







PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Palm Sunday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

Today, on Palm Sunday, we welcome our King riding in on a donkey, coming to die.

"The crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road..those who followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest'" (Matthew 21:8-9).

The term "Hosanna" is an exclamation of praise that originally meant "Save us!" Jesus' followers were simultaneously praising his name and calling out for him to save them. Jesus knows what he is about to face, but the people do not. Perhaps he held the reality of melancholy and agony, but also compassion, mercy, love, and forgiveness for the people he was about to save forevermore.

•	"Lord, what causes me to cry, 'Hosanna!" myself?" "Lord, where in my life have I expected you to show up in a certain way and you did in another? What were you doing? How did I experience you?"					

$HOLY \\ MONDAY$

Monday, March 25

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Holy Monday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

Jesus went to Jerusalem to proclaim the good news to the people. On his second day in the city he found people selling and buying goods in the temple courts.

"...Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves" (Mark 11:15-17).

Jesus turned over tables and scattered the items they were selling. This was the temple of God, not a place to earn money. Jesus stirs things up in the temple. What was meant to be a place of worship, he cleansed out that which was not a part of its original design.

Similar to our own lives and journeys with Jesus, he is in the process of transforming our hearts, sanctifying and cleansing us. Jesus knew what was hindering their relationship with God and entering into true worship of him. Similarly, there may be things in our hearts and lives that are standing between us and the Lord. God's desire in "cleansing us" is not to restrain us or withhold from us, but to experience his love, freedom, wholeness, and healing which leads to a truly abundant life (John 10:10).

	that are hindering my relationship with you? Where am I seeking control? What areas of my life are you asking me to release to you in trust? What does repentance look like in this specific area?					
•	"Lord, what am I finding myself worried about often? What is on my mind a lot? Lord, teach me about the root of this worry. Where does the worry come from? What does surrender look like in this specific area?					

"Lord, search me and know me. What are areas of my heart or life

$HOLY \\ TUESDAY$

Tuesday, March 26

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Holy Tuesday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

The religious leaders try to trip Jesus up by asking him where he gets his authority to teach and heal. However, Jesus avoids their traps and calls them out in their hypocrisy (Matthew 23:1-36). After this, he grieves over Jerusalem: "'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, 'Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (Matthew 23:37-39).

The fact that Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) shows his deep emotional state as he moves towards what is to come. What is he weeping over? The lost, the broken, the judgment, his death to come, and the tragedy of the whole situation. Consider Jesus' heart in this moment. He is weeping over what his accusers are missing. Where he has every reason to rage and rebuke, he is instead moved by his deep love for humanity which leads him to tears. Pause and ponder Jesus' love, care, compassion, and patience in this scene.

	to carry our burdens and intercede for us. Lord, how does your compassion, which was so near your suffering on the cross, shape my own compassion for others? What's your invitation for me here?
•	"Lord, what am I lamenting over right now? What is painful or grievous to me?" Share it with the Lord.

"Lord, thank you. I praise you for your willingness to pray for us;

$HOLY \\ WEDNESDAY$

Wednesday, March 27

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Holy Wednesday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

On their way to the Mount of Olives Jesus tells his disciples that all of them will desert him. Upon hearing this Peter told him, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.' Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, Peter - this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.' 'No!' Peter insisted. 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!' And all the other disciples vowed the same" (Matthew 26:33-35).

For many followers of Jesus, the thought of denying him seems absurd. However, when it comes to our relationship with him, we may feel like we cannot bring our full and authentic selves to him, hence parts of him we try to hide. Whether it is shame, fear, or wounding that holds us back, hiding and covering is one of the biggest human habits. However, the Lord wants to love us in all of our actual selves and transform the areas that need to change. What would it be to open to Jesus and allow his love to impact all of you? Even the parts that are uncomfortable to let him in to.

	in them?
•	"Lord, what is hindering me from believing that you love me in my worst self, my sin, my struggles, and my pain? Ask the Lord to give you courage to share these hidden places with

"Lord, what are parts of my heart that I want to keep hidden from you? What is the fear of letting you in to see them and be with me

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Maundy Thursday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, Jesus' last Passover Seder. At this meal Jesus introduces the Lord's Supper, or Communion. In the Gospel of John, Jesus commands his disciples to "love one another: as I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). The term "Maundy" in Latin means "command," so on this Thursday we remember Jesus' command to love one another as well as his establishment of Communion.

Picture yourself being present at the Last Supper with Jesus and the twelve disciples. As you are there Jesus shares this with all of you: "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." Then he takes a cup of wine and gives thanks to God for it and says, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." Next, he takes some of the bread, gives thanks to God for it, and breaks it into pieces and gives it to all of you and says, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." So, you engage in this practice by drinking the wine and eating the bread along with the other disciples. You have now partaken in Communion with Jesus and the twelve, the first of many times ahead remembering the sacrifice of Jesus.

	sacrifice you made. Lord, how does this sacrifice impact my current season of life? My concerns, worries, hopes, etc?
•	"Lord, you are in control and you are good. I think upon your intentional sacrifice of your body broken, your blood shed, your life given. I examine myself now, confess, and repent of areas of my life that are not in line with you and your calling on my life (1 Corinthians 11:23-33). Lord have mercy.
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• "Lord, when I think upon the Lord's Supper I remember the

$GOOD \\ FRIDAY$

Friday, March 29

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Good Friday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

Good Friday. What an ironic title for a day that did not seem good at all. Jesus was arrested, beaten, charged and tried to carry his cross and be put to death - a criminal's death. As his friends, family, and twelve disciples stood and watched, his body was pierced and he was hung on the cross.

At noon the sun failed to shine and a darkness like no man had seen fell across the land. It was about three o'clock when "Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means 'My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?'" (Matthew 27:46). Then Jesus breathed his last breath and he released his spirit. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. Terrified of all that had happened, Jesus' murderers saw what they had done and proclaimed, "Truly, this man truly was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54)!

•	"Lord, as despair and hope often exist side by side, how does it fee for me to experience this darkness without a sign of light?"				
 "Lord, what does your death mean to me?" Share with him. "Lord what do you want to show me about my own sin, your forgivenes and your great love?" 					

$HOLY \\ SATURDAY$

Saturday, March 30

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Holy Saturday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

On Saturday of Holy Week Jesus' body was laid in the tomb. It was a day of silence and darkness as the large stone was rolled against the entrance. Waiting in darkness, waiting in silence, waiting in wonder: "Is this the end? Is it really over?" Holy Saturday is a quiet day. We sit alongside those whose hearts were broken with grief: "Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching" (Matthew 27:61). What would come of this silence?

Sit in silence for about five minutes, opening your heart to God, and meditating on this scene. Pay attention to what is coming up in you, then continue in more reflective prayer.

- "Lord, I think upon this quiet yet agonizing Saturday of what is already, but not yet. As I place myself into this story, alongside those who are grieving, how am I feeling in this place of despair?
- "Lord, when it comes to my current season of life, I think about my circumstances, relationships, and events taking place. Where in my life do you feel quiet? Where am I feeling in despair? Lord, can I continue to trust you? Am I tempted to make something happen on my own?" Share your heart with him.



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31

OPENING PRAYER

"Lord, here I am. I open my heart to you today. As I seek to accompany Jesus on this Resurrection Sunday, may your Spirit come move in me and speak to me as you will. Amen."

"Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:1-3). Angels appeared to the perplexed women and exclaimed, ""Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead (Luke 24:5-6)! Jesus was no longer dead. He defeated death. It was from the quietest day that he became the risen Lord, making dead things live, and giving hope for all who believe.

- "Lord, I reflect on the significance of the Chrisitian faith in the resurrection body. Your divine love is stronger than death. Thank you! Lord, what does it mean for my life as a whole that you raised from the dead and defeated death? What does it mean for my current situations and events in life?"
- Spend time in prayer praising the Lord for his resurrection that changes the whole trajectory of your life. Praise Jesus for the hope you have in him.

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"Because God raised Jesus
Christ from the dead- now we
live with great expectation."

1 Peter 1:3

