

Easter Triduum

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

- **Mass of the Lord's Supper/ Holy Thursday**

Holy Thursday celebrates the institution of the Eucharist as the true body and blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the sacrament of the priesthood.

During the Last Supper, Jesus offers himself as the Passover sacrifice, the sacrificial lamb. Christ also bids farewell to his followers and prophesizes that one of them will betray him and hand him over to the Roman soldiers.

- **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**

The heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the Passion according to Saint John, and the public veneration of the Holy Cross. Good Friday is the only day when Mass is not celebrated. The altar is bare, statues and crucifix are usually covered

- **Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord , Holy Saturday or Easter Vigil**

The Easter Season begins with the Vigil on Holy Saturday which marks the end of the Triduum. Reinstated on Holy Saturday night (1955), the Vigil is one of the oldest liturgical celebrations of the Church. The modern ritual borrows a great deal from the night-long Vigil celebrated in the 4th century. The Vigil consists of 4 parts: 1) Service of Light; 2) Liturgy of the Word; 3) Liturgy of Baptism; 4) Liturgy of the Eucharist...

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