



# Worship Time

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8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class 2007/8  
October 21, 2007



# Time is important to worship

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- Christian worship uses time to create rhythms of response to God
  - We are people of the Story and these rhythms help us hear (and tell!) the Story
- Rhythms of time include
  - Within the day
  - Within the week
  - Within the year
  - Across the years



# During the day

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- Although we mainly worship on Sunday morning, Christian communities often have regular worship many times during the day
  - In the early morning – Matins
  - In the middle of the day – Terce, Sext, None
  - In the early evening – Vespers
  - In the late evening – Compline
  - Throughout the night -- Vigils



# Within the week

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- Jewish Sabbath is Friday sunset to Saturday sunset
- Since the first century, Christians celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday and worship on Sunday morning
  - The day of Jesus' resurrection
    - Reminds us of light, creation
    - At Saint Nicholas, we participate in the Lord's Supper nearly every Sunday (today was rare exception)



# Seasons of the Year

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- 3 Cycles, 6 seasons
  - Christmas Cycle
    - Advent - Blue
    - Christmas - White
    - After Epiphany – Green
  - Easter Cycle
    - Lent – Purple
    - Holy Week (not really a season) – Various colors
    - Easter – White or Gold
  - Time of the Church
    - After Pentecost – Green (Pentecost itself is red)



# Seasons of the Church

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- Notice the pattern:
  - Preparation (Advent, Lent) – time of looking inward, getting ready
  - Celebration (Christmas, Holy Week) – time of celebrating what God has done
  - Commemoration/Continuation (Epiphany, Easter into Pentecost)



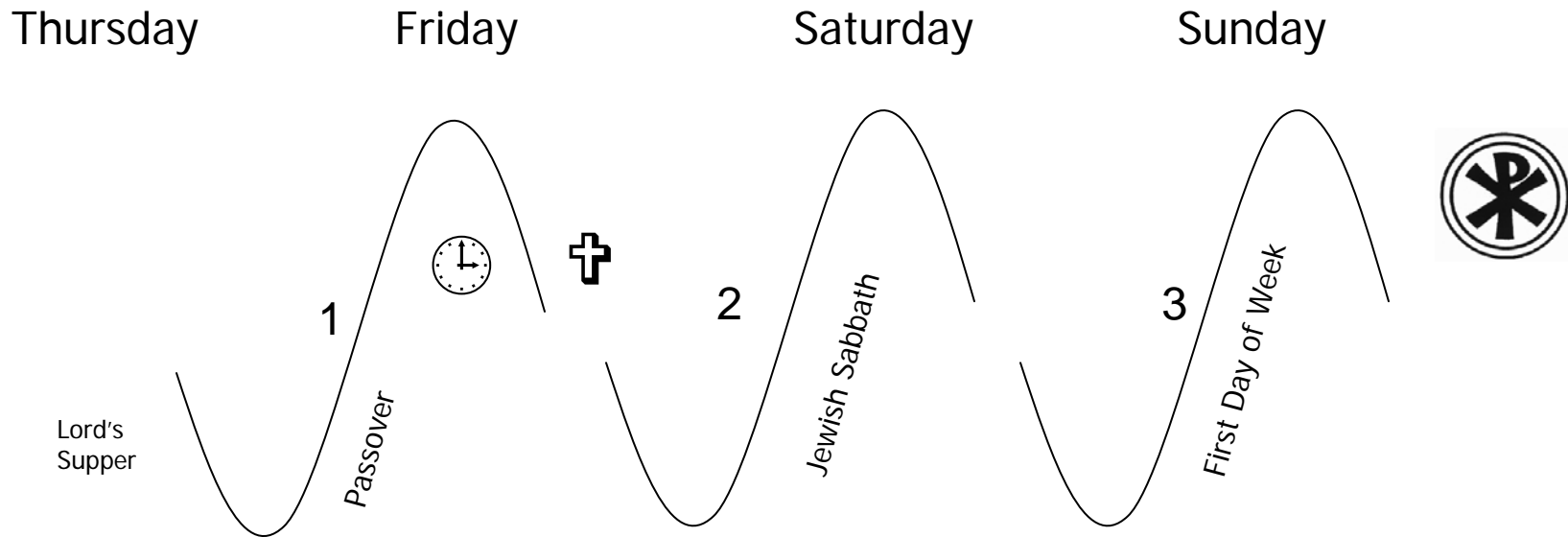
# Easter and Triduum (The Great Three Days)

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- Events of The Three Days come from the Gospels
  - Maundy Thursday – First Lord’s Supper (Passover Seder)
    - “Mandatum” means Commandment – “Love one another”
  - Good Friday – Death of Jesus (at 3 in the afternoon)
  - Vigil of Easter – Saturday evening into Sunday morning
  - Easter – Resurrection of the Lord!

# Triduum – the Great Three Days

- By the way, how can Jesus have risen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day?  
In Jewish calendar, a day begins at sunset





# Triduum – The Great Three Days

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- The Three Days are the pivot of the Christian church year
  - Lent began as a period of preparation for baptism at Easter Vigil
  - Easter Vigil tells the story of God's action in history
  - Lent is 40 days of preparation beginning with Ash Wednesday (remembrance our own mortality)
  - 50 days of celebration follow Easter, culminating in Pentecost
- Easter Cycle = Lent, Holy Week and the season of Easter



# Christmas

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- Christmas was not celebrated by the early church
  - Rich symbols of darkness (early sunsets, long nights) into light (Christmas)
  - Advent becomes the period of preparation for Christmas
  - Epiphany means “revelation” or “appearance”
    - Can apply to either to Transfiguration or Baptism of Jesus
- Christmas cycle = Advent, Christmas and Epiphany



# Across the Years

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- Lectionary is a three-year cycle
- Each year concentrates on one (or two) Gospels
  - Year A is Matthew
  - Year B is Mark/John
  - Year C is Luke
- So, three years from now, today's readings will be repeated



# Questions?

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- Next (in groups)
  - Review two weeks ago with a little group quiz
  - Talk about your most favorite parts of Sunday worship, and your least favorite parts
  - If worship were perfect, what would it be like?