

Holy Week and Easter Notes

The special services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day are some of the most dramatic of the Christian year. Although ancient, they are extremely well presented in a modern idiom in Common Worship: Times and Seasons. The model liturgies, however, can be quite ambitious for a small or medium sized congregation.

In such circumstances it is often wise to attempt less and do it well. The texts offered here represent that approach. They are offered to be used as they print, or as a resource for further editing.

Palm Sunday

PalmSundayLiturgy is a ready to use service which is entirely faithful to Common Worship. Four sides of A4 may be photocopied onto a single, back to back A3 sheet.

PassionLuke reproduces the Passion According to St Luke which is set for 2016 on four A4 sheets to go onto one folded sheet of A3. The Passion is for three voices with the congregation adding the parts for the crowd.

The text is NRSV. An NRSV version noted for many voices may be found here:

<http://www.oremus.org/liturgy/passion/>

Maundy Thursday

MuandyBooklet is simple ready to print booklet in PDF format

It may be found in the Longbook section of the Labarum Collection

<http://www.oremus.org/labarum/>

which is part of the Oremus Project. There you will find a version in MS Publisher format for local editing.

Good Friday

GoodFridayLiturgy is a very simple development of the Common Worship model. It prints as two sides of A4 for back to back printing. Suggested traditional hymns are in square brackets.

JohnsPassion is set for three voices and congregation. NRSV and again four sides of A3 for copying onto a single folded A3 sheet. Oremus provides other version of St John's Passion in NRSV.

The Solemn Prayers of Good Friday (The prayers of intercession) may be found on page 316 of Common Worship: Times and Seasons which you will find online here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/41156/tspashw.pdf>

Easter Day

EasterLiturgyAdditions is a single A4 sheet that folds into four sides of A5.

A separate Easter Vigil Service is to be preferred, but in many congregations that is not possible. This fold begins with a very simple ceremony of light. Place a stubby candle in the font if it is at the church entrance and there kindle the Easter fire and light the Paschal Candle which then may be carried into church while singing the first hymn. After "Christ is risen" the Liturgy of the Word begins. After the sermon the Creed is replaced by the renewal of baptismal vows which are a confession of sin as well as of faith. No other penitential prayers are needed in the service, and prayers of intercession may be omitted.