Remembering Holy Week

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|  | What did you hear? (Scripture readings and prayers) | What did you see, smell, or touch? | What did you feel? | What was the importance or meaning of this liturgy for you? |
| Palm Sunday |  |  |  |  |
| Holy Thursday |  |  |  |  |
| Good Friday |  |  |  |  |
| Easter Vigil |  |  |  |  |
| Easter Sunday |  |  |  |  |

The Holy Week Liturgies

Lectionary Readings and Key Symbols of Holy Week

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| **Liturgy** | **Readings** | **Key Symbols** |
| Passion Sunday  (Palm Sunday Processional) | Matthew 21:1-11 (A)  Mark 11:1-10 (B)  Luke 19:28-40 (C)  Isaiah 50:4-7  Philippians 2:6-11  Matthew 26:14—27:66 (A)  Mark 14:1—15:47 (B)  Luke 22:14—23:56 (C) | Palms |
| Holy Thursday  (Chrism Mass) | Isaiah 61:1-3, 6:8-9  Revelation 1:5-8  Luke 4:16-21 | Oil |
| Holy Thursday  (Mass of the Lord’s Supper) | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14  1Corinthians 11:23-26  John 13:1-15 | Shared meal  Bread and wine  Water (washing feet) |
| Good Friday | Isaiah 52:12-53  Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  John 18:1—19:42 | Thorns  Cross |
| Easter Vigil | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2  Genesis 22:1-18  Exodus 14:15—15:1  Isaiah 54:5-14  Isaiah 55:1-11  Baruch 3:9-15, and 3:32—4:4  Ezekiel 36:16-28  Romans 6:3-11  Matthew 28:1-10  Mark 16:1-8 (B)  Luke 25:1-12 (C) | Fire  Light  Water  Oil  Easter (new) clothes  Shared meal  Bread and wine |
| Easter Sunday | Acts 10:34, 37-43  Colossians 3:1-4 or  1Corinthians 5:6-8  John 20:1-9 | Light  Water |

Significance of the Key Symbols of Holy Week

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| **Symbols** | **Lenten Context** | **Meaning for Us as Catholics** |
| Light and Fire | * Easter Vigil * Easter Sunday | * Christ’s presence * new life in Christ * Christ, the light, overcomes the darkness of sin * resurrection, victory over death * reverence and a sign of a joyous celebration |
| Water | * Baptism at Easter Vigil * Holy Thursday | * washing feet as a sign of service and self-sacrificing nature of Jesus’ love * Baptism * cleansing from sin, purification * new life emerges from the water—resurrected life * incorporation into Christ’s death and resurrection, into the Body of Christ |
| Palm Branches | Palm Sunday | * a show of honor, a symbol of victory * Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his ultimate victory over death |
| Oil  Anointing | * Holy Thursday Chrism Mass * Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil | * our need for God’s help and strength * spiritual strength, receiving God’s grace * empowered for mission as a follower of Jesus * healing and comfort (Anointing the Sick) * sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit * bonding us to the person of Jesus Christ |
| Shared Meal | Holy Thursday | * Jesus’ everlasting presence—the Eucharist * sharing in the saving effects of Jesus’ sacrifice: his paschal mystery, his death and resurrection * giving thanks and praise |
| Bread | Holy Thursday | * Jesus feeds us, fills our hunger * the body of Christ, broken for us * strength to take up the cross and live the Gospel—to become bread for the world |
| Wine | Holy Thursday | * Jesus quenches our thirst * the blood of Christ, given for us * the new covenant |
| Cross | Good Friday | * crucifixion * suffering and pain * sacrifice of Jesus, giving one’s life for one’s friends * death as the instrument of salvation |
| Thorns | Good Friday | * suffering and pain * crown of the suffering Messiah |