



Holy Week Prayer Guide

Many Christians from all over the world will be reflecting on the journey that the Lord took during Passover week towards Jerusalem and to the Cross. This guide will provide a few Scripture passages which will correlate with each day of the week tracing what Jesus faced and did in His final times in ministry before dying for our sins. Our pastor's collective hope is that you will use this guide and your Bible to reflect and remember that although Christ Jesus died for the whole world, He also died and rose again with you in mind.

- Ask God to help you to identify ways you might be more intentional about prayer individually and/or with family and friends. Perhaps this means fasting for an entire day or during the hours in which Jesus was on the Cross. See Good Friday notes.

Sunday, April 10 - *Palm Sunday*

Zechariah 9:9; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-36

Jesus's Triumphant Entry towards Jerusalem and the Cross. As Jesus rode towards Jerusalem on a borrowed colt, He fulfilled the prophecy of accepting public recognition of His being our Servant/ King.

- How are you doing in recognizing Him as King of your heart and life? Begin this week in an attitude of praise and worship. Pray for one person specifically whom you hope to see come to know Christ as their Savior and King!

Monday, April 11 - *Holy Monday*

Texts: Matthew 21: 12-46, Luke 19: 45

Jesus departed from Bethany; cursed the fig tree on the way into the city; wept over Jerusalem; cleansed the temple for the second time in his ministry; called the church a house of prayer; and called out the Pharisees for their self-righteousness and godlessness.

- Pray that God would prick your heart as we see our own city and the lostness here. Pray for Israel as God's love and plan for this chosen nation are such that the world might know Him through His activity in the past, today, and in the days ahead.

Tuesday, April 12 - "Confrontation Day"

Texts: Matthew 21:20; Mark 11:20; Luke 20:36

This day is remembered as a day of confrontation as the Pharisees challenged Jesus on four separate occasions. They had already made up their minds to have Jesus killed and sought to create traps to have reason to justify their action. Jesus also returns to see the withered fig tree and teaches on faith; He confounds and pronounces woes on His enemies. * The Olivet discourse

- The lost continue to discredit Jesus and live as if there are no consequences for sinful actions. People all around us are miserable & search in all the wrong places for peace and hope. Pray for Christ's light to shine through your life in such a way that people might be drawn to Him.

Wednesday, April 13 - "Spy Wednesday"

Text: Matt. 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6

Judas approached the religious leaders to ask for money in exchange for betraying Jesus. This is also spoken of as more of a silent day as there are fewer indicators of specific things which happened. Yet, God is always at work and Jesus would likely have been preparing His heart for the Last Supper.

- As you pray, remember to afford yourself specific times of silence for the Father to speak to you as to where you are in relation to Him. Have there been moments in which you may also want to acknowledge that your sin is as grievous as that of Judas? Remember the Word says that if you regard iniquity in your heart, God will not hear your prayers.

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday

Text: John 13:34-35

It was here in the upper room, at the last supper, where Jesus gave his disciples a "new commandment". And, it is from the events on this Thursday before Jesus's death on Good Friday that we get the word "maundy". It means "commandment" or "mandate". Before Jesus

went to the cross, He clearly explained His desire for those first disciples and for all of us: Jn. 13:34-35

Other key things include: Judas departs from the Upper Room, Jesus washes the disciple's feet, Jesus prays in the garden, the betrayal is completed and Jesus is arrested and appears before the Sanhedrin. Peter denies Jesus.

- We gather together around the Lord's Table this evening to commemorate Christ's message to the disciples and to us to remember His body, which was broken, and the blood that was spilled out to cover and pay for our sins. If you are unable to be with us, spend some time examining your heart to ask God to reveal things in your life that need to be acknowledged and to ask His forgiveness. Have I recently denied the Lord in ways where I could have stood for Him?
- Also, ask God to afford you opportunities to invite one or more unchurched or lost friends to join you for worship on Easter Sunday!

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday

Texts: Mt. 26:20-35, Mk. 14:17-31, Lk. 22:14-38, Jn. 13-17, 1 Cor. 11:23-25.

These texts describe the multiple trials Jesus endured and the scourging and scorn He took upon Himself. We also read of the sentencing of death and the God Man's suffering and dying for our sins.

The veil of the temple was torn around 3:00 pm when He died; sacrificial lambs were slain in the temple and He was buried before sundown.

- We pause to let the magnitude of God's grace capture the imagination of our hearts.
- *Some may want to seek to reflect upon and remain in an attitude of prayer throughout the hours that Jesus was on the Cross. You may want to ask God ahead of this time in prayer what might I fast or refrain from during this time to support your being more intentional in this respect.
- Thank God for having you in mind when His Son endured the Cross for our sins.

Saturday, April 16 - Holy Saturday

Text - Matthew 27:66

The Jewish leaders petitioned Pilate to place a Roman seal and guard at the tomb of Jesus. He was dead and they wanted to ensure His body would stay right there and not be taken away. This is the slowest day as Jewish people observed the Passover and by Law couldn't do anything but rest in silence.

- On this Holy Saturday celebrate the truth that Jesus is no stranger to death, darkness, or doubt. Ask the Lord to help you remember as you wade within your own discomforts and fears today, that God is still alive, even when we can't see Him.
- Waiting is hard, God. Yet, You allow it for Your glory to be revealed in Your perfect timing. We rest in you, Lord, as we wait on what only You can do.

Sunday, April 17 - *Easter: Resurrection Sunday!*

Texts: Matt. 28:1, Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1; Jn. 20:1

Jesus rises from the dead and makes five appearances on the day of His rising. He was seen by Mary and the other women and two disciples. Later, He would appear to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and later to the group of astonished disciples.

- Lord, help me to raise my joys and triumphs high as You are the victor over death and the grave.
- Through Your resurrection, You allow us to have a spiritual resurrection of our own.
- Help me to remain in hope of seeing loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord again!
- Pray that God would remind you to be watchful and waiting as His second coming could be soon!