

APRIL 9-11, 2020  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY



*Jesus died that we may have eternal life.*

## HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observances.

Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus gives a new commandment
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The suffering and death of Jesus
Saturday	Matthew 27:57-66	The burial of Jesus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them [the soldiers], “Whom are you looking for?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. **John 18:4-6 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Holy Week:**

Almighty God, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, you stretched out your arms in love for us. Through your suffering we are healed. Open our hearts to receive your love. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Merciful God, through suffering and death you heal us. Through this food you restore us daily. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the crucified Christ shine his face upon you and save you through his steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



APRIL 9-11, 2020  
HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK  
*Go to Dark Gethsemane*



## HOLY WEEK 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:

- Describe feelings a person has when a pet or a loved one dies.
- If you saw something dangerous happening, how would you respond?
- Why was Jesus' death at the hands of human powers necessary?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 18:1–19:42.

Read the passage from the Bible or use a storybook Bible to tell the story of Jesus' death. Jesus' death was no accident. Jesus knew what was to happen to him, but the powerful nature of the event was in God's hands, not human hands. When Jesus said “I am he,” that is, I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one the soldiers wanted to arrest, they—not Jesus—fell. It has always been hard for us to grasp that God in Christ suffered a painful and humiliating death, one reserved for the most despised by those in power. Yet, true power, the power to forgive and to give eternal life remains God's greatest gift to humanity. Nothing stops God's purposes for life, reconciliation, and eternal life. Jesus' concern for the sacredness of daily life is even shown from the cross when he tells his mother that she will not be abandoned but be given one of the disciples (likely John) as a new son to care for her (John 19:26-27). What are some ways that God blesses your life today?

*Pray:* **Holy and gracious God, we thank you for suffering and dying for us that we may receive eternal life through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus gave his followers an example of how to live and how to love when he washed their feet before the last supper. This was the act of a servant. In what ways are you a servant?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Light the six purple candles on the Lenten Candle Cross on Maundy Thursday. Tell the story about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the last supper in your own words. When you finish telling the story, blow each candle out and say this prayer: **Dear Lord Jesus, help us to honor your commandment to love one another as you have loved us. We ask this in your precious name, amen.**

On Good Friday cover the Lenten Candle Cross with a black cloth and be silent for a moment.

