

# TRIDUUM

# Reconciled AND Restored

The final three days of Holy Week are called the *triduum*, from the evening of Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. During these three holy days the Lord Jesus accomplished the purpose for which he was sent, and by his death and resurrection God reconciled the world to himself and set in motion the restoration of his fallen creation. "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:19-20).

*The old has passed away; behold, the new has come ...  
in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

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“There was evening and there was morning, the fifth day” (Genesis 1:23). God spoke his creating Word, and light appeared in the darkness. Sea, sky and land teemed with creatures, grain waved in the fields, and trees and vineyards brought forth fruit. On Thursday of this Holy Week, Jesus, the Word made flesh, took bread and wine, the fruit of the vine, and said, “This is my body ... this is my blood” (Matthew 26:26-28).

## GOOD FRIDAY

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On the sixth day God created man, male and female, in his own image. That image of God, the image of righteousness, was lost when Adam and Eve listened to the tempting serpent and ate the fruit that was forbidden to them. But God promised to send a Savior, a descendant of the woman, who would crush that tempting serpent. When the time was right, “God sent forth his Son, born of woman” (Galatians 4:4), to suffer, die and rise to restore that lost image. As God finished his creating work on the sixth day, so on the sixth day of the week—the day we call Good Friday—the Son of God announced from the cross, “It is finished.”

## HOLY SATURDAY

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“God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day” (Genesis 2:2). On the seventh day, the Sabbath, God rested from his work, giving us a pattern of work and rest to follow as we serve him by serving others. On Good Friday, Jesus’ body was taken down from the cross, prepared for burial and sealed in a borrowed tomb. On the seventh day of that week, on the Sabbath, Jesus lay in the tomb, “resting” in the sleep of death.

## EASTER SUNDAY

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“On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb” (Luke 24:1).

At the dawn of creation, after that first Sabbath of divine rest, the newly created world got down to its daily work—growing, moving and thriving under the caring and preserving hand of God. The first day of that new week is sometimes called the “eighth day of creation.” Baptismal fonts, where we are buried and raised to new life in Christ in the waters of Baptism, are sometimes designed with eight sides to honor this eighth day of newly created life. On the “eighth day,” that is, on the first Easter morning, the women at Jesus’ tomb heard the joyful news: “He is not here, for he has risen!” It was a day of new life, life that we share as we are, in Baptism, raised with Christ to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).