



*Readings for*  
*2025*





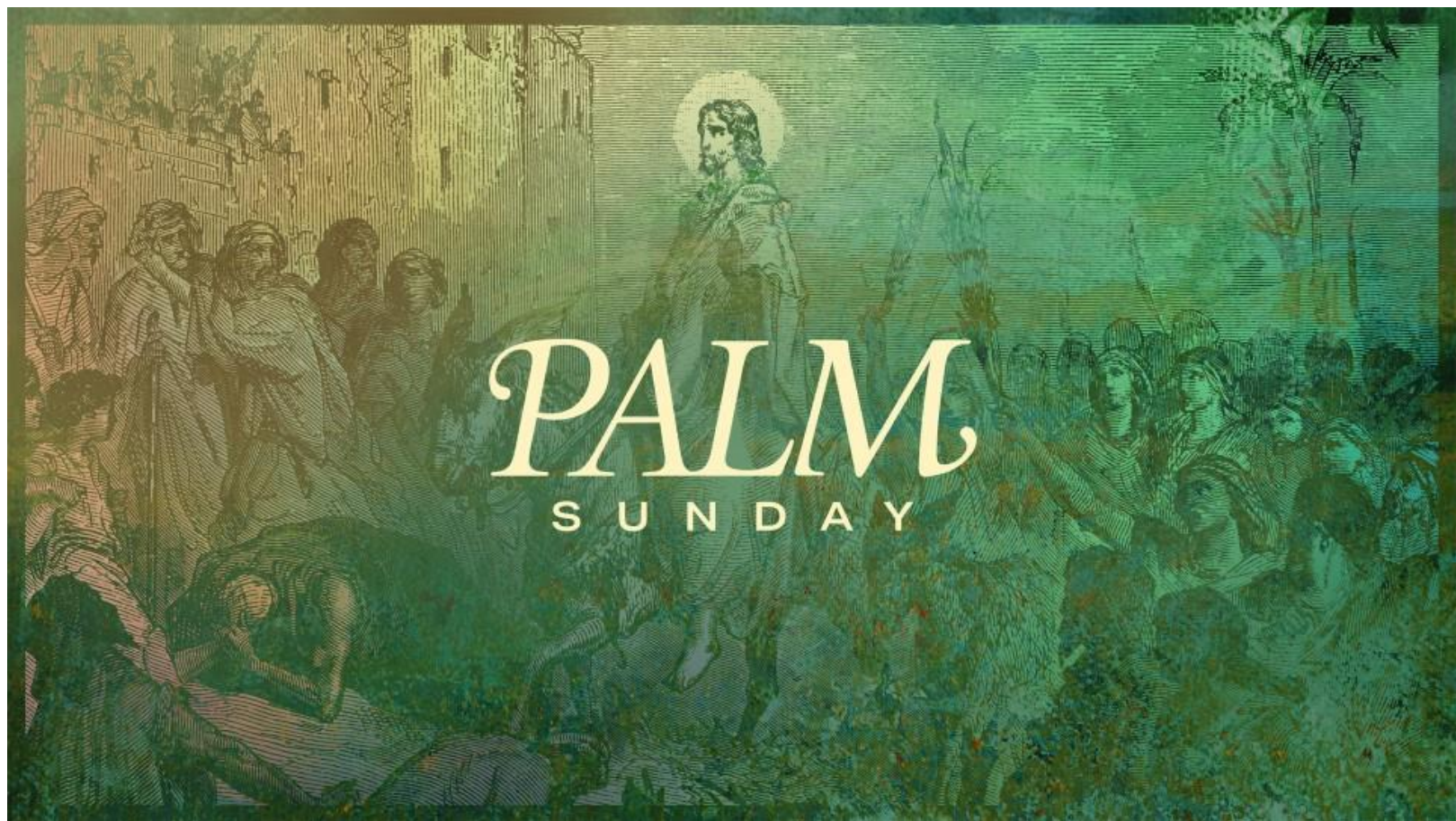
SEARCH ME, O  
GOD, AND  
KNOW MY  
HEART! TRY  
ME AND KNOW  
MY THOUGHTS!  
AND SEE IF  
THERE BE ANY  
GRIEVOUS WAY  
IN ME, AND  
LEAD ME IN THE  
WAY  
EVERLASTING!

*Psalm 139v23-24*

All readings are in the NLT and are informed from the Revised Common Lectionary

Prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer





## **Psalm 118v1-2, 19-29**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.

Let all Israel repeat:  
“His faithful love endures forever.”

Open for me the gates where the righteous enter,  
and I will go in and thank the Lord.

These gates lead to the presence of the Lord,  
and the godly enter there.

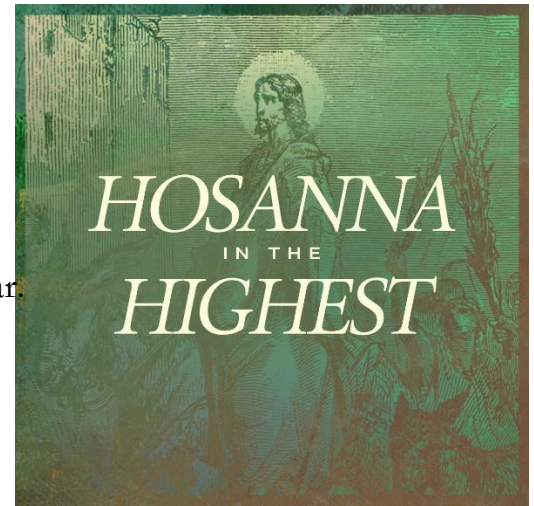
I thank you for answering my prayer  
and giving me victory!

The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is wonderful to see.

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Please, Lord, please save us.  
Please, Lord, please give us success.  
Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
The Lord is God, shining upon us.  
Take the sacrifice and bind it with cords on the altar.  
You are my God, and I will praise you!  
You are my God, and I will exalt you!  
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!  
His faithful love endures forever.



## **Luke 19v28-40**

After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, ‘Why are you untying that colt?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, “Why are you untying that colt?”

And the disciples simply replied, “The Lord needs it.” So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”



## Isaiah 43:16-21

I am the Lord, who opened a way through the waters,  
making a dry path through the sea.

I called forth the mighty army of Egypt  
with all its chariots and horses.

I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned,  
their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick.

“But forget all that—

it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.

For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

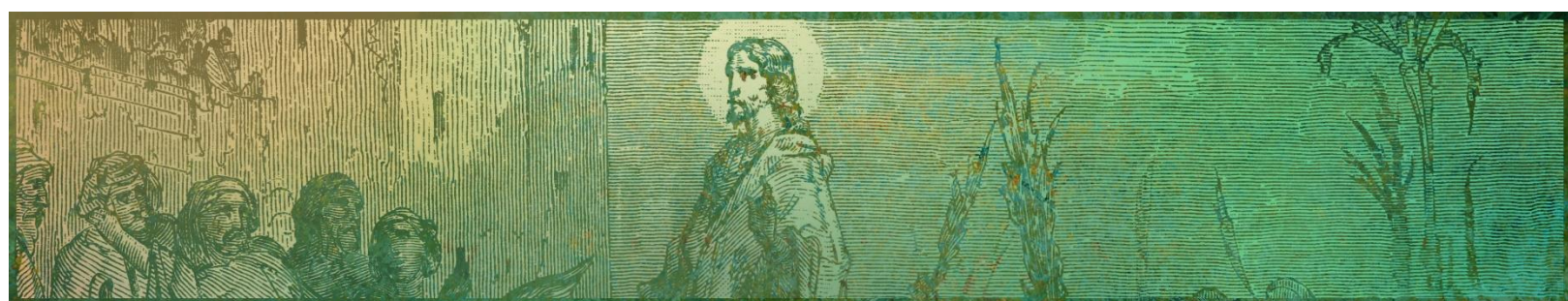
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

The wild animals in the fields will thank me,  
the jackals and owls, too,  
for giving them water in the desert.

Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland  
so my chosen people can be refreshed.

I have made Israel for myself,  
and they will someday honor me before the whole world.



PALM SUNDAY

# ALMIGHTY AND

EVERLASTING GOD, IN YOUR TENDER

LOVE FOR US YOU SENT

YOUR SON OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

TO TAKE UPON HIMSELF OUR

NATURE, AND TO SUFFER DEATH

UPON THE CROSS, GIVING US THE

EXAMPLE OF HIS GREAT HUMILITY: MERCIFULLY

GRANT THAT WE MAY WALK IN THE

WAY OF HIS SUFFERING,

AND COME TO SHARE IN HIS RESURRECTION







# MONDAY

of Holy Week

## Isaiah 42v1-9

“Look at my servant, whom I strengthen.

He is my chosen one, who pleases me.

I have put my Spirit upon him.

He will bring justice to the nations.

He will not shout

or raise his voice in public.

He will not crush the weakest reed

or put out a flickering candle.

He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.

He will not falter or lose heart

until justice prevails throughout the earth.

Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction.”

God, the Lord, created the heavens and stretched them out.

He created the earth and everything in it.

He gives breath to everyone,

life to everyone who walks the earth.

And it is he who says,  
“I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness.  
I will take you by the hand and guard you,  
and I will give you to my people, Israel,  
as a symbol of my covenant with them.  
And you will be a light to guide the nations.  
You will open the eyes of the blind.  
You will free the captives from prison,  
releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.  
“I am the Lord; that is my name!  
I will not give my glory to anyone else,  
nor share my praise with carved idols.  
Everything I prophesied has come true,  
and now I will prophesy again.  
I will tell you the future before it happens.”

## **Psalm 36v5-11**

Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your justice like the ocean depths.  
You care for people and animals alike, O Lord.  
How precious is your unfailing love, O God!  
All humanity finds shelter  
in the shadow of your wings.  
You feed them from the abundance of your own house,  
letting them drink from your river of delights.  
For you are the fountain of life,  
the light by which we see.  
Pour out your unfailing love on those who love you;  
give justice to those with honest hearts.  
Don't let the proud trample me  
or the wicked push me around.



## John 12v1-11

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus.





MONDAY

ALMIGHTY GOD, WHOSE

MOST DEAR SON WENT NOT UP TO

JOY BUT FIRST HE SUFFERED PAIN, AND ENTERED

NOT INTO GLORY BEFORE HE WAS CRUCIFIED:

MERCIFULLY GRANT THAT WE, WALKING IN

THE WAY OF THE CROSS,

MAY FIND IT NONE OTHER THAN THE WAY OF LIFE

AND PEACE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD,

WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,

ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.







# TUESDAY

## o f H o l y W e e k

### Isaiah 49v1-7

Listen to me, all you in distant lands!

Pay attention, you who are far away!

The Lord called me before my birth;

from within the womb he called me by name.

He made my words of judgment as sharp as a sword.

He has hidden me in the shadow of his hand.

I am like a sharp arrow in his quiver.

He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel,

and you will bring me glory.”

I replied, “But my work seems so useless!

I have spent my strength for nothing and to no purpose.

Yet I leave it all in the Lord’s hand;

I will trust God for my reward.”

And now the Lord speaks—

the one who formed me in my mother’s womb to be his servant,

who commissioned me to bring Israel back to him.

The Lord has honored me,  
and my God has given me strength.  
He says, "You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me.  
I will make you a light to the Gentiles,  
and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."  
The Lord, the Redeemer  
and Holy One of Israel,  
says to the one who is despised and rejected by the nations,  
to the one who is the servant of rulers:  
"Kings will stand at attention when you pass by.  
Princes will also bow low  
because of the Lord, the faithful one,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## **Psalm 71v1-14**

O Lord, I have come to you for protection;  
don't let me be disgraced.  
Save me and rescue me,  
for you do what is right.  
Turn your ear to listen to me,  
and set me free.  
Be my rock of safety  
where I can always hide.  
Give the order to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.  
My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked,  
from the clutches of cruel oppressors.  
O Lord, you alone are my hope.  
I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood.  
Yes, you have been with me from birth;  
from my mother's womb you have cared for me.  
No wonder I am always praising you!



My life is an example to many,  
because you have been my strength and protection.  
That is why I can never stop praising you;  
I declare your glory all day long.  
And now, in my old age, don't set me aside.  
Don't abandon me when my strength is failing.  
For my enemies are whispering against me.  
They are plotting together to kill me.  
They say, "God has abandoned him.  
Let's go and get him,  
for no one will help him now."  
  
O God, don't stay away.  
My God, please hurry to help me.  
Bring disgrace and destruction on my accusers.  
Humiliate and shame those who want to harm me.  
But I will keep on hoping for your help;  
I will praise you more and more.

## **John 12v20-36**

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, "Sir, we want to meet Jesus." Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

Jesus replied, "Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

"Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But this is the very reason I came! Father, bring glory to your name."

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.



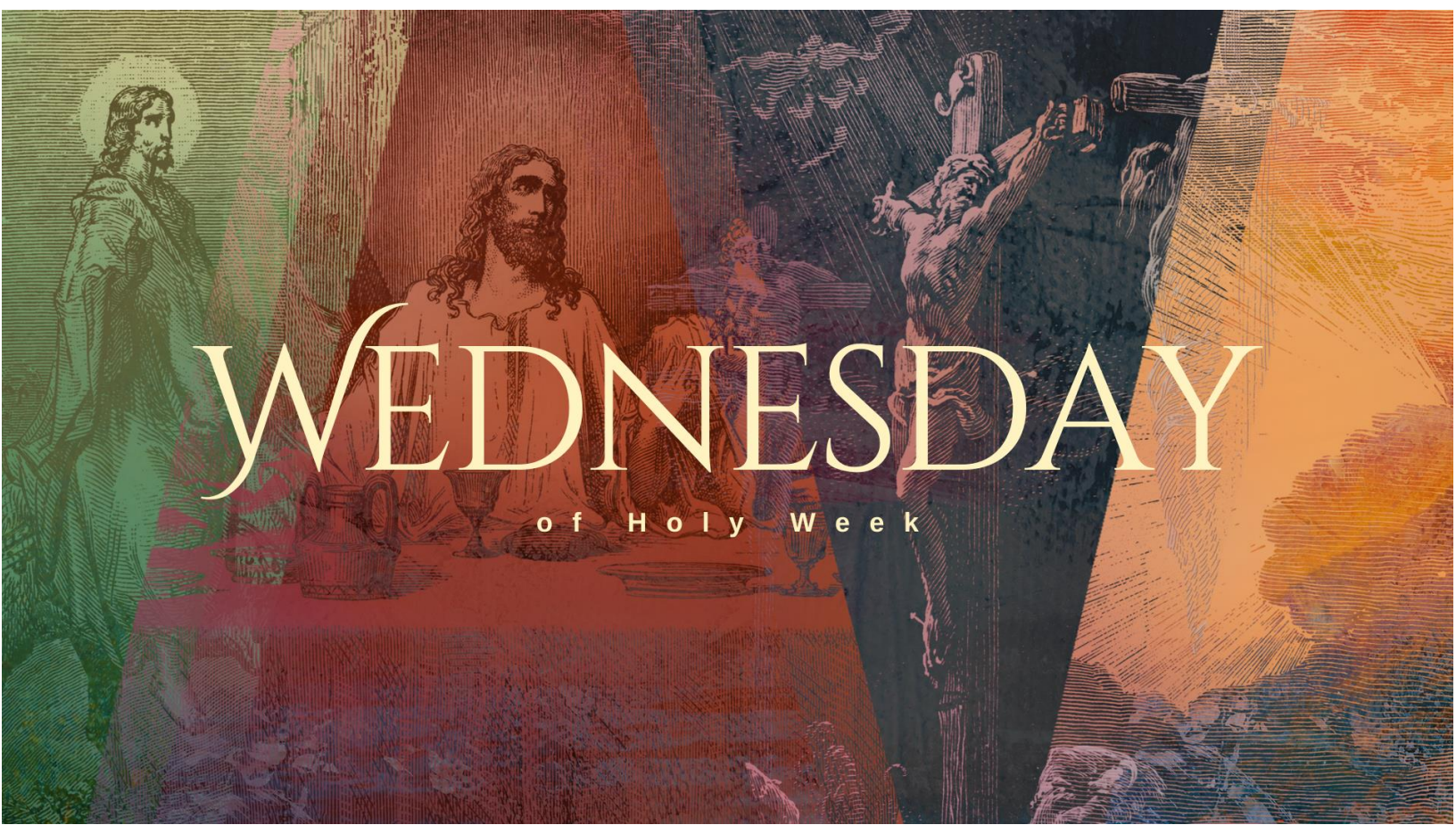




## TUESDAY

O LORD OUR GOD, WHOSE BLESSED SON  
GAVE HIS BACK TO BE WHIPPED AND DID  
NOT HIDE HIS FACE FROM SHAME AND SPITTING; GIVE US  
GRACE TO ACCEPT JOYFULLY THE  
SUFFERINGS OF THE PRESENT TIME,  
CONFIDENT OF THE GLORY THAT  
SHALL BE REVEALED; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST  
OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND  
REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN





## Isaiah 50v4-9a

The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom,  
so that I know how to comfort the weary.

Morning by morning he wakens me  
and opens my understanding to his will.

The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me,  
and I have listened.

I have not rebelled or turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face  
from mockery and spitting.

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,  
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore, I have set my face like a stone,  
determined to do his will.

And I know that I will not be put to shame.



He who gives me justice is near.  
Who will dare to bring charges against me now?  
Where are my accusers?  
Let them appear!  
See, the Sovereign Lord is on my side!  
Who will declare me guilty?

## **Psalm 70**

Please, God, rescue me!  
Come quickly, Lord, and help me.  
May those who try to kill me  
be humiliated and put to shame.  
May those who take delight in my trouble  
be turned back in disgrace.  
Let them be horrified by their shame,  
for they said, “Aha! We’ve got him now!”  
But may all who search for you  
be filled with joy and gladness in you.  
May those who love your salvation  
repeatedly shout, “God is great!”  
But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
please hurry to my aid, O God.  
You are my helper and my savior;  
O Lord, do not delay.

## **John 13v21-32**

Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!”

The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, “Who’s he talking about?” So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus responded, “It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.” And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, “Hurry and do what you’re going to do.” None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. Since Judas was their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. So Judas left at once, going out into the night.

As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, “The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once.







WEDNESDAY

# ASSIST US MERCIFULLY

WITH YOUR GRACE, LORD GOD OF OUR SALVATION,

THAT WE MAY ENTER WITH JOY

UPON THE MEDITATION

OF THOSE MIGHTY ACTS BY WHICH

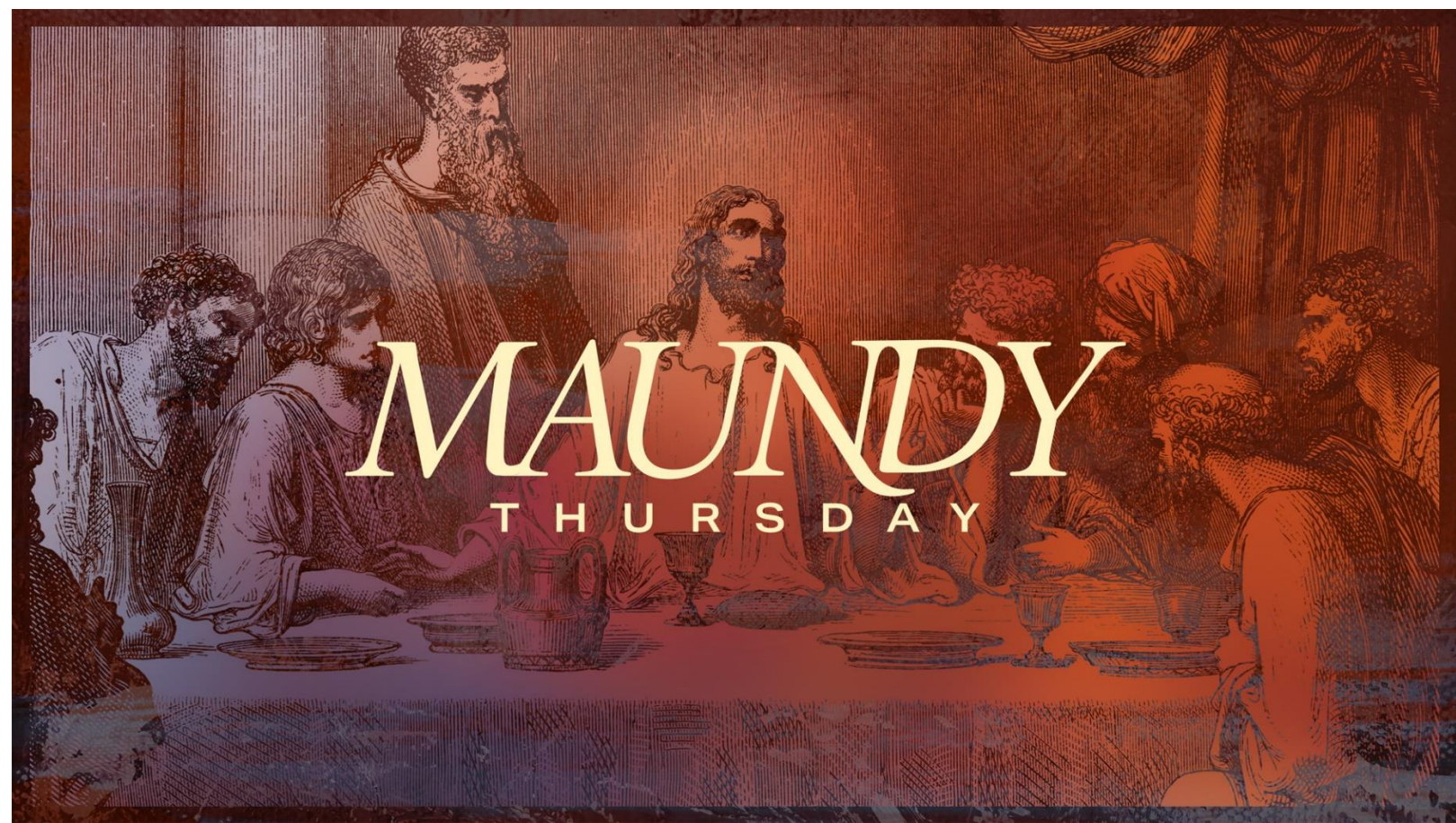
YOU HAVE PROMISED US LIFE AND IMMORTALITY;

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND

REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,

ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.





## Exodus 12v1-4, 11-14

While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the Lord gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: “From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat.

“These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the Lord’s Passover. On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the Lord! But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

“This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the Lord. This is a law for all time.



## Psalm 116v1-2, 12-19

I love the Lord because he hears my voice  
and my prayer for mercy.

Because he bends down to listen,  
I will pray as long as I have breath!

What can I offer the Lord  
for all he has done for me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and praise the Lord's name for saving me.  
I will keep my promises to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

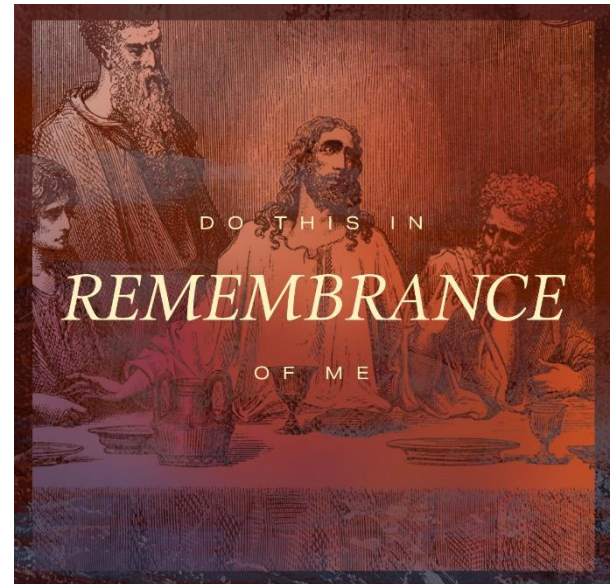
The Lord cares deeply  
when his loved ones die.

O Lord, I am your servant;  
yes, I am your servant, born into your household;  
you have freed me from my chains.

I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people—  
in the house of the Lord  
in the heart of Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!



## John 13v1-17, 31b-35

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a

towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

"No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me."

Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

... Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. And since God receives glory because of the Son, he will give his own glory to the Son, and he will do so at once. Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."







## THURSDAY

ALMIGHTY FATHER, WHOSE MOST DEAR SON,  
ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HE SUFFERED,  
INSTITUTED THE SACRAMENT  
OF HIS BODY AND BLOOD: MERCIFULLY  
GRANT THAT WE MAY RECEIVE IT IN THANKFUL  
REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR  
SAVIOUR, WHO IN THESE HOLY  
MYSTERIES GIVES US A PLEDGE OF ETERNAL  
LIFE; AND WHO LIVES AND REIGNS  
WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.





# GOOD FRIDAY

## Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant will prosper;  
he will be highly exalted.

But many were amazed when they saw him.

His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human,  
and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

And he will startle many nations.

Kings will stand speechless in his presence.

For they will see what they had not been told;  
they will understand what they had not heard about.

Who has believed our message?

To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot,  
like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,  
nothing to attract us to him.

He was despised and rejected—

a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.  
He was despised, and we did not care.

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;  
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.  
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!  
But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.  
He was whipped so we could be healed.  
All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.  
We have left God's paths to follow our own.  
Yet the Lord laid on him  
the sins of us all.

He was oppressed and treated harshly,  
yet he never said a word.  
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.  
And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

Unjustly condemned,  
he was led away.  
No one cared that he died without descendants,  
that his life was cut short in midstream.

But he was struck down  
for the rebellion of my people.  
He had done no wrong  
and had never deceived anyone.  
But he was buried like a criminal;  
he was put in a rich man's grave.

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him  
and cause him grief.  
Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,  
he will have many descendants.  
He will enjoy a long life,



and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.  
When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,  
he will be satisfied.  
And because of his experience,  
my righteous servant will make it possible  
for many to be counted righteous,  
for he will bear all their sins.  
I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier,  
because he exposed himself to death.  
He was counted among the rebels.  
He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

## **Psalm 22**

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
Why are you so far away when I groan for help?  
Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.  
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.  
  
Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
Our ancestors trusted in you,  
and you rescued them.  
They cried out to you and were saved.  
They trusted in you and were never disgraced.  
  
But I am a worm and not a man.  
I am scorned and despised by all!  
Everyone who sees me mocks me.  
They sneer and shake their heads, saying,  
"Is this the one who relies on the Lord?  
Then let the Lord save him!  
If the Lord loves him so much,  
let the Lord rescue him!"  
  
Yet you brought me safely from my mother's womb  
and led me to trust you at my mother's breast.

I was thrust into your arms at my birth.

You have been my God from the moment I was born.

Do not stay so far from me,

for trouble is near,

and no one else can help me.

My enemies surround me like a herd of bulls;

fierce bulls of Bashan have hemmed me in!

Like lions they open their jaws against me,

roaring and tearing into their prey.

My life is poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart is like wax,

melting within me.

My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.

My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.

My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs;

an evil gang closes in on me.

They have pierced my hands and feet.

I can count all my bones.

My enemies stare at me and gloat.

They divide my garments among themselves

and throw dice for my clothing.

O Lord, do not stay far away!

You are my strength; come quickly to my aid!

Save me from the sword;

spare my precious life from these dogs.

Snatch me from the lion's jaws

and from the horns of these wild oxen.

I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

I will praise you among your assembled people.

Praise the Lord, all you who fear him!

Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob!

Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy.

He has not turned his back on them,  
but has listened to their cries for help.

I will praise you in the great assembly.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the Lord will praise him.

Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.

All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

For royal power belongs to the Lord.

He rules all the nations.

Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.

Bow before him, all who are mortal,  
all whose lives will end as dust.

Our children will also serve him.

Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.

His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.

They will hear about everything he has done.

## **John 18v1-19v42**

After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.

Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. "Who are you looking for?" he asked.

"Jesus the Nazarene," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) As Jesus said "I am he," they all drew back and fell to the ground! Once more he asked them, "Who are you looking for?"



And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.”

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.”

Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”

So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. First they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, “It’s better that one man should die for the people.”

Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus. Peter had to stay outside the gate. Then the disciple who knew the high priest spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in. The woman asked Peter, “You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?”

“No,” he said, “I am not.”

Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.

Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. Jesus replied, “Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said.”

Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. “Is that the way to answer the high priest?” he demanded.

Jesus replied, “If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I’m speaking the truth, why are you beating me?”

Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, “You’re not one of his disciples, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “No, I am not.”

But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Didn’t I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?” Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn’t go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn’t be allowed to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?”

“We wouldn’t have handed him over to you if he weren’t a criminal!” they retorted.

“Then take him away and judge him by your own law,” Pilate told them.

“Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied. (This fulfilled Jesus’ prediction about the way he would die.)

Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him.

“Are you the king of the Jews?” he asked him.

Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?”

“Am I a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

Pilate said, “So you are a king?”

Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime. But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this ‘King of the Jews?’”



But they shouted back, “No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!” (Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. “Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

Pilate went outside again and said to the people, “I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty.” Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, “Look, here is the man!”

When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“Take him yourselves and crucify him,” Pilate said. “I find him not guilty.”

The Jewish leaders replied, “By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever. He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. “Why don’t you talk to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?”

Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.”

When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!”

“Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!”

“What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.

Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*). There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. And Pilate posted a sign on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it.

Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, "Change it from 'The King of the Jews' to 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'"

Pilate replied, "No, what I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing." So that is what they did.

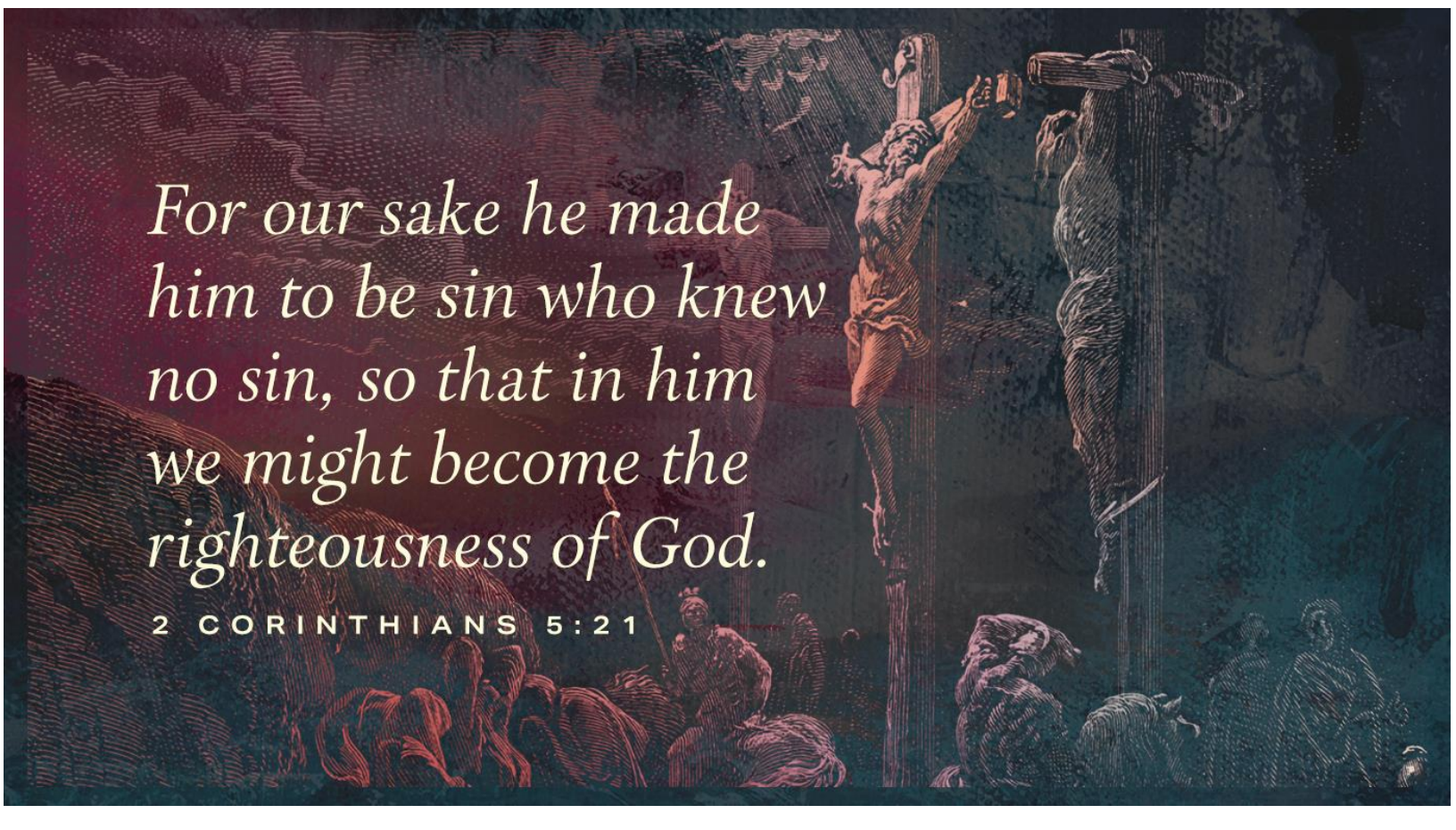
Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that

you also may continue to believe.) These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,” and “They will look on the one they pierced.”

Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus’ body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.



*For our sake he made  
him to be sin who knew  
no sin, so that in him  
we might become the  
righteousness of God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21





FRIDAY

ALMIGHTY GOD, WE BESEECH YOU  
GRACIOUSLY TO BEHOLD  
THIS YOUR FAMILY, FOR WHOM  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
WAS WILLING TO BE BETRAYED AND GIVEN  
INTO THE HANDS OF SINNERS, AND TO  
**SUFFER DEATH**  
**UPON THE CROSS;**

WHO NOW LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE  
HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.





# HOLY SATURDAY

## **Lamentations 3v1-9, 19-24**

I am the one who has seen the afflictions  
that come from the rod of the Lord's anger.

He has led me into darkness,  
shutting out all light.

He has turned his hand against me  
again and again, all day long.

He has made my skin and flesh grow old.

He has broken my bones.

He has besieged and surrounded me  
with anguish and distress.

He has buried me in a dark place,  
like those long dead.

He has walled me in, and I cannot escape.

He has bound me in heavy chains.

And though I cry and shout,  
he has shut out my prayers.

He has blocked my way with a high stone wall;  
he has made my road crooked.

The thought of my suffering and homelessness  
is bitter beyond words.

I will never forget this awful time,  
as I grieve over my loss.

Yet I still dare to hope  
when I remember this:

The faithful love of the Lord never ends!  
His mercies never cease.

Great is his faithfulness;  
his mercies begin afresh each morning.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance;  
therefore, I will hope in him!"

### **Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16**

O Lord, I have come to you for protection;  
don't let me be disgraced.

Save me, for you do what is right.

Turn your ear to listen to me;  
rescue me quickly.

Be my rock of protection,  
a fortress where I will be safe.

You are my rock and my fortress.

For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.

Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me,  
for I find protection in you alone.

My future is in your hands.

Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.

Let your favor shine on your servant.

In your unfailing love, rescue me.

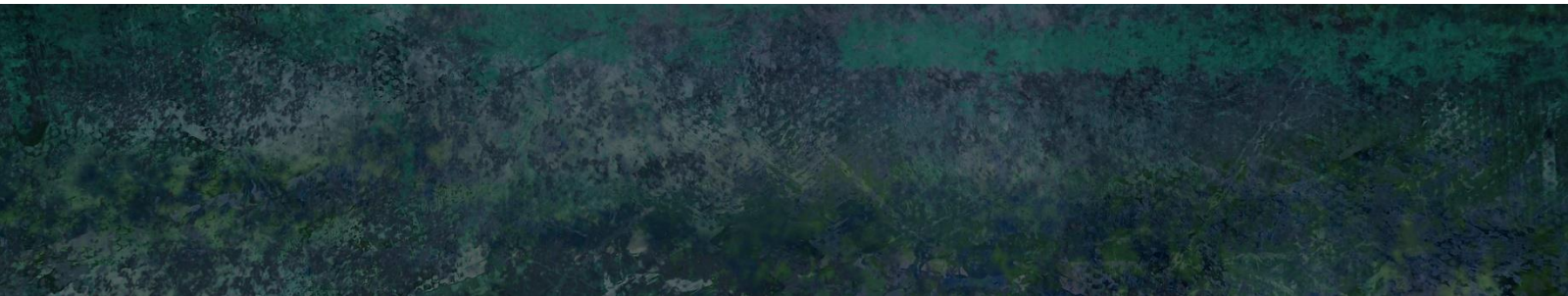


## Matthew 27v57-66

As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left. Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching.

The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. They told him, "Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise from the dead.' So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we'll be worse off than we were at first."

Pilate replied, "Take guards and secure it the best you can." So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.





## SATURDAY

O GOD, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH:

GRANT THAT, AS THE CRUCIFIED BODY OF

YOUR DEAR SON WAS

LAID IN THE TOMB

AND RESTED ON THIS HOLY

SABBATH, SO WE MAY

AWAIT WITH HIM

THE COMING OF THE THIRD DAY, AND

RISE WITH HIM TO NEWNESS OF LIFE;

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.







H A L L E L U J A H

# EASTER

H E I S R I S E N

## **Zephaniah 3v14-20**

Sing, O daughter of Zion;  
shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
For the Lord will remove his hand of judgment  
and will disperse the armies of your enemy.  
And the Lord himself, the King of Israel,  
will live among you!  
At last your troubles will be over,  
and you will never again fear disaster.  
On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be,  
“Cheer up, Zion! Don’t be afraid!  
For the Lord your God is living among you.  
He is a mighty savior.  
He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With his love, he will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”



“I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals;  
you will be disgraced no more.  
And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you.  
I will save the weak and helpless ones;  
I will bring together  
those who were chased away.  
I will give glory and fame to my former exiles,  
wherever they have been mocked and shamed.  
On that day I will gather you together  
and bring you home again.  
I will give you a good name, a name of distinction,  
among all the nations of the earth,  
as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes.  
I, the Lord, have spoken!”

## **Psalm 98**

Sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has done wonderful deeds.  
His right hand has won a mighty victory;  
his holy arm has shown his saving power!  
The Lord has announced his victory  
and has revealed his righteousness to every nation!  
He has remembered his promise to love and be faithful to Israel.  
The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth;  
break out in praise and sing for joy!  
Sing your praise to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and melodious song,  
with trumpets and the sound of the ram’s horn.  
Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, the King!

Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!  
Let the earth and all living things join in.  
Let the rivers clap their hands in glee!  
Let the hills sing out their songs of joy

before the Lord,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with justice,  
and the nations with fairness.

## **John 20v1-18**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

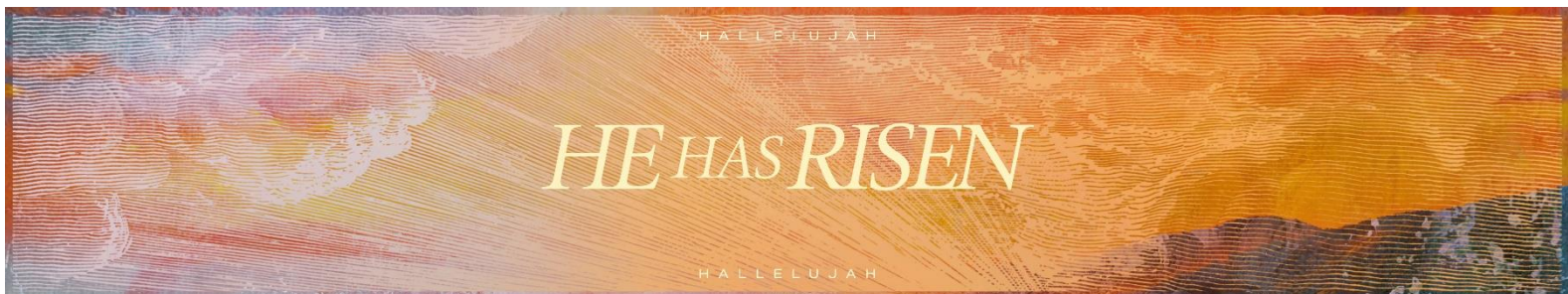
She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

“Mary!” Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.







# EASTER SUNDAY

ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO THROUGH YOUR  
ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON JESUS CHRIST  
OVERCAME DEATH AND OPENED TO US  
THE GATE OF EVERLASTING LIFE: GRANT  
THAT WE, WHO CELEBRATE WITH JOY  
THE DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION,  
MAY, BY YOUR LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT, BE  
DELIVERED FROM SIN AND RAISED FROM  
DEATH; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR  
LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU  
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW  
AND FOREVER. AMEN.



