

MARCH 24-26, 2016
MAUNDY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY

taking+
faith
home

A time to reflect on the depths of God's love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

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	Romans 6:1-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	Christ is risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father. **Romans 6:4 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms on the cross in love for us. Open our hearts and the hearts of others to receive your love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we gather to enjoy what is before us, we remember what you gave up for our sake. Make us strong to love and serve others in thanks to you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the loving sacrifice of Jesus open your heart to him and to others. May God's grace and mercy fill your life, now and always. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- If you could write words for a sign to place above the cross of Jesus, what would they be?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus died for the sins of the world?
- How does Jesus' death and resurrection make a difference for your life?

DEVOTIONS



Gather together as a household to reflect on the story of the sufferings and death of Jesus. Light a candle to symbolize the life of Christ. Read John 18:1–19:42 from a Bible or a children's storybook Bible. At the point in the Bible passage or storybook reading where the death of Jesus is recounted, snuff out the candle and have a period of silence. Invite each person to say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for his sacrificial love.

SERVICE



Jesus washed his followers' feet to symbolize how he would serve them and cleanse them through his death on the cross. Arrange for those in your household to wash one another's feet as an act of service. Pray for God's help to serve one another in practical ways in daily life, following the example of Jesus.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Holy Saturday night is a time to gather with others for the Easter Vigil. It is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a series of Bible readings that recount salvation history. Light candles and/or have an outdoor bonfire to symbolize how the light of Christ scatters the darkness. Read some or all of the following texts with moments of silence and reflection between each reading: Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Exodus 14:10-31; Exodus 15:20-21; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Jonah 1:1–2:1; Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11; Daniel 3:1-29; Romans 6:3-11; and Luke 24:1-12.

Conclude with the following prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your never-failing love, filled with grace, mercy, and peace and shown most fully in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you for your new creation that promises that death will be known no more. To you be praise and honor and glory now and forever more. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org