

Saturday

Psalm 22: 1-8

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”



HOLY WEEK

Devotional

Palm Sunday

Mark 15: 9-10

Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Hosanna is a Hebrew word that means ‘save’ or ‘rescue.’ When the people cry out to Jesus and about Jesus they are asking him to save them, rescue them, be their savior.

Jesus said if no one cried out for him the stones would cry out. With this simple statement Jesus is saying that the world knows who he is and what he has come to do.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. It is the day when we see Jesus enter Jerusalem knowing he will never leave the city alive.

As we go into Holy Week pray for courage to shout out to God. Pray for wisdom and understanding. Pray to see Christ everywhere.

Good Friday

John 18: 25-27

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

It’s hard not to be angry with Peter at this point in Scripture. Just a few verses earlier Jesus told Peter he would deny him and Peter said he could never do it.

It might be hard, but we must realize that Peter is a sinful, normal, man. He is not unlike any of us. We sin because we are human, because we are not Jesus.

In this moment Peter was afraid. He saw his savior, his closest friend, put to death for his beliefs. So he does the only thing he knows to do, he denies Christ.

We are also sinful humans. We are not perfect. We have turned our backs on God many times. We have questioned our own beliefs and the beliefs of others as well.

Pray today for new inspiration. Pray for strength and courage to face the world and be a follower of Christ at the same time.



Mundy Thursday

John 13: 5-7

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Throughout Scripture Jesus often tells us we won't understand what's going on in the moment but later we will understand. For 2,000 years we have been trying to understand Jesus.

The Bible is called the Living Word for a reason—it is alive! It continues to live on, breath new life into us and bring new life to us. We are always finding new ways to understand how Scripture applies to our lives.

As Jesus washes the feet of the disciples they are shocked and confused. Have we figured out exactly what he meant in this moment? Maybe or maybe not.

Why do you think Jesus washed the feet of the disciples before he died?

Monday

John 12: 4-8

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have

Judas is possibly the most controversial character in all of Scripture. Judas betrayed Jesus and because of him, Jesus was put to death. But is this really the whole story? Jesus knew he had to die. He knew long before Judas betrayed him. Jesus even knew Judas was going to betray him.

Jesus knew he had to die so that he could be raised again and so we could all be saved. Judas was destined to play his part in this story and Jesus knew this as well.

In his final moments Judas repented. He regretted his actions. He prayed for forgiveness and turned in a new direction.

Pray for your enemies during Holy Week. Pray for those who have been cast in the role of villain in your life and the lives of others. Pray for those you might see as bad, evil, corrupt, or damaged. Finally, pray for forgiveness for your own sins. Pray that God sees your heart and knows your love him and that you too can repent .

Tuesday

John 12: 23-26

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. me.”

Jesus often spoke in small, short parables that truly confused all those around him (and us today). When Jesus came to Jerusalem there were people who saw how celebrated he was and wanted to meet him. But Jesus refused them. Instead, he tells his disciples this parable.

So what does it mean? He is giving them a heartfelt message. He knows he is about to die and he does not want them to see his death as the end. In his death he is bearing much fruit. In his death he knows everything begins.

Pray today that Jesus’ life and death might bring wonderful meaning to your life. Pray that you might learn from Jesus’ teachings. Pray that you might share what you have learned with others.

Wednesday

Psalm 70

Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

To the leader. Of David, for the memorial offering.

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

O Lord, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.

Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!”
turn back because of their shame.

Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, “God is great!”

But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

On the same day that we read about Judas betraying Jesus we also read this beautiful Psalm written by David, an ancestor of Jesus.

Notice that David does not pray that God will destroy his enemies. He does not pray for victory or defeat over his enemies. He simply asks that those who intend to hurt him turn back (repent?) and go another way.

Pray today that your enemies might turn and go a different direction.