



ELECTRIC

GRACE

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**WALK WITH OUR LORD
HOLY WEEK 2009 AT GRACE CHURCH**

Palm Sunday, April 5th

The Liturgy of the Palms and the Passion Narrative 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.

(Where we celebrate the triumphal arrival of Jesus to Jerusalem as our King and then we change our minds and exclaim that he should be crucified. We observe his Passion and Death, our fickle loyalties are exposed.)

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

Seder Meal: 6:00 pm, Passover observance and meal in Parish Hall.

(Observing the ancient traditions of the Passover meal brings deeper meaning to when we say, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.")

Maundy Thursday Liturgy: 7:15 PM.

(The Maundy is the Mandate to love one another as Jesus has loved us, the example being his washing of the disciples' feet. We remember and celebrate the Last Supper and wash one another's feet. This is also the night of betrayal, which we mark by the stripping of the altar, the removal of the reserved sacrament and departing in silence and darkness just as the disciples ran away into the night in confusion and anguish.)

Good Friday, April 10th

The Stations of the Cross: 11:00 AM.

(Started by the Franciscans many centuries ago as a way of making a local pilgrimage, walking the steps as Jesus carried his cross, was crucified and died. There are traditionally fourteen stations, our own stations were designed by Connie Thompson, and cross stitched by Dr. Carol Bowie, both Grace Church Parishioners.)

Good Friday Liturgies: 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm.

(The day of the crucifixion, we hear passion narrative again, we adore the cross, we sit in silence, contemplating the power of sin, and the atoning sacrifice.)

Holy Saturday, April 11th

(A truly strange day. The only day of the year when the Eucharist may not be celebrated. There is no Church, in both meanings of the word. The Incarnate God is dead. What will become of us? Of the Universe? Not a good day, especially not for Easter Egg hunts.)

Easter Sunday, April 12 (Surprise! What does this mean? What changes?)

The Easter Vigil: 6:00. (Lent ends here)

(We start outside in the dark and kindle a fire, in the darkness the resurrection sparks and lights up the world! We hear the mighty acts of God, some of the great Old Testament stories of God intervening in human history, preparing us for the ultimate intervention: the Resurrection!)

Easter Liturgies: 8:30 Rite I (note the time change!) and 10:30.

(The great feast of The Resurrection! Why is life worthwhile? Why do we exist? Is there any hope? Easter is the answer. God says yes to us! Today is why we are Christians. Today is why we are Church. Today is why we live differently, with a hope that is bigger than death.)

Easter Breakfast: 7:15, in the parish hall.

(Break the Lenten fast! Celebrate the day. Have a Mimosa or Bloody Mary while you're at it!)

Easter Egg Hunt: after the 10:30 liturgy.

(Blood Red Eggs are an ancient symbol of the Resurrection. The story being that Caesar told Mary Magdalene that God could no more raise a man from the dead than turn this egg red, and behold it happened! Many Christians still give red eggs on Easter as gifts, celebrating the miracle that transforms existence. The bunny and pastel colors are a Madison Ave gimmick, but the red eggs are ancient. The way to make them is to start with a brown egg, then use lots of red food color.)

