Holy Week - Day 1: Palm Sunday's Triumphal Entry

Loving God,
I am just beginning to realize how much you love me. Your son, Jesus was humble and obedient. He fulfilled your will for him by becoming human and suffering with us. I ask you for the desire to become more humble so that my own life might also bear witness to you. I want to use the small sufferings I have in this world to give you glory.

Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth. Strengthen my life by the example of Jesus. Help me to be with Jesus in this week as he demonstrates again his total love for me. He died so that I would no longer be separated from you. Help me to feel how close you are and to live in union with you.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, we'll walk the steps of Jesus Christ this Holy Week, visiting each of the major events that occurred during our Savior's week of passion.

On the Sunday before his death, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would lay down his life for the sins of the world. Nearing the village of Bethpage, he sent two of his disciples ahead to look for a donkey with its unbroken colt. Jesus instructed the disciples to untie the animals and bring them to him.

Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly, humbly, made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the ancient prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. The crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

On Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples spent the night in Bethany, a town about two miles east of Jerusalem. In all likelihood, Jesus stayed in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

**Palm Sunday**: Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. Crowd proclaims him "King"
● **Palm Sunday** Jesus Rides into Jerusalem as a King. A week later, he would suffer a Humiliating Death. The last week of Jesus' life was filled with many events as we follow him from his glorious entry into Jerusalem on Sunday until his death on Friday. In the days in between, he preached, taught, presided over the Passover supper, stood trial, and was condemned to death. This week is known as ‘Holy Week.’

● **The Entry Into Jerusalem** Now on the first day of the week when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you, and as soon as you be entered into it, ye shalt find an ass tied, whereon never man sat, loose him and bring him.


**Read More:**

- [Palm Sunday Bible Story](#)
- [What is Palm Sunday?](#)
- [What is the Significance of Palm Branches?](#)

**Holy Week - Day 2: Monday Jesus Clears the Temple**

God of love,
My prayer is simple:
Your son, Jesus, suffered and died for me.
I know only
HOLY WEEK

that I cannot have real strength unless I rely on you. I cannot feel protected from my many weaknesses until I turn to you for forgiveness and your unalterable love. Help me to share this strength, protection and love with others.

Today, we continue tracing the footsteps of Jesus, as Monday morning he returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel. Others believe the symbolism extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine, living faith is more than just outward religiosity. True faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.

When Jesus arrived at the Temple he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves." (Luke 19:46)

On Monday evening Jesus stayed in Bethany again, probably in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

HOLY MONDAY: The cleansing of the temple. Jesus frees the animals to be slaughtered.

- **The Cleansing Of The Temple** And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up again from Bethany into Jerusalem. And he found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting. And when he had made a scourge of seven cords, he drove them all out of the temple and loosed the sheep and the oxen, and the doves, and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables.

- **The Money Changers and the Sellers of Animals** The prominent feature of all four Gospel readings is that Jesus becomes enraged and throws out of the...
temple those who were buying and selling animals and those who were exchanging currency. But who were these people and what were they doing in the Temple?

- **Christ's Assault on Blood Sacrifice** Undergirding the theory that it was the cheating moneychangers whom Jesus targeted as the culprits in the system of animal sacrifice, is the claim that the whole process had become "too commercial." This is akin to claiming that the institution of slavery had to be dismantled because it had become too commercial. It was the inherent immorality of those systems that brought together the historical forces which finally led to their collapse.

- **The Man From the Desert on the Money Changers** "Men and women fled from before His face, and He moved amongst them as the whirling wind moves on the sad-hills. All this came to pass in but a moment, and then the court of the Temple was emptied of the money-changers."

**Read More:**

- Bible Story - [Jesus Clears the Temple of Money Changers](#)

*(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)*

**More About Holy Week**

- [The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ](#)
- [The Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#)
- [The Last Supper](#)

**Holy Week - Day 3: Tuesday in Jerusalem, Mount of Olives**

God of such unwavering love, how do I "celebrate" the passion and death of Jesus? I often want to look the other way and not watch, not stay with Jesus in his suffering. Give me the strength to see his love with honesty and compassion and to feel deeply your own forgiveness and mercy for me. Help me to understand how to "celebrate" this week. I want be able to bring my weaknesses and imperfections with me as I journey with Jesus this week, so aware of his love.
Today our journey with Jesus through Holy Week takes us back to the Temple in Jerusalem and then to the Mount of Olives.

On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the withered fig tree on their way, and Jesus taught them about faith.

At the Temple, the religious leaders aggressively challenged Jesus' authority, attempting to ambush him and create an opportunity for his arrest. But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them: "Blind guides! ... For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness...Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?" ([Matthew 23:24-33])

Tuesday afternoon Jesus left the city and went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, which overlooks Jerusalem due east of the Temple. Here Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse, an elaborate prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He taught in parables using symbolic language about end times events, including his Second Coming and the final judgment.

Scripture indicates that Tuesday was the day Judas Iscariot negotiated with the Sanhedrin to betray Jesus ([Matthew 26:14-16]).

After a tiring day of confrontation and warnings about the future, once again, Jesus and the disciples stayed the night in Bethany.

**Holy Tuesday:** Outraged Pharisees plot to eliminate Jesus/ Mt. of Olives sermon.

- Holy Tuesday / Mount of Olives So called from the olive trees with which its sides are clothed, is a mountain ridge on the east of Jerusalem (1 Kings 11:7; Ezek. 11:23; Zech. 14:4), from which it is separated by the valley of Kidron

Read More:


(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)

More About Holy Week

- The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The Last Supper

More Holy Week Timelines

- Timeline of Jesus' Final Hours
- 7 Last Words of Jesus
- 6 Co-Conspirators in the Death of Jesus
Holy Week - Day 4: Silent Wednesday

My savior, do you invite me to share in the glory of the resurrection?
Please stay with me as I struggle to see how accepting the crosses of my life will free me from the power of the one who wants only to destroy my love and trust in you. Help me to be humble and accepting like your son, Jesus. I want to turn to you with the same trust he had in your love. Save me, Lord. Only you can save me.

The Bible doesn't say what the Lord did on Wednesday of Passion Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany in anticipation of the Passover.

Bethany was about two miles east of Jerusalem. Here Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha lived. They were close friends of Jesus, and probably hosted him and the disciples during these final days in Jerusalem.

Just a short time previously, Jesus had revealed to the disciples, and the world, that he had power over death by raising Lazarus from the grave. After seeing this incredible miracle, many people in Bethany believed that Jesus was the Son of God and put their faith in him. Also in Bethany just a few nights earlier, Lazarus' sister Mary had lovingly anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume.

While we can only speculate, it's fascinating to consider how our Lord Jesus spent this final quiet day with his dearest friends and followers.
Spy Wednesday: Judas agrees to betray Jesus / tells how to easily capture him.

- **Why Did Judas Betray Jesus?** Maybe the most vivid example of tragic misinterpretation of prophecy occurred in the life of Judas Iscariot. His misconception about the coming of the Messiah resulted in the betrayal and death of Jesus and his own death by suicide.

- **The Teachings of Spy Wednesday** How often do we deny or betray Jesus in our daily lives? The Gospel reading of John recounts the dramatic way in which Jesus unmasked both Judas and Peter with the truth, and that Jesus was in control and knew what would happen as He chose to follow the Way that led to His death.

Read More:

- Bible Story - [Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead](#)

(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)

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**Holy Week - Day 5: Thursday's Passover, Last Supper**

Loving Provider, you gather me in this upper room with your son, to be fed by your love. At that supper, Jesus told us to "love one another" and I know that is the heart of his gift, his sacrifice for me. I ask that I might find the source of my own heart, the meaning for my own life, in that Eucharist. Guide me to the fullness of your love and life.

From Bethany Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the Passover Feast. That evening after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how they were to love one another. Today, many churches practice foot-washing ceremonies as a part of their Maundy Thursday services.

Then Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples saying, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 22:15-16, NLT)

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of the Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine:
"And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.' " (Luke 22:19-20, ESV)

Later Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Luke's Gospel says "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44, ESV)

Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus.

Meanwhile, in the early morning hours as Jesus' trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper / Agony in the garden / Jesus is arrested.

- Maundy Thursday The Evangelists and critics generally agree that the Last Supper was on a Thursday, that Christ suffered and died on Friday, and that He arose from the dead on Sunday. As to the day of the month there seems a difference between the record of the synoptic Gospels and that of St. John. In consequence some critics have rejected the authenticity of either account or of both. Since Christians, accepting the inspiration of the Scriptures, cannot admit contradictions in the sacred writers, various attempts have been made to reconcile the statements.
- The Last Paschal Supper "Verily I say unto you, for this end have I come into the world, that I may put away all blood offerings and the eating of the flesh of the beasts and the birds that are slain by men."
- The Agony In The Garden "And Jesus went away and prayed, saying, O my Father-Mother, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground.
- Why was Jesus Arrested? The Political and Economic Reasons for Dealing with Jesus. The "conspiracy" against Jesus had been building for at least 3 years, and sources record seven instances of official plotting against him, two efforts at arrest, and three assassination attempts before this time. This intrigue was no spur of the moment idea.

Read More:
- Passover Feast
- Bible Story - The Last Supper
- What is Maundy Thursday?

(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)

Holy Week - Day 6: Good Friday's Trial, Crucifixion, Death, Burial
HOLY WEEK

My Lord,
your son has suffered so much, shed so much blood.
I was born with so many faults
and my nature is so full of weakness,
and yet your son Jesus has died on the cross.
For me.
I know your grace has the power
to cleanse me of my many sins
and to make me more like your Son.
Thank you for your goodness and love for me.
I ask you, Father, to watch over me - always.

Today we'll trace Jesus' steps on Good Friday, the most difficult day of Passion Week. Christ's journey turned treacherous and acutely painful in these final hours leading to his death.

According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capitol punishment.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then

Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross.

Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV). His last were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46, NIV)
Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last and died.

By 6 p.m. Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathe, took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.

**Good Friday:** The trial, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus.

- **Good Friday** The Friday before Easter is called "Good" Friday. It is a somber observance which commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus the Nazarene. Marked with prayers, fasts and penance, Good Friday is a day of contrition, repentance and reflection. It is not a day of celebration but a day of mourning, both for the death of Jesus, and for the sins of a world that his death represents.

- **The Inherited Idea of Blood Sacrifice** Christ, the sacrifice for sin, and the Cross of Christ as the instrument of His death, have absorbed men's attention, whilst Christ the perfect man and Christ the Son of God have been less emphasized until entirely forgotten in the West.

- **The Fourth Initiation - The Crucifixion** Christ did not die in order that you and I might go to heaven. He died as the result of the very nature of the service which He rendered, of the note which He struck, and because He inaugurated a new age and told men how to live as sons of God.

- **The Physical Suffering of Jesus** The word "excruciating" comes from the Latin, excruciatius, or "out of the cross.

- **Details and History of Crucifixion** The Crucifixion was never performed for ritual or symbolic reasons; it is an ancient method of execution in which the victim was tied or nailed to a large wooden cross (Latin: crux) and left to hang until dead.

- **Lection 79 The Hebrew Trial Before Caiaphas** "And they gave forth their sentence against Jesus, that he was worthy of death, and that he should be bound and carried away, and delivered unto Pilate."

- **Lection 81 The Roman Trial Before Pilate** "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person."

- **Lection 82 The Crucifixion** "When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. And Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him and crucify him."

- **Lection 83 The Burial Of Jesus** "And Pilate marveled if he were already dead, and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus."

- **Why hast thou forsaken me?** Aramaic Bible researchers claim that the traditional "forsaken" interpretation is a mistake in the Aramaic scribing that was transferred to later transcriptions. According to modern translations, that rather than a "loss of faith" Christ meant, to say "so this is my destiny."

- **INRI: The Inscription Explained** Pilate had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews
read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

- **Simon the Cyrene; He Who Carried the Cross** "His burden stopped Him many a time, for His body was exhausted. Then a Roman soldier approached me, saying, "Come, you are strong and firm built; carry the cross of this man."

- **Barabbas: The Last Words of Jesus** "They released me and chose Him. Then He rose and I fell down. And they held Him a victim and a sacrifice for the Passover. I was freed from my chains, and walked with the throng behind Him, but I was a living man going to my own grave."

- **"It Is Finished"** We can no longer accept the appalling theological doctrine that for some mystic reason a propitiatory sacrifice is necessary. It outrages either our conception of God as almighty or else our conception of Him as all-loving.

Read More:

- Bible Story - [The Crucifixion](#)
- [Timeline of Jesus Final Hours](#)
- [7 Last Words of Jesus](#)
- [6 Co-Conspirators in the Death of Jesus](#)

*(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)*

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**Holy Week - Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb**
HOLY WEEK

Jesus' body lay in the tomb where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus:

"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." (John 19: 39-40, NLT)

Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court which had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.

Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they now realized Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)
Holy Saturday / Black Sabbath: The Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the tomb.

- **Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil** Saturday is the seventh day of the week, the day Jesus rested in the tomb. In the first three synoptic Gospel accounts this was the Jewish Sabbath which provided appropriate symbolism of the seventh day of rest. Holy Saturday is also a day of solemn vigil, meditation and prayer.

Read More:

- [Why Did Jesus Have to Die?](#)

*(Note: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)*

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**Holy Week - Day 8: Resurrection Sunday!**

On **Resurrection Sunday** we reach the culmination of Passion Week. The **resurrection** of Jesus Christ is the most important event, the crux, you might say, of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all **Christian doctrine** hinges on the truth of this account.

Early Sunday morning several women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, and Salome are all mentioned in the Gospel accounts) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the tomb's entrance had been rolled away. An **angel** announced, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was **crucified**. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." (Matthew 28:5-6, **NLT**)


On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

The eyewitness accounts in the Gospels provide undeniable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ happened. 2,000 years after his death, followers of Christ still flock to see the empty tomb, one of the strongest proofs that Jesus Christ actually did rise from the dead.

**Easter Sunday:** The 'Resurrection' of Jesus.

- **Lection 84 The Resurrection Of Jesus** "Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her, and commanded her to announce his resurrection from the dead."
- **The Apostle Mary Magdalene** Referred to in early Christian writings as "the apostle to the apostles," she was the constant companion of Jesus and his disciples. She was present throughout his early ministry, she was at his crucifixion and burial, and went to the tomb to anoint his body. She was the first to see the risen Christ and first to announce his resurrection to the apostles.
- **Why Does Easter's Date Wander?** The date of Easter Sunday, a so-called movable feast day in the Christian Church year, may seem mysterious to many who celebrate it. There are 35 possible dates in the spring season (northern hemisphere) for celebrating a one-time event. Why this wandering? The answer comes from decisions made several centuries after Christianity's inception.
- **Resurrection and Ascension** The crucial initiation for humanity to understand at this time is that only when we have mastered the significance of service and sacrifice can the fact of immortality and its true meaning be revealed to us.
- **The Key to Overcoming Death** The key to the overcoming of death and to the processes of realizing the meaning and nature of eternity and the continuity of life can with safety be revealed only when love holds sway over the human consciousness, and where the good of the whole, and not the selfish good of the individual, comes to be the supreme regard.
- **The Founding of the Kingdom**
  - When we are ready to make the needed sacrifices and renunciations, then will there be the manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth.

Read More:

- Bible Story - The Resurrection
- 7 Proofs of the Resurrection

(Nota: The exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Bible scholars. This timeline represents an approximate outline of major events.)

**Holy Week**

- The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The Last Supper

More Holy Week Timelines
Timeline of Jesus' Final Hours

Preceding Events

- **The Last Supper**
- **In the Garden of Gethsemane**
- **Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested**
- **The Religious Leaders Condemn Jesus**
  (Matthew 27:1-2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71)

6 a.m.

- **Jesus Stands Trial Before Pilate**
- **Jesus Sent to Herod**
  (Luke 23:6-12)

7 a.m.
**HOLY WEEK**

- **Jesus Returned to Pilate**
  (Luke 23:11)

- **Jesus is Sentenced to Death**

**8 a.m.**

- **Jesus is Led Away to Calvary**

**The Crucifixion**

**9 a.m. - ”The Third Hour”**

- **Jesus is Crucified on the Cross**

  Mark 15: 25 - *It was the third hour when they crucified him.* [NIV]. The third hour in Jewish time would have been 9 a.m.

  Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* [NIV]

- **The Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus’ Clothing**
  (Mark 15:24)

**10 a.m.**

- **Jesus is Insulted and Mocked**

  Matthew 27:39-40 - *And the people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "So! You can destroy the Temple and build it again in three days, can you? Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!"* [NLT]

  Mark 15:31 - *The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself!"* [NLT]

  Luke 23:36-37 - *The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"* [NLT]


**11 a.m.**

- **Jesus and the Criminal**
Luke 23:40-43 - But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (NIV)

- **Jesus Speaks to Mary and John**

  John 19:26-27 - When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Woman, he is your son." And he said to this disciple, "She is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home. (NLT)

**Noon - "The Sixth Hour"**

- **Darkness Covers the Land**

  Mark 15:33 - At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. (NLT)

1 p.m.

- **Jesus Cries Out to the Father**

  Matthew 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (NKJV)

- **Jesus is Thirsty**

  John 19:28-29 - Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures 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. (NLT)

2 p.m.

- **It is Finished**

  John 19:30a - When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" (NLT)

  Luke 23:46 - Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (NIV)

3 p.m. - "The Ninth Hour"

**Events Following Jesus' Death**
The Earthquake

Matthew 27:51-52 - At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. (NIV)

The Centurion - "Surely he was the Son of God!"
(Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:47)

The Soldiers Break the Thieves' Legs
(John 19:31-33)

The Soldier Pierces Jesus Side
(John 19:34)

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Jesus Rises from the Dead
(Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9)

Last Words of Jesus

1) Jesus Speaks to the Father

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (NIV)
In the midst of his excruciating suffering, the heart of Jesus was focused on others rather than himself. Here we see the nature of his love—unconditional and divine.

2) Jesus Speaks to the Criminal on the Cross

Luke 23:43
"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (NIV)

One of the criminals who was crucified with Christ, had recognized who Jesus was and expressed faith in him as Savior. Here we see grace poured out through faith, as Jesus assured the dying man of his forgiveness and eternal salvation.

3) Jesus Speaks to Mary and John

John 19:26-27
When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (NIV)

Jesus, looking down from the cross, was still filled with the concerns of a son for the earthly needs of his mother. None of his brothers were there to care for her, so he gave this task to the Apostle John. Here we clearly see Christ's humanity.

4) Jesus Cries Out to the Father

Matthew 27:46 (also Mark 15:34)
And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (NKJV)

In the darkest hours of his suffering, Jesus cried out the opening words of Psalm 22. And although much has been suggested regarding the meaning of this phrase, it was quite apparent the agony Christ felt as he expressed separation from God. Here we see the Father turning way from the Son as Jesus bore the full weight of our sin.

5) Jesus is Thirsty

John 19:28
Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, "I am thirsty." (NLT)

Jesus refused the initial drink of vinegar, gall and myrrh (Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:23) offered to alleviate his suffering. But here, several hours later, we see Jesus fulfilling the messianic prophecy found in Psalm 69:21.

6) It is Finished

John 19:30
... he said, "It is finished!" (NLT)

Jesus knew he was suffering the crucifixion for a purpose. Earlier he had said in John 10:18 of his life, "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I
have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” (NIV) These three words were packed with meaning, for what was finished here was not only Christ's earthly life, not only his suffering and dying, not only the payment for sin and the redemption of the world—but the very reason and purpose he came to earth was finished. His final act of obedience was complete. The Scriptures had been fulfilled.

7) Jesus' Last Words

Luke 23:46
Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (NIV)

Here Jesus closes with the words of Psalm 31:5, speaking to the Father. We see his complete trust in the Father. Jesus entered death in the same way he lived each day of his life, offering up his life as the perfect sacrifice and placing himself in God's hands.

The Tridium

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Daily Lent Prayer:** "Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise."

**Collect:**

O God, who anointed your Only Begotten Son with the Holy Spirit
and made him Christ and Lord, graciously grant that, being made sharers in his consecration, we may bear witness to your Redemption in the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**The Readings:** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalm 116; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

**Daily Meditation:**

You gave us an example to imitate. Holy Thursday is one of the truly marvelous days in our faith community. We celebrate the gift of the love of Jesus, given to us for our nourishment - given to us as an example of self-less love.

In our prayer today, we let our Lord wash our feet - love us unconditionally - and we let Jesus be broken and given for us. We pray that we might be faithful to the one commandment of Jesus - that we might love others in the same way that we have been loved.

Where charity and love are found, there is God.

Holy Thursday Antiphon.

**Today's Daily Reflection**

**Intercessions:**
The Father anointed Christ with the Holy Spirit to proclaim forgiveness to those in bondage.

Let us humbly call upon the eternal priest: Lord, have mercy on us.

You went up to Jerusalem to suffer and so enter into your glory, - bring your Church to the Passover feast of heaven.

You were lifted high on the cross and pierced by the soldier's lance, - heal our wounds.
HOLY WEEK

You made the cross the tree of life,
- give its fruit to those reborn in baptism.

On the cross you forgave the repentant thief,
- forgive us our sins.

Closing Prayer:
Loving Provider,
you gather me in this upper room with your son,
to be fed by your love.
At that supper, Jesus told us to "love one another"
and I know that is the heart of his gift,
his sacrifice for me.
I ask that I might find the source of my own heart,
the meaning for my own life,
in that Eucharist.
Guide me to the fullness of your love and life.

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY

Daily Prayer: "Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise."
Prayer:
Remember your mercies, O Lord, and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants, for whom Christ your Son, by the shedding of his Blood, established the Paschal Mystery. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Or,
O God, who by the Passion of Christ your Son, our Lord, abolished the death inherited from ancient sin by every succeeding generation, grant that just as, being conformed to him, we have borne by the law of nature the image of the man on earth, so by the sanctification of grace we may bear the image of the Man of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

The Readings:
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Daily Meditation:
This is the wood of the cross, on which hung the Savior of the world.
Come, let us worship.
This is a very special day of intimacy with our Lord. It is a day to pray the Stations of the Cross. A day of fasting and abstinence, in order to sharpen our awareness and openness. A day to stand at the foot of the cross as a forgiven sinner - to stand there side-by-side with everyone else who is forgiven. It is a day of profound gratitude.

My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me.
Good Friday Reproaches

Today's Daily Reflection

Intercessions:
For our sake our Redeemer suffered death and was buried, and rose again. With heartfelt love let us adore him, and pray: Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ our teacher, for our sake you were obedient even to accepting death, - teach us to obey the Father's will in all things.
Christ our life, by your death on the cross you destroyed the power of evil and death, - may we die with you, to rise with you in glory.
Christ our King, you became an outcast among us, a worm and no man,  
- teach us the humility by which you saved the world.

Christ our salvation, you gave yourself up to death out of love for us,  
- help us to show your love to one another.

Christ our Savior, on the cross you embraced all time with your outstretched arms,  
- unite God's scattered children in your kingdom of salvation.

**Closing Prayer:**

My Lord,  
your son has suffered so much, shed so much blood.  
I was born with so many faults  
and my nature is so full of weakness,  
and yet your son Jesus has died on the cross.  
*For me.*  
I know your grace has the power  
to cleanse me of my many sins  
and to make me more like your Son.  
Thank you for your goodness and love for me.  
I ask you, Father, to watch over me - always.

May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen.
There is no liturgy on Holy Saturday. We spend the day reflecting upon the powerful reality of Jesus' death. In addition to the Daily Reflection and the Preparing for the Easter Vigil Liturgy pages, we offer a page with each of the readings for the Easter Vigil and a page with each of the prayers that are said after each reading. These pages are inter-linked, so that is it possible to go back and forth, easily, just following the links.

What is important is that we keep this day holy, and let our “sense” of the mystery of death shape our reflection, and our longing to celebrate the Easter gift of Jesus alive, for us and with us.

If we are able to celebrate the Easter Vigil, we can renew our Baptismal Promises in a way that completes our Lenten journey to the font. We offer a renewal of our Baptismal promises here, which we might do, in these or similar words, which any of us might make as we keep a vigil of readings and prayer Saturday night, or early Easter Sunday Morning.

“On Holy Saturday, the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell, and awaiting his Resurrection.

The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass with the sacred table left bare, until after the solemn Vigil, that is, the anticipation by night of the Resurrection, when the time comes for paschal joys, the abundance of which overflows to occupy 50 days.

Holy Communion may only be given on this day as Viaticum.”

From New Roman Missal, Third Edition

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**HOLY SATURDAY**
Prayer after the first reading about the creation:

**Genesis 1:1-2:2:**

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works,
may those you have redeemed understand
that there exists nothing more marvelous
than the world’s creation in the beginning
except that, at the end of the ages,
Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
Who live and reigns for ever and ever.

Or on the creation of man: **Genesis 1:1, 26-31a:**

Let us pray.

O God,
who wonderfully created human nature
and still more wonderfully redeemed it,
grant us we pray,
to set our minds against the enticements of sin,
that we may merit to attain eternal joys.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Next Reading**

Prayer after the second reading about Abraham's sacrifice:

**Genesis 22:1-18; or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18:**

Let us pray.
O God, supreme Father of the faithful,
who increase the children of your promise
by pouring out the grace of adoption
throughout the whole world
and who through the Paschal Mystery
make your servant Abraham father of nations,
as once you swore,
grant, we pray,
that your peoples may enter worthily
into the grace to which you call them.
Through Christ our Lord.

The Next Reading

III

Prayer after the third reading about the passage through the Red Sea:

Let us pray.

O God, whose ancient wonders
remain undimmed in splendor even in our day,
for what you once bestowed on a single people,
freeing them from Pharaoh’s persecution
by the power of your right hand,
now you bring about as the salvation of the nations
through the waters of rebirth,
grant, we pray, that the whole world
may become children of Abraham
and inherit the dignity of Israel’s birthright.
Through Christ our Lord.

Or:

Let us pray.

O God, who by the light of the New Testament
have unlocked the meaning of wonders worked in former times, so that the Red Sea prefigures the sacred font and the nation delivered from slavery foreshadows the Christian people, grant, we pray, that all nations, obtaining the privilege of Israel by merit of faith, may be reborn by partaking of your Spirit.

Through Christ our Lord.

The Next Reading

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Prayer after the fourth reading about the new Jerusalem:

Isaiah 54:5-14:

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, surpass, for the honor of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord.

Alternatively, other prayers may be used from among those which follow the readings that have been omitted.

The Next Reading
Prayer after the fifth reading about salvation freely offered to all:
Isaiah 55:1-11:

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
sole hope of the world,
who by the preaching of your Prophets
unveiled the mysteries of this present age.
graciously increase the longing of your people,
for only at the prompting of your grace
do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue.
Through Christ our Lord.

The Next Reading

Prayer after the sixth reading about the fountain of wisdom:
Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4:

Let us pray.

O God, who constantly increase your Church
by your call to the nations,
graciously grant
to those you wash clean in the waters of Baptism
the assurance of your unfailing protection.
Through Christ our Lord.

The Next Reading
VII

Prayer after the seventh reading about a new heart and a new spirit:
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28:

Let us pray.

O God of unchanging power and eternal light,
look with favor on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church
and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation,
which you planned from all eternity;
may the whole world know and see
that what was cast down is raised up,
what had become old is made new,
and all things are restored to integrity through Christ,
just as by him they came into being.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Or:

Let us pray.

O God, who by the pages of both Testaments
instruct and prepare us to celebrate the Paschal Mystery,
grant that we may comprehend your mercy
so that the gifts we receive from you this night
may confirm our hope of the gifts to come.

Through Christ our Lord.

VIII

After the Gloria, and before the Epistle -
The Collect:
O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord’s Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The Next Reading:
The Epistle:
Romans 6:3-11

The Gospel:
Luke 24:1-12

Prayers are from the New Roman Missal, Third Edition