



What is Passion Week and why do you need it?

Passion Week or Holy Week recounts the final week in the life of Jesus. The week begins on Palm Sunday, April 2. We remember Jesus's entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem, welcomed by cheering crowds and the waving of palm branches. It extends through the moment of Jesus's arrest on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, his crucifixion and burial on Good Friday, and the silent, sober waiting of Holy Saturday.

Easter Sunday, the day of our Lord's Resurrection, invokes a new era. Daniel Zimmerman shared in the office recently that Christians were the first to describe death as a kind of sleep. Only if you believe we will one day awake from death can you reimagine it as a temporal state.

Why can't we skip all the gloomy moments of Passion Week and immerse ourselves solely in the new clothes and bright sunshine of Easter Sunday? Hasn't Jesus delivered us from darkness and sadness?

Yes and no. The faith we have been given is not pie in the sky religion. We have not been invited to ignore or glance passingly over the darkness of life. Our Lord walked into the jaws of death both to redeem us from sin and to pioneer the way to life. In going to His own death he said, "Follow me here, and I will give you life."

What follows are reasons you and I need each day of Passion Week.

- To hear, to see, and to feel in our bones again and again what Jesus did for us and become more and more grateful to God.
- To be present with Jesus and attend to His pain because he came to be with us in ours.
- To begin to see Jesus as present in our pain and to learn to be present to others in theirs.
- To become people who can lay down our own lives for others as Jesus did.
- To become people who endure the deepest darkness with real hope, who grieve, but not as those who are without hope.
- To celebrate fully the joy, power, and hope of the Resurrection, having attended to the costliness of sin and the darkness of death.

May we become Easter people at Lamb by practicing the Passion of our Lord.

Kevin Whitfield

Rector

Practicing Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday morning, April 2, 10am
Redeemer Classical

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 6:30pm at Redeemer Classical

Good Friday

April 7, 6:30pm at Redeemer Classical

Easter Vigil

April 8, 8:00pm at 362 Indian Trail Rd.

Easter Sunday morning

April 9, 10am at 362 Indian Trail Rd.

Private Prayer

See our devotional, *Keeping a Holy Lent*, for Scriptures and prayers during Holy Week.

Fasting

Fasting is praying with our bodies. A full fast (liquids only) is encouraged for those who are able from Maundy Thursday service until Easter Vigil. A full fast can be adapted to a partial fast (smaller, simple meals without sweets) for children and adults unable to fast.

Almsgiving

A Rector's Discretionary Fund offering will be taken at our Maundy Thursday service.

Easter Vigil: With the Greatest Fanfare Possible

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

No, not Christmas. Christmas is indeed wonderful: it's the beginning of the greatest part of the Great Story. But when we talk about stories, we talk about conflict and climax and resolution. The whole more-than-first-half of your Bible is full of conflict, but this is the hour of darkness that dissolves into morning. This is where the hero does the unthinkable to resolve what seems utterly beyond hope.

Cue Easter Vigil. I heartily agree with theologian Gerald McDermott: "The Easter Vigil is the greatest service of the Christian year." Hands down. Why? Because this is where it all comes together! We tell the whole story beginning with God's pristine creation, traveling through the heartbreak of betrayal in the first garden and all the centuries of resulting strife. But then, then we remember where we are in the story. We walked with Jesus through Lent, saw his ministry and miracles. We waved palm branches on Sunday and witnessed him—his echoing silence, his few words, his willing

death—wide-eyed. On Saturday we waited in the gloom. And now, in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, "A joyful fanfare may be played, and bells may be wrung." (They forgot the exclamation point, but we'll let it slide.) It's finally time! All the stories we know resolve, but none like this. The Christ rises, the King conquers, the Man who is God defeats our vilest enemy. It's not a metaphor; it's the truest truth in the world. Easter Vigil is the Christian's freedom feast. Easter Day is glorious, and rightly so, but Easter Vigil is the hinge of the salvation story. We obey God's constant refrain to his people throughout Scripture: remember. We remember the long history of our failure and his mercy. And then we watch as the door opens beyond the darkness of death. We usher in the most wonderful time of the year by ringing bells and shouting our word of praise (hint: starts with an "a") because his is the only steadfast love that makes us whole. That, my friends, is definitely worth celebrating with the greatest fanfare possible.

Kelly Ostergren,

Director of Operations



"How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son . . . How blessed is this night when earth and heaven are joined, and Man is reconciled to God."

—From The Great Vigil of Easter liturgy, *The Book of Common Prayer*

CAMPERS,

Embrace the whole experience!

Bring your gear to the church property on Holy Saturday and extend your vigil to sunrise.

Portable toilets will be available. Look for designated camping area signs.



Watching Them Grow



Renee and I watch in awe as seven year old Jeremiah intently reads the liturgy and goes through the motions of consecrating the bread and wine for the model communion. His back is toward us (so thankfully he can't see us blatantly staring) as he repeats what he sees his dad do each Sunday morning at the communion table. It is the children's time during Catechesis of choosing their own work. Jeremiah is working alone, reading from a booklet with the written words and motions that Jesus enacted at the last supper.

In Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, we draw children into the life of Christ and the life of the church through work geared toward their particular levels of development. For the youngest, we offer the most essential truths: God loves you, Christ is light and life, the Good Shepherd cares for His sheep. As they age we go deeper into these themes, introducing history and law as they awaken to abstract concepts like time and morality, but now (hopefully) they view these concepts through the lens of God's love for them. We give the most vital elements of Scripture to the youngest, and then grow from that strong foundation, repeating themes and expounding on them similar to a nautilus growing its chambers.

There's a growing collection of snail shells from our creek on my windowsill. I love to find spirals in nature – because math is

beautiful no matter what Kelly Ostergren says. (The logarithmic spiral was first described by the artist Albrecht Durer, so there.) I think God sets revolutions in our lives like snails growing because we need repetition, because we learn a little more with each go-around, and because it's beautiful. This is what we watch unfold in Catechesis.

Four year old Ezra practices slowly pouring water from pitcher to pitcher because his age craves movement, and he is perfecting fine motor skills. Six year old Amelie moves on from this skill and learns to prepare the cruets as she has watched her mother do so many times. (In CGS I learned with the children that cruets contain the wine and water which the priest mixes at the altar.) Soon she will learn to prepare the chalice and hear how the mingling of the water and the wine is like the mystery of God's closeness to His people.

As we watch Jeremiah repeat Jesus' words to his disciples telling them to eat and drink, that this is His body and His blood, Renee and I hope for them all to know the deep love of the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for his sheep.

Katie Whitfield

CGS Catechist

Welcoming new members: Pam Simmons



(pictured here on the far right)

I have lived in the Shenandoah Valley all my life. I was looking for a new church and felt welcome the first Sunday I attended at Church of the Lamb.

I'm the director at Rockingham/Harrisonburg ASAP (Alcohol Safety Action Program). In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my children, Cole, Halie (David) and Kara and my grandchildren, Emet, Sam, Christopher, and Mary. Other pastimes include tennis, playing cards/board games, and reading.

Cole Simmons



I was raised in Harrisonburg, and this is the first time I've lived in the Valley since I was 18. After I graduated from HHS, I attended St. John's College in Annapolis Maryland. I earned my doctorate in political theory at the University of Dallas.

I'm thankful to be a new member of the Church of the Lamb and look forward to learning and growing with this community. My general interests are philosophy, history, sports, and movies.

A Barn Overhaul Underway

On Saturday, March 11, James Pascarella returned to complete the pavers in the barn. It's beautiful! It will serve us so well for decades of worship services, parties, catechesis, and social gatherings.

And more changes are on the way!

In 2021, Church of the Lamb received a grant from the Larson Family Foundation that was specifically designated to redo our property entrance (which we completed last summer) and to create a 3-season worship and gathering space. To fulfill the purpose of the grant and to provide us with a space where we can gather more regularly in the near future, the Vestry has approved additional funds for the barn renovation, which will allow us to install new metal on the exterior of the barn, rough cut wood trim, a beautiful gabled entrance from the side, railings, and a front deck or patio. The Land Team and the Youth are working hard to make these renovations as soon as possible. Stay tuned for more photos!

All the best,

Daniel Zimmerman

Director, Abide Project



Blue Ridge Deanery

Women's Retreat

"REST IN ME"

SEPTEMBER 29, 6:45PM - OCTOBER 1, 12:00PM
SPEAKER: SALLY BREEDLOVE

You are invited to join women from churches across the Blue Ridge Deanery at **The Roslyn Retreat Center** in Richmond, VA for a weekend of worship and fellowship.

Register at:
<https://incarnation.regfox.com/deanery-womens>

Prices include room & meals for Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning

\$230 Double Room
\$275 Single Room
Prices go up after June 15th