

MARCH 28, 2021
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY



Jesus' journey to the cross.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | Mark 14:1–15:47 | The passion of Jesus |
| Monday | John 12:12-16 | Jesus enters Jerusalem |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 50:4-9a | A servant song |
| Wednesday | Philippians 2:5-11 | The Christ hymn |
| Thursday | John 13:1-17, 31b-35 | Jesus washes disciples' feet |
| Friday | John 18:1–19:42 | The passion of Jesus |
| Saturday | Psalms 31:9-16 | Prayer for deliverance |
| Sunday | Mark 16:1-8 | The tomb is empty |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. **Philippians 2:7b-8 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you humbled yourself on the cross so that we may know you as Savior of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for this food we are about to eat. May we open our hearts and minds to receive you in our lives with love and devotion. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine upon you, and save you with the steadfast love of the Lord. (Psalm 31:16)



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MARCH 28, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Now Behold the Lamb



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- We often don't know important things about others. Who is someone you would like to learn more about? What would you like to ask them?
- Jesus' work as Savior comes through his rejection by others. Think or tell about a time when you were rejected. How did it make you feel?
- What do you learn about Jesus through his death on the cross?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 14:1–15:47.

This long text creates its own devotional mood by walking with Jesus days prior to his death to his anguish in the garden, the trial, suffering, and crucifixion. There is much to choose from and you can consider for yourself what is meaningful to focus on. Is it the hospitality of Simon the leper or the adoration of an unnamed woman anointing Jesus? Is it Judas Iscariot and how we might betray Jesus today or be one of the deserting disciples who scatter like sheep? Do you identify with the disciples in Gethsemane, unable to stay awake for prayer along with Jesus during his time of anguish? How would it be to be a bystander like Simon of Cyrene who is drawn in to carry Jesus' cross? How is it that the centurion from the occupying forces of Rome is the only one to acknowledge Jesus with the words, "Truly this man was God's Son" (15:39)? What was it like for Joseph of Arimathea to take down Jesus' lifeless body and place it in a tomb? Or what other part of the account grips you this year? Whatever it is, reflect on Jesus' great love and sacrifice and our own need for Jesus as Savior. How do you honor Jesus as Savior today?

Pray: **For your great sacrifice and love, help us to adore you and witness to you as the Son of God and hope for the world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Do you know someone who will spend Easter alone? Consider sharing the resurrection joy by inviting that person to join you for a meal or call them to let them know that you are thinking about them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Palm Sunday is the day Christians remember Jesus entering Jerusalem. It signals the beginning of Holy Week. As the week begins, take time in your home to use palms received during worship or make palms out of construction paper and wave them to re-enact the crowds shouting as they met Jesus. As you wave the palms, imagine Jesus riding on a donkey past you and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13b).



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org