

AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP  
At St Pauls Lutheran Church Ōtautahi | Christchurch

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HOLY WEEK  
AND  
THE THREE DAYS OF EASTER



Kia ora everyone,

The Lenten season is almost over, and we are about to enter Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and leading us to the Easter weekend.

Every Sunday in worship the Church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word.

However, on several key days at the centre of the Church year, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34).

The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through to Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter unfold in a single movement, as the Church each year journeys with Christ through death into life.

The intensity of this weekend in terms of the central events of our salvation, lends itself to some incredibly rich drama and ritual in our worship. My hope and prayer will be that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will be drawn into the drama and ritual of these services in such a way that they might enhance your reception of and love for the Gospel.



**PALM SUNDAY**

**24 March**  
**10.00am**

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

28 March

7.30pm

### Foot Washing ... Holy Communion ... Stripping of the Altar

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. This service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (mandatum, from which Maundy comes) to love one another. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, we will symbolically participate in the foot-washing to represent Jesus washing the disciples' feet. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's Supper. At the end of the service, the altar area will be stripped of furnishings, the church will be darkened, we will hear Psalm 22, and leave worship in silence, all as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.



## GOOD FRIDAY

29 March

10.00am

### The Way (stations) of the Cross

We will gather quietly on Good Friday morning, where the service will continue the journey through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. During this service we will 'journey' along the Way (Stations) of the cross.

We will also 'Lift High the Cross' as we leave the church ... we will enter the world, our community ... carrying the cross of Jesus ... proclaiming God's love ... hope for the world ...



## EASTER SUNDAY

31 March

10.00am

### Festival Worship with Remembrance of Baptism and Holy Communion

Today, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. We will begin with lighting the 'new fire' (the Paschal Candle), and celebrating light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and Word of baptismal resurrection, and the first resurrection meal; the Feast of Victory for our God. The spirit of this worship will be our great resurrection joy, so I invite you to bring along flowers with which to decorate the church. Please wear **colourful clothes** and bring **bells to ring**.

After worship we will enjoy Hot Cross Buns and a cuppa.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Please invite friends and family to come along for the most exciting worship weekend there is!

