



THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be
born again to a living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

PALM SUNDAY: WHO IS THIS?

March 29, 2026

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21:1-11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Meditation:

Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace.

Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any the mind of mankind could ever conceive or plan. Mankind looked for someone to fight their battles in the present-day world. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of sin and death. This Holy Week, let's choose to focus on worshiping our Lord, thanking Him for the gift of His sacrifice, celebrating the power of the Resurrection, and the new life found in Him alone. Grace.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Additional Scripture Readings: John 12:12-19, Luke 19:28-44

A Prayer for Palm Sunday

King Jesus, You sit on the throne of heaven with nail marks in Your hands and feet. You have defeated death and the power of sin, and yet we still experience pain and suffering. As we wave these palm branches, we declare that You are our King, and we are Your people. We remember all that You have done and look forward to all that You will do. We eagerly await Your next triumphal return, when You will make all things right. But until then, may Your peace rule in our hearts. Amen.

HOLY MONDAY: JUST AS HE CLAIMED TO BE

March 30, 2026

Read Matthew 16:13-20

Matthew 16:15-16 He asked His disciples, "...What about you? Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

Meditation:

Controversial, yet penetrating. Truthful, and still loving. Inviting, but never compromising. This is who He was; the Man, Jesus, who claimed to be the Son of God. He was predictable, but in an unpredictable way. He challenged tradition with truth and turned the world upside down. He was God's new covenant wrapped in human flesh. He didn't come to abolish the old law, but was simply the fulfillment of it. His words were truth. And in those words, people found life. And so, it is the same today. In His words we find peace for today, and hope for tomorrow. He came that you and I could have life.

Jesus was called by some, a hypocrite. Many say He was a liar. For some, He was simply a fraud. But for many more, He was exactly who He claimed to be. He was, and is, Messiah. He was, and is, Savior. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He was fully God, yet fully human. And by stepping onto earth, in human form, He not only became our Teacher, more than that He became our Redeemer. He was, and still is, the Way. He has been, and will always be, the Truth. And He will always remain the Life. He is our only hope. He is our final answer.

Easter is quickly approaching and you are most likely contemplating a new outfit, a family gathering, or simply the start of spring. Maybe this year could be different. None of that is bad. Like many, I look forward to seeing family and the arrival of much warmer temperatures. But could it be that this year, this Easter, we can completely turn our focus on the only One who can provide all that He said He was. That we can push aside the commercialization, and despite what those around us say, we can celebrate Jesus. Simply celebrate Jesus. He is Easter. And He is enough reason to celebrate.

Additional Scripture Readings: John 14:1-14; John 17; Isaiah 53

A Prayer for Holy Monday

Jesus, I set aside this Holy Week, this Holy Monday, to search for what needs to be surrendered. Examine my heart, test me, and know my anxious thoughts. Point out things I need to change as I focus on you this week. I don't want anything in my heart, mind, or life to compete with You. Help me to push aside all the distractions that usually occupy my thoughts and completely focus on You this week. Teach me new things as I study Your ways, Your Word, and Your life this Holy Week. Forgive me of my sin and the ways I have chosen the world instead of You. Thank You, Jesus, that I don't have to walk alone in this life. You are my forever guide, my forever friend and master. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY TUESDAY: JESUS TEACHES FAITH

March 31, 2026

Mark 11:22-26 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not count in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

MEDITATION:

The religious leaders of the day were secretly trying to determine the best way to rid themselves of Jesus and His followers. On this Tuesday after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, they set traps to try and discredit His teaching, hopefully building their case to remove Him from Jerusalem, along with His growing influence. These traps consisted of everything from His authority to His resurrection. In each case Jesus used them as opportunities to teach valuable lessons of God's kingdom. One of those lessons was on faith.

Faith is best defined as a deep trust, or loyalty to a person, a strong conviction or belief. And it is best illustrated in the action that accompanies the belief. James would teach that faith without action is dead. So, scripturally speaking, our faith in God is a belief or a conviction that God is who He says He is, and that belief propels us to act on His promises.

Two days after Jesus enters Jerusalem, He teaches the main component of Christianity – faith. It's how we relate to Him. And without it, we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). So, on this Tuesday of Holy Week, how is your faith? Just as Jesus was tempted to fall prey to those who disagreed with Him, so it is today for us. Many will question our faith, or ridicule it, or maybe even unfriend us as a result. Is your faith strong enough to stand firm? Is your faith active? Does it make a difference in your life, aligning your words and your actions into a lifestyle that honors God?

On this Holy Tuesday, take some time to evaluate your faith. And if needed, ask God for a deeper, stronger faith in Him and His promises.

Additional Scripture Readings: Matthew 21:21; Romans 1:17; James 2:17

A Prayer for Holy Tuesday

Father God, You promised a Messiah and He came, just as You said. We trust that we can count on His promised return when we will join Him forever. Make us people whose word can be trusted and who are faithful to You, to our families, and to our neighbors. Increase our faith in You, and the boldness to proclaim the truth of Jesus to the world. In His Name, we pray, Amen.

HOLY WEDNESDAY: JESUS IS BETRAYED

April 1, 2026

Luke 22:1-6 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

MEDITATION:

It's on the Wednesday of Holy Week when we find out what a life is worth. It's on that day also that Judas Iscariot stands in for all of us. We know the price Judas accepted, of course: thirty pieces of silver for the life of a good but potentially dangerous man. The same price, as it turned out, for the life of a great and fear-some God.

Judas left the chief priests, blood money in hand, seeking the best moment to betray his friend and teacher. One wonders what must have been going through Judas' mind when not a day had passed since his bargain and Jesus was on the floor in front of him, washing his feet. Or when Jesus declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." Or what he was thinking when the disciples looked at one another, looked straight into his eyes, all but one still wondering if it might be them who would betray.

"Do quickly what you are going to do." Both Jesus and Judas knew what the other knew, and so Judas goes off quickly into the night. That was Judas' night, written down for the ages, but the sad truth is that there was nothing particularly special about that night or about his betrayal. We are all Judas; we all skulk off into the darkness, seeking the best moment to betray. From all our hearts come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander, all that defiles. We all take the sop-dipped bread from Jesus' hand and then do quickly what we are going to do.

And yet, it is at these very moments that the Son of Man is glorified. Glorified by a love so profound as to be disconcerting.

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

The Church, in her wisdom, unfurls the events of Holy Week in real time. If we are paying attention at all, by the time we get to Wednesday the story becomes difficult to hear. Holy Week forces us to calculate the price at which we will betray, and then to gaze upon our Savior, who gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon. And then, if we can bear it, to let Jesus love us anyway.

-J. Matthew Tucker

A Prayer for Holy Wednesday

Lord God, we tremble to think that it was one of Jesus' own friends who betrayed Him. One who sat by Him, who broke bread with Him. Give us the strength to walk faithfully with You, even when the road is rocky, the way seems dark, and the message of the cross seems like foolishness. You are always faithful, Lord. We stumble, we become lost at times, but You are steady and sure. Give us the grace to endure our troubles. And reveal to us the glory of Your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Amen.

HOLY THURSDAY: MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026

Matthew 26:26-29 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

MEDITATION:

Good Friday, we know. And we most certainly know Easter. But we might struggle when asked the meaning of Maundy Thursday. This is the Thursday before Easter and believed to be the day that Jesus celebrated His final Passover meal with His disciples. Most will know that this is also the meal, or the time in Jesus' final week on the earth when He washed the feet of His disciples. It was an incredible display of humility. Then He commanded them to do likewise to each other. It was Jesus' way of teaching His followers to love one another.

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." -John 13:34

This example of love, and His commandment to do so raised the definition of love to a whole new standard. He sacrificially met His followers deepest need – a new spiritual life defined by the forgiveness of sin. And just as Jesus taught His followers to love their enemies, we are commanded to go and do likewise to ours. Because Jesus loved the sinner, and He loves each of us as sinners, we are instructed to do the same. And we are taught to forgive one another, just as we have been forgiven (Matthew 6). This new model of love was seen as radical in that day. And it's just as radical today.

"Beloved, let us love one another. For love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." -1 John 4:7-8

On this final time with His disciples all in one place, Jesus taught them, and all of us how to treat one another. We do so with great humility, much love and respect, kindness and gentleness. If Jesus, being God Himself could do so, how much more should we. This Holy Thursday, as you reflect on the events in that upper room, allow the servant attitude of Jesus be a model for you in your life and walk of faith.

Additional Scripture Readings: Titus 2:11-14; I Corinthians 11:23-26; Luke 22:14-20

A Prayer for Holy Thursday

Holy God, source and sovereign, You put all power and authority into the hands of Christ—Christ, who washes our feet in humble service. Teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us, so that everyone will know that we are His disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026

For the entirety of the crucifixion story, read John 19.

John 19:16b-18 So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified Him, and with Him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

MEDITATION:

For Christians, Good Friday is an important day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it “of first importance” that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, following what God had promised in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

On Good Friday, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). Easter follows it, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding His victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to Him by faith (Romans 6:5).

But why do we call it Good Friday if it was such a horrible day for Jesus? For the gospel’s good news to have meaning for us, we first must understand the bad news of our condition as sinful people under condemnation. The good news of deliverance only makes sense once we see how we were enslaved. Another way of saying this is that it is essential to understand and distinguish between law and gospel in Scripture. We need the law first to show us how hopeless our condition is; then, the gospel of Jesus’ grace brings us relief and salvation. That’s the whole point of all that transpired on this day we call Good Friday. The day itself may have been a difficult day for Jesus, but the result of the day means good news for all of humanity, for those of us who would place our faith in Jesus. The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God’s forgiveness.

This day, this Good Friday is a fulfillment of Psalm 85:10, which says, “Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.” At Jesus’ cross of crucifixion, all of God’s love for humanity and His faithfulness to make a way to Himself by forgiving our sin was accomplished there. Because of His cross, we can have peace, eternal peace.

Additional Scripture Readings: Hebrews 9-10

A Prayer for Good Friday

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the cross. Through the work of Jesus on those two simple beams of wood, You have given me eternal life. I pray I will never forget Jesus’ incredible sacrifice. Yes, the world may think the cross is foolish, but the message of the cross is the power of God. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 4, 2026

The disciples had dispersed when Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:50), and they spent the first Holy Saturday hiding for concern of also being arrested (John 20:19). The day between Jesus' crucifixion and his resurrection would have been a moment of despair and confusion as the disciples sought to understand the murder of Jesus and the treachery of Judas.

Like the disciples, we fear rejection, isolation, and all that the Saturday after the crucifixion provided them. When life brings difficulties, we wonder where Jesus is. Does He see us? Will He save? And it's in the moments in-between the rejection and redemption that we struggle. But the story of the crucifixion, our isolation or rejection, is building toward victory. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that the crucifixion was only setting the stage for God's plan of total redemption. And in the same manner He brought victory over Jesus' death, He wants to redeem your brokenness, your rejection, your isolation.

The only scripture mention of what occurred on Holy Saturday is found in Matthew 27:62-66, which reads,

The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

After sundown on Friday, the chief priests and Pharisees visited Pontius Pilate. They asked Pilate for a guard for Jesus' tomb. They recalled Jesus stating that He would rise again in three days and wanted to prevent Christ from rising from the grave. As we know, the Roman guards were inadequate to prevent the resurrection and the women who returned to the tomb Sunday morning found it empty.

It's important that we as followers of Jesus remember the whole story of redemption. The story didn't end with Jesus on the cross. It may have seemed, on this day after, that the book was closed, but Sunday was on the horizon. Resurrection day was coming. And the world would never be the same. Our lives are never the same when we realize how the whole story changes our destiny. The whole story: life, crucifixion, and resurrection complete our redemption. Our fears that accompany the in-between days doesn't mean Jesus is absent. It just means that He's preparing to do something great.

A Prayer for Holy Saturday

Father, we recognize the significance of Holy Saturday for the Easter season. It is not merely a day between Good Friday and Easter, but it is a day to observe in consecration of what You did for us. We leave our own agendas, our own desires, and our own fears at the door to be still and rest in Your presence. We are so grateful for the ability to quiet our hearts, release our fears, and stand in Your presence. We want to come to know Your heart more this day. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus to die for us, and thank You that You kept Your promise that Easter Sunday. Let us not be so hurried in our own lives that we forget the glory that You brought forth that day. In Jesus name, Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

Matthew 28:6 "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Luke 24:1-8 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered His words.

MEDITATION:

What is Easter? Easter is one of the central holidays, or Holy Days, of Christianity. It's the most wonderful time of the year! It honors Jesus' resurrection three days after His crucifixion. For many Christian churches, Easter is the joyful conclusion to the season of Lent, of devoted prayer, fasting, and penitence. Along with the Nativity of Jesus, Easter is one of the most important celebrations in the Christian calendar. It is when Christians glorify and give thanks for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. After His crucifixion, death, and burial, Christ rose from the grave three days later. By this, He conquered death and redeemed us from sin.

We celebrate Easter because this holiday recognizes that we can die to our old way of living and resurrect into a new life with Christ. Christianity does recognize a death to self. But the resurrection we experience in a spiritual sense and the resurrection of the body we have yet to experience give us ample cause for celebration.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." -John 11:25

Today, this Easter, celebrate all that you have in Jesus Christ. He is faithful to forgive. He paid the price for your redemption. And new life can be found in Him. This Easter, you can receive the gift of salvation by believing in Him and placing your faith in Him and the work He did on the cross, and in His resurrection. You can begin a new life this Easter. That's what Easter is all about!

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!"**

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Thank you for sharing in this Passion Week Reflection with the
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If you have questions or would like to discuss your faith journey, feel free to contact
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