



before the service begins...

GOOD FRIDAY

We begin our liturgy as we ended last night's Maundy Thursday Liturgy: in silence.

What was begun then continues this day as we journey with our Saviour from the Last Supper, the stripping and humiliation, to the cross and tomb. Good Friday is the second day of the Triduum, the "Three Sacred Days" of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday with its Vigil of Easter.

The Good Friday Liturgy is marked with austerity, silence and reflection. The chancel itself is bare from the Maundy Thursday stripping. There is no organ music except to accompany the hymns. Everything focuses on our adoration of the crucified Christ, reigning from the throne of the cross.

The opening portion of the liturgy includes no praise. It proceeds directly to the Prayer of the Day. It is a simplified version of our Sunday Liturgy of the Word. The chief acts are the reading of the Passion of St. John and the Prayers for the needs of our world.

A large crucifix, which vividly and dramatically portrays the events of this day, is then brought into the church in solemn procession to become the focus of our adoration of the crucified Christ. The crucifix is central to our meditations in word and in silence. After this Veneration we prepare to receive the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood.

It is in the reception of Holy Communion that we are drawn into the movement of Christ's own sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world, made once and for all by the Saviour's death on the cross.

All then depart in silence without benediction. Christ's death is not God's final word. We keep vigil for Christ's resurrection as the conclusion to our Triduum, the Vigil of Easter, tomorrow evening at 11.30 p.m.