

HOLY Week



Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week, commemorating Christ's final week on earth. Whether here (at Mission Church) or at home, we can observe each day of Holy Week together. For each day you will find a devotional thought as well as a practical way to observe the day.

Palm Sunday

Today is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday commemorates the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Jews saw Jesus as a rival king, coming to challenge Caesar and his Roman empire.

When Jesus saddles a donkey and rides into Jerusalem, the people understand it as the coronation ceremony of their Messiah. Waving palm branches, a crowd gathers around Jesus and sings from Psalm 118: 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!' Hosanna' means "save us." It's the cry of those who long for the King prophesied by Zechariah.

But unlike other kings, Jesus didn't come to kill, but to give life. John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Palm Sunday celebrates the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem to accomplish God's plan for the world through Jesus.

So join us [HERE](#) at Mission Church to celebrate Palm Sunday, the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Sunday morning 10:30am at Mission Church. Also stay and join us [HERE](#) for lunch and our Eggstravaganza after the service.

Holy Monday

Today is Holy Monday. Holy Monday commemorates the day Jesus came into Jerusalem's temple. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15

The temple courtyard, a space normally reserved for non-Jews to worship God, was taken over to sell livestock for sacrificial animals. This helped the economy of the temple, but at the expense of Gentiles to have a place to worship. The space reserved for Gentile worship was replaced with the braying of animals, the haggling of vendors, and the stench of manure. This angered Jesus. He made a whip out of cords and cleaned house.

Jesus then quotes from the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah and says: 'Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers' The temple was meant to be a place for all people to experience God's presence and forgiveness, and that was taken from them.

On this Holy Monday let's restore God's temple to its original purpose. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 the Apostle Paul asks us this very important question: Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? We are God's temple and God's spirit lives in us. Let us take Jesus' lead and clean the temple. While at HOME, wash your hands and as you do, pray for God's cleansing of your spirit as well. Prepare your heart to worship God in Spirit and Truth.

Watch and worship by singing "Create in Me a Clean Heart"
[Keith Green - Create in me a Clean Heart](#)

Holy Tuesday

Today is Holy Tuesday. Holy Tuesday commemorates the day Jesus curses a fig tree and it withers down to the root.

Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. 19 Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. Matthew 21:18-19

Bearing fruit is important to Jesus. In John 15:5 Jesus says these words: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

To remain connected to Jesus is vital for bearing fruit. We can trust that Jesus will be faithful to remain with us. We must commit to remain connected to Jesus. No branch that is cut from the vine will ever bear fruit.

Now that spring has just begun, it is a good time to plant. If you have a garden at HOME, plant some seeds or a sapling. Your hope and anticipation for a great harvest is not far from God's desire for our lives. Along with planting in your garden, plant spiritual seeds by sharing the message of God's love to a friend or family member. Pray for good fruit to come and pray for the harvest.

Luke 10:2 Jesus says "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Pray for the harvest. Pray that we will be people who remain connected to the vine and we bear much fruit.

Holy Wednesday

Today is Holy Wednesday. Holy Wednesday commemorates the day when both Mary and Judas prepare Jesus to die.

The religious leaders see Jesus as a threat to their power. They believe that Jesus has destabilized their religion and Rome would soon remove the temple. In John 11:48 the high priest and Pharisees agree: ***“If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation.”*** They believe it’s better for one man to die than for a whole nation to be lost. So the religious leaders made their final plans to kill Jesus. They enlist Judas’ help and together they plot together to arrest Jesus.

On the other side, Mary takes a jar of perfume valued at a year’s salary and anoints Jesus. ***Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*** John 12:3.

Judas and the religious leaders have plotted to arrest and kill Jesus. Mary unknowingly was also preparing for Jesus’ death. She embalms Jesus in advance in her act of humility and love. She offers her most precious possession to Jesus and prepares him for his burial.

On this Holy Wednesday please join us [HERE](#) at Mission Church for prayer at 6:30am in the sanctuary. Like Mary, we can offer something to Jesus that is precious to us...our time. As Jesus gave himself up as a sacrifice, you are invited to sacrifice your morning to devote yourself to prayer .

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2

Holy Thursday

Today is Maundy Thursday. 'Maundy' comes from a Latin word that means "covenant." Maundy Thursday commemorates the day Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples and gave them a new covenant.

Passover was a Jewish feast that reenacted how God rescued his people out of slavery in Egypt. Passover celebrates God's covenant with his people and how He freed them from 400 years of Egyptian rule.

While eating the Passover meal, Jesus redirects the meaning of the meal and the celebration. Instead of looking back, Jesus points forward to a new celebration and a new covenant. Jesus takes the bread and the cup and institutes the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper celebrates the freedom from the bondage of sin and death for all who put their faith in Jesus. *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.* Luke 22:20

Maundy Thursday celebrates the new covenant that Jesus brings where He will bear the cost for our freedom from a life of sin. Just as Israel was freed from slavery by the blood of a lamb, we are freed from slavery by Jesus' blood. He is the firstborn son who was lost so that we are no longer captive to this world's powers, temptations, sins, and consequences.

On this Maundy Thursday, share a meal at HOME with family or friends to celebrate the new covenant Jesus brought.

Good Friday

Today is Good Friday. Good Friday commemorates the day Jesus was condemned by Pilate, crucified on a cross, and buried in a tomb.

As Jesus hung on the cross, he called out to John to care for Mary, his mother. As he hung on the cross, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who flogged and crucified him. As he hung on the cross, Jesus promised the criminal that was crucified next to him that he would see him in paradise. Jesus then dies.

The impact of Jesus' death goes way beyond the hill of Calvary or the moment of his crucifixion. We are touched by Jesus' sacrifice. The prophet Isaiah says of Jesus: ***But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*** Isaiah 53:5

On this Good Friday, please join us [HERE](#) at Mission Church for our Good Friday service. We will be holding a Memorial Service for Jesus. Some would call it a Celebration of Life Service for Jesus. We will sing together, read scriptures, hear a eulogy of Jesus and there will be a time of sharing for anyone who would like to share about special times they spent with Jesus. Come prepared with a story to share! The service will be at 6:30pm at Mission Church on Good Friday, April 7.

Holy Saturday

Today is Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday commemorates the day Jesus rested in his tomb.

On the cross Jesus said, '*It is finished*' John 19:30. Everything Jesus came to do, he did. So with nothing left to accomplish, Jesus rested. This means we can rest too.

Holy Saturday is a day of mourning, but not a day without hope. Holy Saturday is good because in Jesus, death is a day of rest before the dawn of a new creation and a much needed break before a new era of renewed and resurrection life.

Rest at HOME. Resist the temptation to go out and do something. Spend the day restfully anticipating what tomorrow will bring.

Easter Sunday

Today is Resurrection Day. Easter Sunday commemorates the day Jesus was raised from the dead.

Join us [HERE](#) at Mission Church at 10:30am for our Easter Sunday Service. We will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism and we will also claim the promise that the Apostle Paul told the church in Rome: *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.* Romans 8:11