



# THE GREAT 3 DAYS

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



***“We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe”***

## Triduum



*As we celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, we want to call attention to the end of the week known as Holy Week and focus on the Triduum, the great days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.*

As everyone is busy preparing for their Easter celebration with family and friends, the Church too is busy preparing for the most important feast in the liturgical year – EASTER – celebrating the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus from the dead. Even though we move from the “red” color of Palm Sunday back to the purple of Lent, then to the white of Holy Thursday, the red on Good Friday, and finally the introduction of white and gold for Easter and a church full of flowers, it is important to walk slowly through embracing the story of those final moments of Jesus on earth. As sacred as these days are, they are not days of obligation (except for Easter Sunday). Celebrating Jesus' dying and rising for our salvation during the Triduum is not merely about obligation. Obligation is relatively easy. Participating in the Triduum is about love: certainly, the love God showed for us hanging on the cross, but also our love for God. Love is much harder than obligation. It requires more from us, and the stakes are higher. This love should compel each of us to join in these celebrations. Our liturgies help us to grow from feeling obliged to attend to understanding liturgy as an expression of love for God.

So, let us join one another at one or all three of these beautiful celebrations of love. Join with your parish family this year and feel the love of God around you. Our services are at 8 PM on Holy Thursday for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, at 3 PM on Good Friday, and at 8 PM on Holy Saturday known as the Easter Vigil. The prayers, the music and the message will touch your heart.

***Have a prayerful, loving, and peaceful week ahead!***