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 50:4-7Philippians 2:6-11Matthew 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, 6:8-9Revelation 1:5-8Luke 4:16-21 | Oil |
| Holy Thursday(Mass of the Lord’s Supper)  | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-141Corinthians 11:23-26John 13:1-15 | Shared mealBread and wineWater (washing feet) |
| Good Friday | Isaiah 52:12-53Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9John 18:1—19:42 | ThornsCross |
| Easter Vigil | Genesis 1:1-2 and 2Genesis 22:1-18Exodus 14:15—15:1Isaiah 54:5-14Isaiah 55:1-11Baruch 3:9-15, and 3:32—4:4Ezekiel 36:16-28Romans 6:3-11Matthew 28:1-10Mark 16:1-8 (B)Luke 25:1-12 (C) | FireLightWaterOilEaster (new) clothes Shared mealBread and wine |
| Easter Sunday  | Acts 10:34, 37-43Colossians 3:1-4 or 1Corinthians 5:6-8John 20:1-9 | LightWater |

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
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| 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
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| Palm Branches  | Palm Sunday | * a show of honor, a symbol of victory
* Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and his ultimate victory over death
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| OilAnointing | * 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
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| 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
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| Thorns | Good Friday | * suffering and pain
* crown of the suffering Messiah
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