



DEVOTIONALS:

2 - 8 APRIL 2023

Read: [Matthew 26:14-27:66](#)

Holy Week begins with Jesus entering triumphantly into Jerusalem. But Jesus must have entered with a heavy heart because it was obvious that authorities were out to get him. So, it must have been especially irritating to the authorities to have the people welcome Jesus as a king into Jerusalem. The donkey was the animal a king used when he came in peace. So, Jesus enters Jerusalem as the Messiah who brings peace. Even the people recognized this specialness about him. In response they covered the dirt pathway with palm branches and some of their clothing. They sang their Hosannas that is a prayer of petition:

"Please save us now."

Holy Week recounts the events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the cheers of the fickle crowds (Palm Sunday), through the last supper, his betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, three days in the tomb, and finally his vindication at the resurrection (Easter).

As God's people, Resurrection Sunday is not an annual event; it is meant to be an all-pervasive reality that continually claims new dominion in our hearts, minds, and lives as Christians. We are called to live each and every day in light of the finished and all-sufficient work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From his cradle to his cross and from his final respiration to his glorious resurrection, Jesus has obtained the gift of eternal life for each and every person who calls on him in faith, (I John 5:12; Romans 10:13). These are the bedrock realities that shape the Christian's life, identity, expectations, investments, and longings.

While God instructs his people to live in light of King Jesus' ministry each and every day, we make a special effort each Spring to consider the final events of Jesus' earthly life; we call the events of his final days "Holy Week". Holy Week recounts the events from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the cheers of the fickle crowds (Palm Sunday), through the last supper, his betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, burial, three days in the tomb, and finally his vindication at the at the resurrection (Easter).

We encourage you to walk with Jesus through the final days of his earthly ministry this Holy Week. Take time to meditate over the work of Christ for you. Take time to pray to God concerning these things, offering thanksgiving and awe, repentance and sorrow over the sins that remain in your heart.

May the victory of Christ over sin and death remind you that if you are in Christ, your future with him cannot be snatched up or taken away by any earthly sorrows. Because he lives, so we too shall live, (John 14:19). "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (I Corinthians 15:57).

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem - Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem; Spends the night in Bethany. Readings: Matthew 21:1; Mark 11:1; Luke 19:29; John 12:12.

Holy Monday: Leaves Bethany; Curses the fig tree on the way into the city; Weeps over Jerusalem; Cleanses the temple for the second time in His ministry; Late in day, looks into the Temple, then leaves the city; Spends the night in Bethany. Readings: Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:22; Luke 19:45.

Holy Tuesday: Leaves Bethany; Finds the fig tree withered; teaches on faith; Possesses the temple and its precincts; confounds and pronounces woes upon His enemies; Leaves city; Olivet Discourse on way back to Bethany; Judas

bargains with Sanhedrin to betray Jesus; Spends the night in Bethany Readings: Matthew 21:20; Mark 11:20; Luke 20:36; John 12:20.

Holy Wednesday: Silent Day; No record in the Gospels, but much activity as Jesus prepares for Last Supper and as Judas and Sanhedrin prepare for Jesus' arrest; Remains in Bethany throughout the day, stays night there.

Maundy Thursday: Peter and John were sent to prepare Passover meal; After sunset, eats meal with the twelve; washes disciples; Judas departs; Lord's Supper instituted; To Garden of Gethsemane; Jesus' agony; Betrayal by Judas; arrest by Sanhedrin; To house of High Priest as Sanhedrin is convened; Peter denies Jesus. Readings: Matthew 26:1; Mark 14:1; Luke 22:1.

Good Friday: The Trials of Jesus Christ

- **First trial**, before Annas [nighttime hours]; Annas is looking for an accusation, biding time till Sanhedrin is gathered at High Priestly villa
- **Second [and primary] trial** before Sanhedrin, Jesus is condemned, misused
- **Third trial**, immediately at dawn [meanwhile, Peter denies Jesus a third time; Jesus looks upon him]; the condemnation repeated, then Jesus taken to Romans
- **Fourth trial** before Pilate [till "beginning at Galilee"]
- **Fifth trial** before Herod [looks for miracle]
- **6th trial** before Pilate
 - Jesus is scourged; the city cries, "Crucify Him or we will tell Rome!"
 - Jesus is finally turned over to be crucified
 - Jesus mocked (Roman soldiers); crown of thorns
 - Judas hangs himself
 - Jesus bears His cross to the gate north of the city and is crucified around 9 am

Jesus' Seven Sayings from the Cross

- "Father, forgive them..."
- "Today...with me in paradise"
- "Woman, behold thy son..." [darkness: noon – 3 pm]
- "My God, My God..."
- "I thirst"
- "It is finished"
- "Into Thy hands..."

The Death of the God-Man

About 3 pm, veil torn, rocks rent; some graves opened, and people rise [to mortality] and go into the city

- Jesus' side pierced
- Passover lambs were slain in the temple
- Jesus buried by sundown

Readings: Matthew 26:1; Mark 14:53; Luke 22:54; John 18:13

Holy Saturday: At the request of the Jewish leadership, Pilate grants a guard and sets a seal on the tomb of Jesus
Reading: Matthew 27:66.

Easter Sunday: Resurrection Day, Jesus Christ rises from the dead(before dawn) and makes five appearances on the day of His rising:

1. To Mary Magdalene [given a message to the disciples]
2. To the other women who come to the tomb [intending to complete the burial preparation of His body]
3. To two disciples on the Road to Emmaus
4. To Simon Peter [nowhere recorded, but alluded to in **Luke 24:33** and **1 Corinthians 1:5**]
5. To the astonished disciples [Thomas is absent]

Readings: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1

The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead or simply died and not been resurrected, He would have been thought just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that He was the Son of God and that He had overcome death once and for all.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain. Certainly, without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group which the Gospel of John depicts being in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ. Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did: "...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as the prophesied Messiah of Israel and the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

Prayer: Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell Your Good News to the world. Amen.

Forever In Our Hearts



Mr. Richard "Dick" Simmons, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2023 with his devoted and loving wife, Ms. Shirley and their adult children, Jamie, Kelly and Joy at his side.

Israel, the Lord who created you says,
"Do not be afraid—I will save you.
I have called you by name—you are mine.
When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you;
your troubles will not overwhelm you.
When you pass through fire, you will not be burned;
the hard trials that come will not hurt you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the holy God of Israel, who saves you.

Visitation: The family will greet friends and relatives at the Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church, South Fifth Avenue, on Saturday, April 1 from 10:00 a.m. until the start of the service.

Celebration of Life Service: Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Internment: A Crypt-side service for Mr. Dick will take place at Washington County Memorial Park at 2:00 p.m.

Merciful God, as we mourn the loss of Mr. Dick, we ask you to cover his devoted family with your wings of love. Give them courage so that they can stand before us and share the fond memories they have of their beloved husband and Dad. Loving God, it has been such a big blow to them as a family, but you are their strength and strong tower. We know that you love them so much and that you will take care of their needs. Lord, fill the gap that has been left in their hearts and give them the courage to face each day without Mr. Dick. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER & CONCERNS

- **Bro. Bob Krell**, is rooted in our hearts as we shower him and the Family with our love, care and support. He is grateful and humbled for your prayers and cards of restoration, strength and miraculous healing. Thank you, God, for hearing and answering our prayer. Cards and notes of love and encouragement can be mailed to: Bro. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.
- **Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr.**, continues to quietly face medical challenges with valor, hope and courage. Comfort his pain, calm his fears, and surround Mr. Len with Your peace. Your cards and notes of healing prayers and support for Mr. Len and Mrs. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095.
- Our condolences to the family of **Ms. Barbara Jean Lovensheimer** who passed away March 11, 2023. Cards and notes of support and comfort can be mailed to Ms. Barb's significant friend, Mr. Jerry Loebe, Dickson Hollow, W156N4881 Pilgrim Road, #350, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.
- We remain in prayer and support to **Ms. Ann Cording** after her recent surgery. Ms. Ann will undergo further medical treatment. Visit Ms. Ann, dear Lord and grant her strength to bear this sickness with which she is afflicted, with patience, submission to Your will and trust in Your loving care. We humbly pray that You will bless the means used for Ms. Ann's recovery and those persons who will administer them. Cards and notes of love and care can be mailed to: Mrs. Ann Cording, 1416 S. Silverbrook Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- **Mr. Brett Barnett** is recovering from hip surgery. We give God thanks and praise and pray that God will bless our brother with God's loving care, renew his strength, and heal what ails him in Jesus loving name. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Mr. Brett and Ms. Mary Barnett, 932 Hillcrest Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **We still need YOU! We need leaders and volunteers to serve in various positions on committees and boards. You may not think you have the gift, talent, and/or time to serve, but all are called to work in the kingdom. We need you!**
- Our **church family members and friends** are experiencing all forms of challenges and concerns. "Lord, give me the courage to face the challenges and ills that come. Help me to persevere and not give up. Give me the strength to face these storms. Pour out your peace over me and keep me in your perfect peace. Amen.
- **Ms. Sandy Wamser** having been diagnosed with Epilepsy, is still working with her medical team to find the correct medications and doses to control the seizures. She is very grateful for your love, prayers and support. Special prayers for Mr. Pat as he cares for Ms. Sandy. Cards and notes can be sent to: Mr. Pat and Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Ms. Nancy Whitson** is still admitted at The Pavilion at Glacier Valley. She requests your prayers and support as she continues to journey with health concerns. Please send cards and notes of encouragement to: Mrs. Nancy Whitson, 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mr. Don Walters** is still experiencing several medical challenges. We're keeping Ms. Joyce in our thoughts and prayers as well. Letters and notes of encouragement and love can be mailed to: Mr. Don and Mrs. Joyce Walters, 5368 Woodlawn Summit, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mr. Chuck Rogge** is still on a journey of healing. He is grateful for the cards and notes of support. Please continue to flood the mailbox with love and support to: Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Sue Rogge, 5011 Hwy. P, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf**, appreciates your continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.

Prayer: May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide. Amen.

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin