

Holy Week Devotional

We get it. You're busy. So, if you can't make it to the special Holy Week worship services, here are the lectionary readings, a couple of questions to consider, and some prayers you might use to share in the Passion experience at home.

MONDAY

READING: JOHN 12:1-11

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: Which character do you identify with in this story? Why? Who or what makes you uncomfortable in this story?

PRAY: O Lord, we seek you and yet sometimes we miss the point entirely. Help us to find always the love of Christ. Help us to serve always the love of Christ. Help us to know always the love of Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY

READING: JOHN 12:20-36

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: How are you being drawn to Christ this week? What people, situations, songs, experiences generally draw you to Christ? How can you tell when the light of Christ is shining in your life?

PRAY: O Lord, people of all walks of life, of all traditions and nations, of all generations, have come to see you, to seek you, and to know you. Draw us in again. Do not let the darkness overtake us. Even this week. Give us your light. Help us to believe in the light and walk as children of your light. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

READING: JOHN 13:21-32

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: What does it mean for Jesus to be troubled in spirit? Can we imagine what he might have felt, knowing that those closest to him were to betray him? Can we imagine what he might feel now when we betray him?

PRAY: O Lord, we are the betrayers. We like to pin the blame on Judas, but there were many others in the next days, and in our days, who shout, walk, and live out denial and betrayal. Forgive us. Pour your grace upon us. And fill us with your steadfast love. Amen.



THURSDAY

READING: JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: How has Jesus called you, and charged you, to love? What surprising, strange, unusual, maybe even feet-touchingly-icky thing has Jesus asked you to do out of love?

PRAY: O Lord, surprise me again with your love. Call me to love boldly. Help me to love others, just as you love me. Amen.

FRIDAY

READING: JOHN 18:1- 19:30

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: When was the last time you were in a large crowd? Try to imagine this crowd. Are they the same people who marched in with Jesus earlier this week, throwing their cloaks and palms before him? Are there others? What has changed this week? Who is shouting? Who is not there? Where will this crowd go next?

PRAY: O Lord, on this dark day, on the day when our crowd shouted, "Crucify him," we come to the place of your cross. We drop to our knees before it. We weep at such suffering and sit in the shadow of our own sin. God, let your light shine. Even in this space. Even on this day. Even on us, your people. Amen.

SATURDAY

READING: JOHN 19: 31-42

QUESTIONS TO PONDER: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus didn't know the end of the story, as we now do. On Holy Saturday, can we sit in their pain? Can we dare to imagine what they felt burying our Lord? What words might they have shared? What prayers might they have offered? What stories might they have told? What prayers might they have offered to God that night?

PRAY: O Lord, you gave your body, your spirit, your life for the life of the world. Help us to sit with that reality today. Slow our rush to Easter morning. Help us today to hold still in the truth of your sacrifice. And meet us in that place. Amen.