7:30 p.m. - 7:30 a.m. Vigil - Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY

12:15 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday - Church

1:15 p.m. Meditation on Last Seven Words of Christ - Church

2:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

[Church Office Closed]

SATURDAY: THE GREAT VIGIL of EASTER

10:00 a.m. Proper Liturgy for Holy Saturday - Chancel

8:00 p.m. Kindling of the new fire, lighting of the Paschal Candle, followed by the first Festival Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY

THE GREAT FESTIVAL of the RESURRECTION

9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch - Parish Hall

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt - Parlor [Ages 5 and Younger]

Easter Egg Hunt - Youth Building [Ages 6 - 10]

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Flowering of the Cross - Church

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, April 18, 2022.

Maundy Thursday Vigil Returns

Jesus said, "could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Matthew 26:40 (NRSV)

The Maundy Thursday (Thursday in Holy Week) liturgy is a very powerful one. But perhaps the most moving part of the service comes at the end, when the altar area of the church is stripped of everything that makes it look grand, and perhaps all that makes it look "occupied." The end of the Maundy Thursday service reminds us of that place and time in which Jesus was arrested and taken away, leaving the Disciples alone.

The period of time between The Last Supper and sunrise on Good Friday is commemorated by a Gethsemane Watch, or Maundy Thursday Vigil. Beginning this Sunday there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to stay in the Chapel for one overnight hour on April 14/15. There will be an Alexandria Police Department officer on premises all night for security. There will be reading and prayer resources available for those who participate.



CENLA InterFaith

A vibrant energy is growing in our community! A body of people is building an organization that crosses the lines of race, denomination, geography, and economics to address and solve the issues affecting our community in Central Louisiana. A city-wide assembly of congregations and citizen organizations are coming together on Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church. If you are interested in learning more about this group of resourceful people or in joining us for the meeting on May 24th, you may speak with Fr. John, Josh Brown or Rita Klock, or go to <https://www.cenlainterfaith.org>.



April 17th
**THE GREAT FESTIVAL of the RESURRECTION
EASTER DAY**

In-person Worship at 10:30 AM
Childcare is available.

[Click here for the readings.](#)

April 17th
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

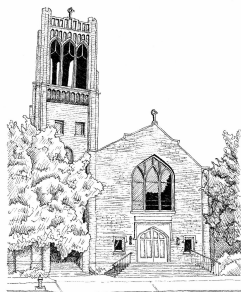
Polly Quillin Ussery, Andrea, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Debbie Barnes, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Easton Chase, Natosha and Family, Jack Bender, Anna Stapleton, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Jim Leggett, Charlotte Sterling, Tim and Alexis Heflin, Matthew Fontanille, Jaxson McElwee, Bonnie McCartney, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Ty Cedars, Stacy, Kristie Fresh, Sawyer, John, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in April (day):

Tucker McLure (1), Johnny Downs (2), Babson Fresh (5), Foster Walker (5), Bubba Flournoy (7), Riley Brown (8), Laura Johnson (9), Jeff Mathews (10), L. B. Matthews (12), Michael Jurgensen (16), Rita Klock (17), Clay Ray (21), Vivian Cabrera (22), Linda Hargrove (23), Julia Ann Twilley (23), Stephen Dubois (25), Jennifer Higgin botham (25), Fred Alexius (29), Kathy Kingsley (30).



[Visit our Website](#)

St. James Episcopal Church | 1620 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301 | 318.445.9845

