

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

Holy Saturday

9:00 AM



April 4, 2026

What's Happening This Week:

Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Saturday, April 4	8:00 pm	The Great Vigil of Easter	Church
Sunday, April 5	11:00 am	Festival Eucharist	Church
	12:30 pm	Easter Egg hunt	Rittenhouse Square
	4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal Service	Centennial Room
Mon., April 6 - Tues. April 7		Church Closed	

General Information:

Service: Everything you need to join in the service is in this bulletin. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask one of the ushers (who handed you this bulletin) or a neighbor in your pew.

Restrooms are located at the front of the church. Walk down the left aisle toward the door with the EXIT sign. Go through the door, and turn left. Men's room is straight ahead, women's to the right. If you prefer a gender neutral bathroom, please ask our ushers to show you where this is.

Masks: We don't require masks, but we support you if you want to wear one. We generally ask staff and service participants to wear them when they aren't feeling well. Please ask if you need one!

Offering: Your financial gifts help the church to continue to serve the community, lift up the faithful, and keep this beautiful building safe. You can give a financial gift to the church in three ways: by placing it in the plate that we pass in church today, by texting **CHT DONATE** to **73256** or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).



More Information? Visit our website www.htrit.org and sign up for our weekly E-News.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The Saturday after Good Friday, which recalls the day when the crucified Christ visited among the dead while his body lay in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. In the Episcopal Church there is no eucharist on Holy Saturday. The BCP provides a simple liturgy of the word with collect and readings for the Holy Saturday service. The funeral anthem "In the midst of life" (BCP, pp. 484 or 492) is used instead of the prayers of the people (BCP, p. 283). In the ancient church, those preparing for baptism and perhaps others continued the fast they began on Good Friday. Holy Saturday ends at sunset. Fasting and other preparations end at sunset or with the Easter Vigil, which begins the celebration of Easter.

THE TRIDUUM: HOLY SATURDAY

We ask that you turn off or silence your Cell Phone during the service. Thank you!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.
O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The people sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Andy Gutknecht

Reader A reading from Lamentations.

I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with hewn stones, he has made my paths crooked.

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31: 1-4; 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- ² Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- ⁴ Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God.

You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an accounting to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 27:57-66

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Officiant When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

Officiant In the midst of life we are in death; from whom can we seek help?
From you alone, O Lord, who by our sins are justly angered.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Officiant Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayers,
but spare us, O Lord.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

Officiant O worthy and eternal Judge, do not let the pains of death turn us away from you
at our last hour.

People **Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and merciful Savior,
deliver us not into the bitterness of eternal death.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE GRACE

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of
the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

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Welcome! We are glad you are with us today.

You can find more information on the back of the bulletin.

Our Vivid Vision

This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshippers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

Core Values

Inclusion/Welcome

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

Innovation

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

Collaboration

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

Community Mindedness

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

Joyful

Culture

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

Fearless

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

Embracing

We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

Engaged

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Outreach*

Demetrius Swinson, *Operations Coordinator AKA Superman*

Inaara Neal-Shiraz, *Director of Development & Communications*

Shawn “Shiz” Futch & Mike Whitney, *Operations Support*

Victoria Alfred-Levow & Chiquita Anderson, *Welcome Coordinators*

Jack Baranoski, Boyden Gardner, & Jonah Shortall, *Streaming Services*

Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Aimee Pilgermayer, Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Franny Geller, Patricia Conrad, Maiya

Williams, Justine Hansen, Eddie Rubeiz, Samuel Evans, Samuel Keeler, Andrew D.

Gutknecht, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, William Dowling, John Miles

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Vestry

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui,

Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, Ali Shott, and Daniel Tancredi



**THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE