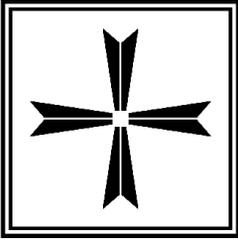


MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17TH, 2014



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

APRIL 17, 2014 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Rhoda Holbrook

Ushers: Roger Benz, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SERVICE



Christ shows us the full extent of God's love for us.

The Church calls this day Maundy because of Jesus' new command in the Gospel that his followers love one another. Our lessons tonight focus on Christ's command for humility and love.

Christ shows the full extent of his love in both service and sacrifice. He loves us more than life and feeds us his flesh and blood to prove it.

Reconciled to God through the flesh and blood of Christ, we follow his command to love each other.

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DIVINE SERVICE

HYMN

#126

LORD JESUS, YOU ARE GOING FORTH

SERMON

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

L(eader): In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

~PLEASE STAND

L: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for personal confession and reflection.

L: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

L: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

EXHORTATION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words and in our actions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

EXODUS 12:1-14 (PG.104)



12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²“This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover.

¹²“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

The first Passover was just the beginning. God’s people saw the full extent of his love 1500 years later when God’s Son showed himself as the Lamb of God sacrificed for us.

*The Church sings of
the wonderful love
of God that hears
and answers prayer.
She "lift[s] up the
cup of salvation"
before her Lord in
remembrance of his
mercy.*

- 1 I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.**
- 2 Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.**
- 3 The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.**
- 4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, save me!"**
- 5 The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.**
- 6 The LORD protects the simplehearted;
when I was in great need, he saved me.**
- 7 Be at rest once more, O my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.**
- 8 For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,**
- 9 that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.**
- 10 I believed; therefore I said,
"I am greatly afflicted."**
- 11 And in my dismay I said,
"All men are liars."**
- 12 How can I repay the LORD
for all his goodness to me?**
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**
- 14 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.**
- 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.**
- 16 O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant;
you have freed me from my chains.**

¹⁷ **I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.**
¹⁸ **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,**
¹⁹ **in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

Praise the LORD.

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28(PG. 1784)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

Now, in this sacrament, God shows us the full extent of his love for us. He gives us the flesh and blood of God, the solution for sin.

VERSE OF THE DAY

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

C: Refrain (sung twice)



L: For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Refrain (sung twice)

GOSPEL

JOHN 13:1-15, 34 (PG. 1673)

The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the word of Christ, our King.

Jesus had not come to merely wash dirt from feet, but sin from hearts!

~PLEASE STAND

L: The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 13.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

13 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

² The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN

#313 VS. 1,2,3,7

JESUS CHRIST, OUR BLESSED SAVIOR

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

THE GREAT LITANY

~PLEASE STAND

Prayer of Approach to God

- L: O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
C: Have mercy on us.
- L: O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C: Have mercy on us.
- L: O God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
C: Have mercy on us.
- L: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,
C: Have mercy on us.

The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.

Prayer for Deliverance

- L: Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses nor the offenses of our forebears. Spare us, good Lord; spare your people, whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
C: Spare us, good Lord.
- L: From all spiritual blindness; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all lack of charity,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.
- L: From all deadly sin and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.
- L: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart and contempt for your Word and your will,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.
- L: From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

- L: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.
- L: By your bloody sweat and bitter grief, by your cross and suffering, and by your precious death and burial,
C: Good Lord, deliver us.

L: By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

L: In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgment,

C: Good Lord, deliver us.

L: Receive our prayers, O Lord our God.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for the Church

L: Govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is according to your will.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Enlighten all ministers with true knowledge and understanding of your Word, that by their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out laborers into the harvest.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Give us hearts to love and revere you, that we may diligently live according to your commandments.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: To all your people, give grace to hear and receive your Word and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the fainthearted, raise up those who fall, and finally give us the victory.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for Our Country

L: Rule the hearts of your servants, *the president of the United States*, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for All People

L: To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give clothing, food, and shelter.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth and all young children, and comfort the aged, the bereaved, and the lonely.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

L: Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your Holy Word.

C: Hear us, good Lord.

Concluding Prayer

L: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

C: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Grant us peace.

L: Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Christ, have mercy on us.

L: Lord, have mercy on us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

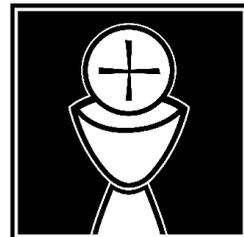
PRAYER

L: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you, and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name, you will be with them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth and in the ages to come, life everlasting.

C: Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

L: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ~ SANCTUS

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
 2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
 he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
 set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
 va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
 liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

"Sanctus" means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD ~ AGNUS DEI

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.

There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.



The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON ~ *NUNC DIMITTIS*

~PLEASE STAND

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the

sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -

light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une

crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

L: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

#316

O JESUS, BLESSED LORD, TO THEE

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

CHOIR ANTHEM

#759

DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED

The words of the hymn are words Jesus spoke to his disciples during the Passover meal on the Thursday before they left for the Garden of Gethsemane (John 14:1-3,6-7,10-14). In view of all that they were going to witness in the next few days, Jesus encourages his disciples with words that remind them of who he is as true God and what he is going to do.

During the singing of the hymn, the altar (which symbolizes Christ) and chancel are stripped in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples in Gethsemane and in preparation for Good Friday. As you meditate on the symbolic actions taking place and begin to ponder all that Christ did for you, do not let your hearts be troubled but find comfort in the words of Jesus as they are sung by the choir.

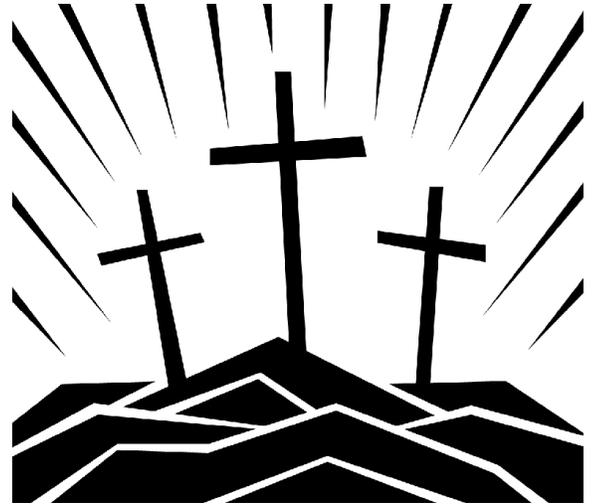
After the hymn, the congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.

TOMORROW'S WORSHIP: SERVICE OF SEVEN WORDS

Good Friday is observed in the spirit of restrained praise in thanks for the redemption Christ won on the cross. It is a solemn, but not somber, reflection on our Savior's suffering and death for our sin.

The "Service of Seven Words" is a worship service that incorporates time for meditation and reflection as we ponder the words our Savior spoke on the cross.

Join us tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm as we ponder the cross and worship the Savior enthroned there who has saved us from our sin.



THE TRIDUUM

After six weeks of Lent, the Christian Year has now reached its climax. We have come to the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the celebration for which we have been preparing throughout Lent. Now we see what our Savior came to do.

We see him suffer and die for our sins and for the sins of the world. And we see him rise triumphantly on Easter morning to assure us that our salvation is complete, the victory is won. Prior to the fourth century, Easter Day itself included all three emphases: Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. But the early Church fathers decided that it might be wise to spread those three emphases out over three days (Triduum is Latin for three days.)

And so Maundy Thursday was set aside to commemorate the beginning of Christ's suffering, as he gathers in the upper room, washes his disciples feet, institutes Holy Communion, then proceeds to the Garden of Gethsemane for prayer.

Good Friday was set aside to ponder the intensity of Christ's passion, as he is put on trial before Pontius Pilate, scourged, and crucified. On the cross, he speaks only seven times before he dies.

Finally, on Holy Saturday evening, believers gathered for the Vigil of Easter. It was not the high festival service of Easter. Rather, it was a service to prepare oneself for that festival. The Vigil was also used as the entrance rite into the Church, as converts were baptized, confirmed, and communed for the first time all during the Vigil.

The greatest theologian of the early Church, St. Augustine, called these days of special observance, "the most holy Triduum of the crucified, buried, and risen Lord." These days have long been understood as the climax of the Church's year.

Many churches celebrate these Three Holy Days as one worship service spread out over three days. That single service takes a person through our Savior's suffering to his glorious triumph on Easter



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