

APRIL 9, 2017
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY



Jesus' obedience and suffering leads to our salvation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 26:1-13	Jesus' anointing
Tuesday	Matthew 26:14-16	Judas agrees to betray Jesus
Wednesday	Matthew 26:17-30	The Last Supper
Thursday	Matthew 27:11-30	Jesus before Pilate
Friday	Matthew 27:1, 31-54	The crucifixion
Saturday	Matthew 27:57-66	Jesus' burial
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	He is risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross."

Philippians 2:7-8 (CEV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for your work of salvation that comes from your self-giving love through the obedience of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have given us so much—your life to save us, and good food to feed us. Help us to live for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to believe in Jesus as God's Son. May God help you to trust Jesus as your Savior and to humbly serve him. (Matthew 27:54; Philippians 2:5)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Ah, Holy Jesus



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- For Jesus, obedience to God's will trumps everything. What does obedience to God's will look like for you?
- Religious leaders thought they were defending God by opposing Jesus. How do we drive God away from us with our religious opinions?
- What does it mean to have a God who refuses to stay away from us, even when we turn our backs on God?

DEVOTIONS

Read the "Daily Bible Readings" from this *Taking Faith Home* and reflect on the meaning of Holy Week for you, the church, and the world. Use a storybook Bible with children. (For each day, add the recommended item to a visible area in the home.) Conclude each day's reflections with the Lord's Prayer.

Palm Sunday: (Palm branch or leaf) What does it mean that the people who praise Jesus will soon utter, "Crucify him"?

Holy Monday: (Bottle of perfume) What does it mean to honor Jesus?

Holy Tuesday: (Coins) What does it mean for us to betray God's sacrificial love?

Holy Wednesday: (Bowl of water) Reflect on Jesus' silence.

Maunder Thursday: (Bread) Reflect on the Last Supper.

Good Friday: (Nails) Reflect on the depth of God's love through Jesus' death.

Holy Saturday: (Rock) Reflect on the death of Jesus.

Easter Sunday: (Lit candle) Reflect on how the resurrection changes everything.

SERVICE

Service to others can be done grudgingly or with an attitude of martyrdom that focuses on us instead of our neighbor. Celebrate God's loving service to you and the world by choosing to serve someone else as a way to say, "I care about you, and God loves you." Let service be a way of life as a follower of Jesus.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week, we remember the journey of Jesus from his entry in Jerusalem to his last meal, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith. Let the structure of Holy Week guide your home activities. It's especially helpful to plan for Friday and Saturday to be quiet, at-home days, with few scheduled activities. Plan simple meals and cut back on treats and use of media. Agree on times when you can gather together to reflect on the events of Jesus' Passion.



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