

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11	Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Matthew 21:42-46	The stone the builders rejected
Tuesday	Matthew 26:6-13	Jesus anointed at Bethany
Wednesday	Matthew 26:14-16	Judas agrees to betray Jesus
Thursday	Matthew 26:17-30	The Last Supper
Friday	Matthew 27:1,33-50	Jesus dies on the cross
Saturday	Matthew 27:57-60	The burial of Jesus
Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	He has risen!

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
Matthew 21:9 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, change our attitudes so that we are more like your Son today. Teach us to be humble servants of others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, every day - without fail - you love us, serve us and feed us. Thank you for your never-ending kindness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus rule as King in your life. May he bless you with his kindness and fill your heart with praise. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross. *Philippians 2:7-8 (CEV)*

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, you truly are the Son of God! Thank you for dying to give us life! Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have given us so much - your life to save us, and good food to feed us. Help us to live for you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to believe in Jesus as God's Son. May God help you to trust Jesus as your Savior, and to humbly serve him. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Can you remember a time when you gave up something for someone else? Tell your story.
- Philippians 2:7-8 says that Jesus “gave up everything and became a slave when he became like one of us.” Why did Jesus do this?

DEVOTIONS:

Find a bare branch and place it in a pot. Each day of Holy Week, attach a different symbol to the branch and read the associated Scripture passage.

- *Palm Sunday*: Read Matthew 21:1-9. Place twigs and strips of cloth at the foot of the branch to symbolize the cloaks and branches spread on the road as Jesus entered Jerusalem.
- *Monday*: Read Matthew 21:42-46. Place a stone at the foot of the branch to symbolize Jesus, the stone that was rejected.
- *Tuesday*: Read Matthew 26:6-13. Hang a small bottle of perfume from the branch.
- *Wednesday*: Read Matthew 26:14-16. Hang a bag of coins on the branch.
- *Maundy Thursday*: Read Matthew 26:17-30. Place a small plate and cup at the foot of the cross as a reminder of the Last Supper.
- *Good Friday*: Read Matthew 27:1,33-50. Hammer small nails into the branch and attach a sign reading “This is Jesus, King of the Jews”.
- *Saturday*: Read Matthew 27:57-60. Place a black cloth over the branch.
- *Easter Sunday*: Read Matthew 28:1-10. Remove the black cloth and decorate the branch with flowers, paper butterflies or paper streamers.

SERVICE:

Make a household act of service a “must” in your observance of Holy Week. Find a way to serve your own family, or perhaps help a neighbor.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

This week we remember the journey of Jesus from his entry in Jerusalem to his death and resurrection. These stories are central to our faith; gathering together to reflect on the events of Jesus’ passion and letting the structure of Holy Week guide our home activities connect our daily lives with the life and death of Christ.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever attended a parade? What do you remember? Jesus was greeted by a large crowd when he entered Jerusalem. If he had come to your town or city, how would you have welcomed him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to ride on a donkey? What does this say to you about him?

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