

Stewardship

in Motion

March 2008

The Holiest Week of All



The arrival of Palm Sunday heralds the beginning of the most holy week of the Christian year, a week that begins with Jesus' triumphal

entry into Jerusalem and concludes with His resurrection from the grave. While historical researchers report there is some indication that Jesus' stay in Jerusalem may have lasted up to as much as six months, at least from the fourth century AD it has been traditional to compress all the events that happened to Jesus in Jerusalem into a single week. Hence, we call it "Holy Week."

PALM SUNDAY

This day introduces Holy Week. It is traditionally celebrated with the blessing of palms and a grand procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal act of riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, symbolic of his royal authority. The day derives its name from the waving of palm branches that heralded his coming, with the people shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13).

MAUNDY THURSDAY

This day derives its name from the Latin *mandatum novum*, the "new commandment" bequeathed by Jesus on the night he washed his disciples' feet: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another" (John 13:34). Sometimes a special ceremony of foot-washing is observed.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Friday before Easter, this day marks the anniversary of the crucifixion of our Lord. In the Eastern Orthodox Church it is known as "Great Friday". It is a day associated with fasting, abstinence, and penance.

HOLY SATURDAY

Known also as "Easter Eve," the day before Easter Sunday commemorates the resting of Christ's body in the tomb. As the hymn reminds us "Low in the grave He lay...waiting the coming day."

EASTER SUNDAY

The greatest and oldest feast day of the Christian church. Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Its importance is underscored in the Christian calendar by the forty-day preparatory period of Lent.

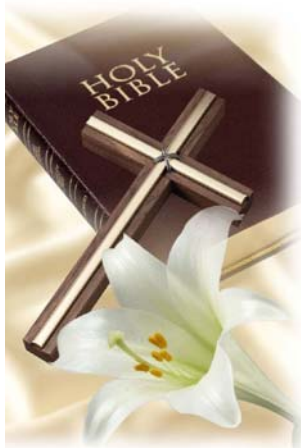
Prayer from

Saint Patrick's Breastplate



Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort me and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Jesus Christ is Risen



On Easter Sunday, of all days of the year, we can say with all seriousness, "I have a word from the Lord." And that word is "Jesus Christ is risen!"

We want to say it as clearly as possible: "Jesus

Christ, who was crucified—is risen!"

That is the Christian gospel in its most world-confronting, logic-confounding form.

And when that truth breaks through the barriers of your heart and storms the citadel of your will, when it breaks in glorious reality into your consciousness then you will respond: "He is risen indeed!"

Once that happens, our minds become expansive and we begin to see something of what it really means. God has truly acted in the person of Jesus to speak to us from the balcony. God has done the mighty deed. Jesus is alive. He is the Son of God. He is my Lord and Savior. Fear has been replaced by faith. Death has been defeated by life.

In the power of the risen Christ, there is no problem I cannot face. There is no pit of failure from which I cannot be delivered. Yes, there is a word from the Lord and it is a word filled with meaning for you where you are.

The Christian Steward

The weeks of Lent provide the faithful Christian Steward a wonderful opportunity not only to deepen his or her spiritual faith; but also to increase the disciplines of sacrificial service and generous giving.

Traditionally, many parishioners have "given up something" for Lent. It may have been a favorite food, a preferred activity, or a selected amusement. In recent years, some have begun "adding" something for Lent. Practicing a new spiritual discipline, beginning a new service activity in the parish, giving additional funds to a special mission or ministry.

Faithful Christian Stewardship involves continually growing in the use of our time, talents, and treasure as we carry out our personal lives of devotion and piety. It encompasses every part of life and requires our joining in partnership with all the members of the parish to work together to achieve the ministry of Christ in our midst.

This Lenten Season, did you make a substantial increase in the amount of time you spend in service to the parish? Did you expand the time you spend in prayer and Bible Study? Did you grow as a Disciple and as a Steward?

Happiness keeps you sweet,
Trials keep you strong,
Sorrows keep you human,
Failures keep you humble,
Success keeps you glowing,
But only God keeps you going!