

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Full to the Brim

Maundy Thursday, April 14 7:30 pm Service of Tenebrae and Communion
(Main Sanctuary)

Live streamed at erucc.org

In a room full to the brim with emotion, Jesus offers a tender, loving, and humble goodbye, stooping low to wash and caress his disciples' feet. Like the water splashing within the washbasin, his actions ripple out: "Go and do likewise. Just as I have loved you, love one another." This scene offers us a poignant and powerful image of discipleship. Our sub-theme is primarily inspired by Peter's experience and the way he initially resists Jesus' offer.

How many of us resist vulnerability? How often do we resist receiving love, support, and nurturing from others?

Jesus' command to go and do likewise is only possible for us if we, too, learn how to receive. We can't fully give without receiving also; love is designed to be shared. As was the case for Peter, receiving selfless, poured-out love fundamentally changes us. It's a profound act that shows us who we are. It's a practice of surrender and letting go. It reminds us of how God loves us. And so, this Maundy Thursday, take off your shoes. Remove the walls and protective layers you have built up. Allow yourself to be loved fully by God. Allow yourself to be filled to the brim so you can go out and fill others too.

Good Friday, April 15 Noon and 7:30 pm A Cup of Sorrow

***7:30 service will be live streamed at erucc.org**

On this Good Friday, we grieve the violence of humanity. In John's account of Jesus' death, Jesus' final words are: "I am thirsty. . . it is finished" (John 19:28, 30). He is offered a jar full of sour wine as he takes his final breaths. And yet, even here, God's love is full, poured out, self-emptied. Even in his last moments, Jesus is overflowing with truth and the fullness of the human experience. God embodies the fullness of pain and deep sorrow. And so, in the silence of this day, let us, too, sit in the fullness of this cup of sorrow.

Easter Sunday, April 17 8:30 am (Trinity Chapel) 10:30 am Main Sanctuary

Mary Magdalene, Joana, Mary the mother of James, and the other women go to the tomb with spices to tend to Jesus' body. When they find the tomb empty and are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing, they remember. They remember what Jesus had said, which compels them to go out and tell the story.

Even in utter shock, they return to their deepest knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Their imaginations and hearts expand, and they must take action in response. Many of the disciples won't open themselves to this

expansiveness and reject it. Peter is curious enough to return to the tomb, and as a result, he is filled with amazement and awe. How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?