

MARCH 29, 2015
PALM SUNDAY

taking+ faith home

Lent is a time for humble service of others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 11:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Mark 12:1-12	Parable of the tenants
Tuesday	Mark 14:1-11	Jesus anointed at Bethany
Wednesday	Mark 14:12-20	Jesus to be betrayed
Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes his disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1-19:42	The sufferings and death of Jesus
Saturday	Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	In God I hope
Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	Christ is risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross. Philippians 2:8 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! (Mark 11:9-10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Hosanna! Praise to God our provider. Hosanna!

A Blessing to Give:

May you have a humble attitude like that of God's Son, and may you be blessed as God's servant. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Who is the most "important" person you have met? How did you feel when you met that person?
- Jesus, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, "came down to the lowest level" for us. In what ways has Jesus been our humble servant?
- In what ways can you follow Jesus' example this Holy Week?

DEVOTIONS

Good Friday is a special day for contemplation upon Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. Introduce these practices into your home life to make your Holy Week a more meaningful experience.

- Simplify your day. Attend church together as a household. Spend quiet time at home, without use of the TV, radio, video games, CDs or computer. Make the hours of noon to 3 p.m. (the hours when Jesus was crucified) a particular "low time" (you may wish to darken your home during these hours by drawing your curtains).
- Look together at a Bible storybook of Jesus' passion, or watch a video of Jesus' life.
- Simplify your meals. Minimize snack foods.
- Perform an act of service together as a household, such as clean up a community area, visit a lonely person, or prepare something to give away.

SERVICE

Do you know someone who will spend Easter alone? Share your resurrection joy by inviting that person to lunch or dinner next Sunday.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On Palm Sunday light all six purple candles on your "crown of thorns" wreath. Read Philippians 2:8 and then extinguish one candle. Say this prayer together: **Lord Jesus, thank you for coming down to our level so that we could be lifted up to yours. Thank you for being our humble servant by dying on the cross. Amen.** In the following five days of Holy Week, follow the same pattern - light all six candles, read a Bible verse, extinguish candles (one more each day) and say the prayer together:

Monday	Read Isaiah 53:4	Extinguish 2 candles
Tuesday	Read Isaiah 53:5	Extinguish 3 candles
Wednesday	Read Isaiah 53:6	Extinguish 4 candles
Thursday	Read Isaiah 53:7	Extinguish 5 candles
Friday	Read Isaiah 53:8	Extinguish 6 candles

On Saturday, don't light any candles. Read Isaiah 53:9 and say the prayer together.



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