

IN THE CHURCHES.

PRESENT WEEK IS MOST SOLEMN OF THE YEAR WITH THE CHURCHES

Is Known as Holy Week and Marks the Period of Suffering and Crucifixion of the Saviour.

is also a solemn day, but there are no special rites. It simply represents the sad day of the crucifixion to the members.

Holy Saturday.

To Holy Saturday belongs the solemn blessing of fire and of the waters of the baptismal font, and from the earliest times it was set aside as a day of preparation for the coming of candidates for the ecclesiastical ministry.

In the Protestant churches there is no special solemnization of the holy week, with the exception of Good Friday, and this is not observed by all of them in any special manner.

Easter Sunday.

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Christ. The popular observances connected with Easter are clearly of pagan origin.

There can be but little doubt that the use of eggs at this season was originally symbolical of the revivification of nature in the springing forth of life in spring.

From the Christian point of view the "Feast of Eggs" is considered as emblematic of the resurrection—a future life.

Easter is really the festival of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the ancient church the celebration of Easter lasted eight days, but the period has been gradually cut.

The proper time for celebrating Easter has occasioned no little controversy, but it was finally settled, in 1582, when the Gregorian calendar was introduced.

In this city and Juarez yesterday the Catholic churches observed the ceremony of blessing the palms, and in St. Clement's Episcopal church palms were on display.

Holy (or Maundy) Thursday is specially designated in commemoration of the last supper of Jesus Christ, the Eucharist. There are also several other customs annexed to the day.

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is sacred to the memory of the crucifixion of the Lord. It has been kept as a day of mourning and special prayer from a very early period.

In the Roman Catholic church the service of the day is very peculiar; instead of the ordinary mass, it consists of the mass of the presanctified, the sacred host not being consecrated on Good Friday, but reserved from the preceding day.

The very striking office of "Tenebrae" is held upon Good Friday and consists of the matins and lauds of the Holy Saturday, and has this peculiarity that at the close all the lights in the church are extinguished, but one, which for a time (as a symbol of the Lord's death), is hidden under the altar.

In the Episcopal church Good Friday is observed by the reading of the Gospels, the singing of the "Te Deum" and the "Credo," and the reading of the "Prayers for the Day." The service is held at 7:30 p. m.

At the First Presbyterian church, Sunday, Rev. C. L. Overstreet, the pastor, took for the text for his sermon Matt. 21:11: "Who is this?" It was a Palm Sunday discourse.

The question of the people in the days of Christ is a question of today, he said: "Who is this?" In spite of the fact that Jesus declared that He was the Messiah, that He came to give life, and the truth and the life, and many other ways tried to declare who He was and what He was, yet the people asked "who is this?"

Some said He was just one of the people—a carpenter's son—that He was a mysterious being, a spirit, a prophet, a king. He was all these, but infinitely more, the speaker said, but because of their limited, narrow views of Him they were afraid of Him, and He was disappointed. And because of men's partial, limited ideas of Christ today, they become offended and lose Him altogether, the speaker declared.

Parvin Witte sang "The Palm," by Faneur, and the choir sang "The Lost Sheep" at the morning service.

In the evening the pastor preached on "Why Be a Christian?" taking as his text, Eccles. 12:12: "Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." He declared that, according to Solomon's summing up of man's whole duty, the Christian is most capable of fulfilling the conditions.

A. G. Foster talked to the young people at the Christian Endeavor meeting on "Money, a Blessing or a Curse."

There will be a special meeting of the trustees of the church Tuesday evening.

Tuesday afternoon the Woman's Aid will give a musical at the residence of Mrs. W. N. Small on Mesa and Boulevard.

Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study will be held at 7:30.

There will be a communicants' class led by the pastor Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Elaborate Easter exercises will be held in the church and Sabbath school next Sunday.

THE MISTAKES OF CHRISTIANS

Rev. P. J. Rice Speaks on Misguided Efforts to Follow Christ.

At the First Christian church Sunday morning the pastor, P. J. Rice, spoke on the significance of the triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. He said:

"This is a thrilling scene. We have to dwell upon it. The spectacular always appeals to us. By nature we are all hero worshipers. We delight in the symbols of victory; we join the procession and shout when others shout; we admire the man whom others admire, and honor the hero whom others honor."

"As we look closely at this whole scene, however, we discern features that make us pause and reflect. There are some sharp contrasts here. Jerusalem decked in holiday attire, thronged with visitors, yet on this very day destruction is vividly prophesied. There is the shouting multitude and there is also a weeping king."

Continuing, Mr. Rice said, the fact that on this day the two Messianic programs, one the program of the Zealots, which the people shared; the other the program of Jesus, were brought into sharpest contrast.

"Jesus was not deceived by these shouts of praise," he said. "He knew their hollowness; he understood perfectly well that when he refused to yield himself to the fulfillment of their ideals, these shouts of praise would be turned to demands for his very life. He weeps as a testimony of his love for his own people and because of this narrowness of vision their preconceptions had blinded their eyes to the truth. We are in constant danger of repeating this and try to fashion the truth to them and instead often crucify the truth."

"I wonder if Christ does not often weep over us when we think we are doing His highest honor. It is not enough that we should shout his praises or cast flowers in the way. The highest tribute we can pay him is lovingly and faithfully to exemplify his spirit in all the relations of life. His kingdom is spiritual and he asks not honors but loyal following. He rejoices not in our hosannas, but in our humility, our weakness, our desire for righteousness, and our action to serve and to bless."

Special services for this week will be held as follows:

Monday—A day of authority; or, condemning desertions.

Tuesday—A day of controversy; or, dealing with triflers.

Wednesday—A day of retirement; or, alone with God.

Thursday—A day of fellowship; or, cementing friendships.

Friday—(To be provided); or, victory in the making.

Saturday—Morning—The resurrection; or, the life triumphant.

Sunday—Morning—The resurrection; or, the life triumphant.

Monday—A day of authority; or, condemning desertions.

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