

Holy Week Devotionals



Dear Church Family,

Before we celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, we take time to remember the cross. Holy Week invites us to slow down and reflect on the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, each step leading toward the sacrifice He made for us. As we walk through these moments, my prayer is that we would see His love more clearly and remember what He has done on our behalf. The cross was not the end of the story; it is where we begin to understand just how much we are loved.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in a cursive, gold-colored font that reads "Pastor Gregg".

Gregg Matte, Senior Pastor

PALM SUNDAY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:24-40

When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples and said, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" "The Lord needs it," they said. Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their clothes on the colt, they helped Jesus get on it. As he was going along, they were spreading their clothes on the road. Now he came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven! Some of the Pharisees from the crowd told him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the stones would cry out."

REFLECTION:

Jesus entered Jerusalem to the sound of praise. Crowds gathered, waving branches and shouting for joy. They believed a king had come to save them — but they expected something different. They wanted power; he came with peace. They wanted victory over Rome; he came to defeat sin. Even as the crowds celebrated, Jesus knew where this road would lead. The same voices crying "Hosanna" would soon fall silent. Still, He kept moving forward. This is the kind of King Jesus is. He's not distant, not hesitant, but determined. He did not turn away from the cross. He walked toward it. And He did it for us.

QUESTION:

Where might your expectations of Jesus need to be reshaped by who He truly is?

PRAYER:

Jesus, You are the true King. Help me trust You, even when You work in ways I don't expect. Teach me to follow You with a surrendered heart.

FAMILY MOMENT:

Talk about what kind of king people might expect. Ask: How is Jesus different from that?

HOLY MONDAY

SCRIPTURE: MARK 11:15-19

They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, and would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. He was teaching them: "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!" The chief priests and the scribes heard it and started looking for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was astonished by his teaching. Whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

REFLECTION:

When Jesus entered the temple, He didn't find a place of worship. He found distraction, noise, and self-interest. What was meant to be sacred had become ordinary. So Jesus responded. He cleared the space. He called it back to what it was meant to be — a house of prayer. This moment isn't just about a place; it's about the heart. It's possible to be near the things of God and still miss Him. To go through motions without surrender. To fill our lives with activity but leave little room for worship. Jesus cares about more than appearances. He desires hearts that are fully His. And in His mercy, He still clears the way for us to return.

QUESTION:

Is there anything crowding out your time and attention with God?

PRAYER:

Lord, search my heart. Remove anything that distracts me from You, and draw me back to a life centered on Your presence.

FAMILY MOMENT:

Ask: What are ways we can make time for God together this week?

HOLY TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 20:1-8

One day as he was teaching the people in the temple and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the scribes, with the elders, came and said to him, "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?" He answered them, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me, was the baptism of John from heaven or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves: "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us, because they are convinced that John was a prophet." So they answered that they did not know its origin. And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

REFLECTION:

The religious leaders questioned Jesus' authority. They wanted answers, but not truth. Their hearts were already set against Him. Still, Jesus stood firm. He wasn't shaken by opposition or pressured by expectations. He spoke with clarity and conviction, rooted in who He was and why He came. It's easy to want a version of Jesus that fits comfortably into our lives; a version who affirms but never challenges, who stays close but never leads. But Jesus doesn't offer partial authority. He is Lord over all. And that invites a response from each of us. Will we trust Him only when it's easy? Or will we follow Him completely?

QUESTION:

In what area of your life do you need to fully trust Jesus' authority?

PRAYER:

Jesus, You are Lord. Help me to trust You completely and to follow where You lead, even when it's difficult.

FAMILY MOMENT:

Talk about what it means to trust someone. Ask: Why can we trust Jesus?

HOLY WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 13:1-17

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. Now when it was time for supper, the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into his hands, that he had come from God, and that he was going back to God. So he got up from supper, laid aside his outer clothing, took a towel, and tied it around himself. Next, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I'm doing you don't realize now, but afterward you will understand." "You will never wash my feet," Peter said. Jesus replied, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." "One who has bathed," Jesus told him, "doesn't need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you." For he knew who would betray him. This is why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothing, he reclined again and said to them, "Do you know what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are speaking rightly, since that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. "Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

REFLECTION:

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus did something unexpected: He knelt down and washed His disciples' feet. The One with all authority chose the posture of a servant. He didn't demand honor; He demonstrated love. This is the heart of Jesus. He sees. He moves toward. He serves. And then He invites us to do the same. In a world that pushes for recognition and status, Jesus shows us a different way — a quieter way, a humbler way. To follow Him is to love others not from a distance, but up close — not when it's convenient, but when it costs something. This is the kind of love that reflects Him.

QUESTION:

Who is someone you can serve this week in a simple, intentional way?

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for loving me with humility and grace. Help me to reflect that same love to others.

FAMILY MOMENT:

Choose one small act of kindness your family can do for someone this week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 22:14-20

When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

REFLECTION:

At the table, Jesus shared a meal with His disciples and gave them something to remember: the bread, the cup — simple elements filled with eternal meaning. "This is My body, given for you." "This cup... is the new covenant in My blood." He knew what was coming: the betrayal, the suffering, the cross. And still, He gave thanks. Still, He offered Himself. This wasn't a moment of defeat. It was a declaration. Jesus was making a way — a way for forgiveness, for redemption, for a restored relationship with God. The cross was not an accident; it was the plan. And it was always about love.

QUESTION:

What does it mean to you that Jesus gave Himself for you?

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank You for the cross. Thank You for Your sacrifice and Your love. Help me never lose sight of what You've done for me.

FAMILY MOMENT:

If possible, share a simple meal together and talk about why Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper to remember Him.

SUNDAY IS COMING

**THE TOMB IS EMPTY.
HOPE IS ALIVE.
AND BECAUSE HE LIVES,
EVERYTHING CHANGES.**

**Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with us!
Find service times and locations
at HoustonFirst.org/Easter.**