

HOLY THURSDAY

PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE

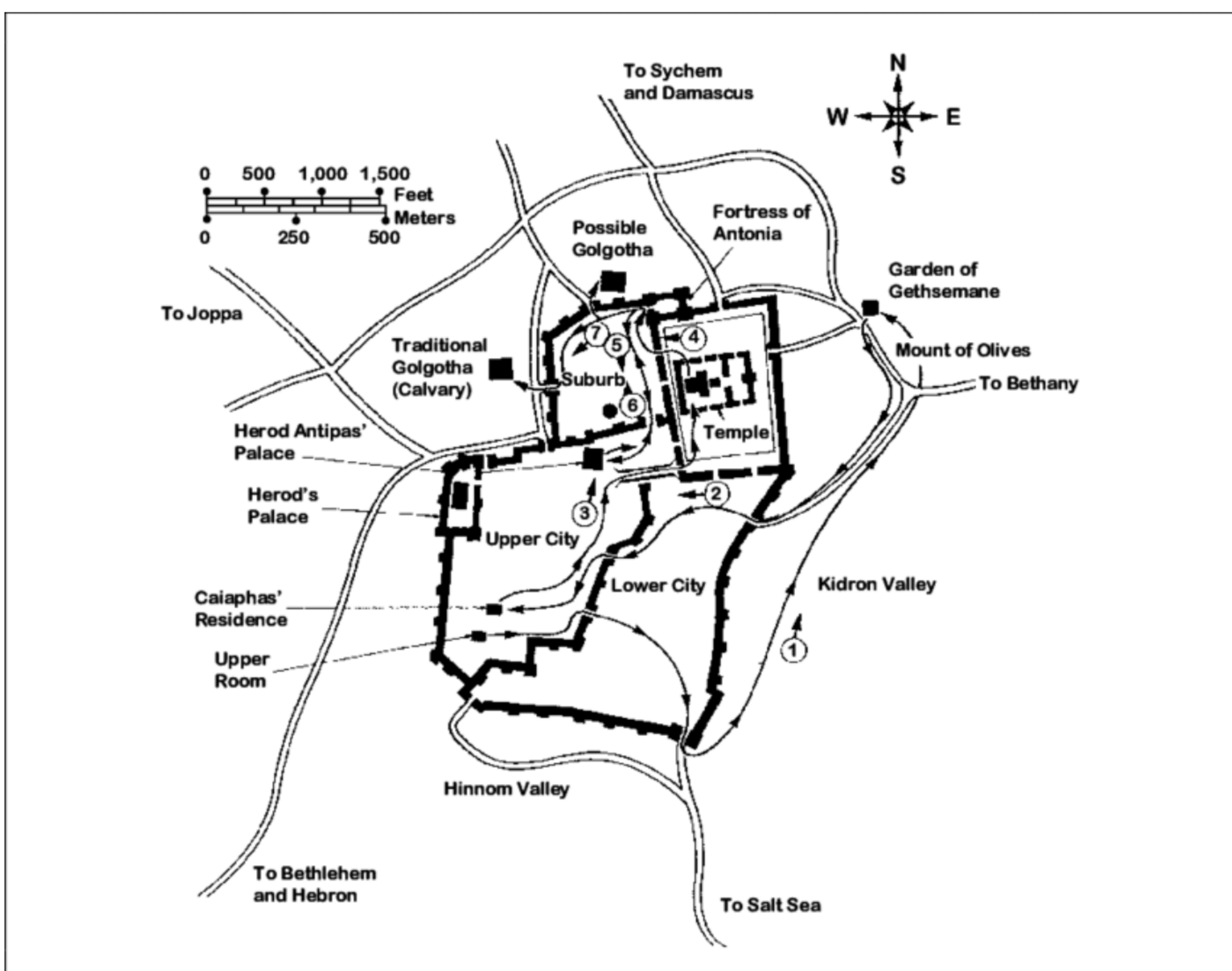


Wednesday of Holy Week is pivotal because it marks the end of Lent.

Holy Thursday begins the sacred Triduum—the holiest days of the Church year. The liturgy reflects the beauty of the Paschal mystery and the Passover Feast of Christ.

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood.

Jesus' Footsteps on Holy Thursday & Good Friday



—Map of Jerusalem at time of Christ. Jesus left Upper Room and walked with disciples to Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane (1), where he was arrested and taken first to Annas and then to Caiaphas (2). After first trial before political Sanhedrin at Caiaphas' residence, Jesus was tried again before religious Sanhedrin, probably at Temple (3) Next, he was taken to Pontius Pilate (4), who sent him to Herod Antipas (5). Herod returned Jesus to Pilate (6), and Pilate finally handed over Jesus for scourging at Fortress of Antonia and for crucifixion at Golgotha (7). (Modified from Pfeiffer et al. 30)

Holy Thursday Tradition: Visiting the Seven Churches

In metropolitan areas where there are more Catholic churches, there is the popular tradition of visiting the altar of repose in seven local churches. This custom began in Rome (often credited to St. Philip Neri) with visiting the seven major basilicas of the city on Holy Thursday: St. Peter's in the Vatican, St. Paul's outside the Walls, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Sebastian's, St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, and Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

This Holy Thursday pilgrimage reflects the seven stops or "stations" during the night of Jesus' arrest:

- Jesus in the Garden in Gethsemane where He was arrested (Luke 22:39-46)
- Jesus taken before Annas (John 18:19-22)
- Jesus bound and taken before Caiaphas, the High Priest (Matthew 26:63-65)
- Jesus taken before Pilate, the Roman governor (John 18:35-37)
- Jesus goes before Herod (Luke 23:8-9, 11)
- Jesus returns to Pilate (Matthew 27:22-26)
- Jesus is scourged, crowned with thorns and led to His crucifixion (John 19:1-16)

