

7 Prayers for Holy Week

Journeying with Jesus to the Cross



Welcome

"Holy Week" is what the Church has historically called the week leading up to Easter, where believers are called to remember and identify with Jesus' journey to the cross. Over the next seven days, we will journey *with* Jesus toward his death and will be challenged to likewise deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow him (Luke 9:23).

This resource will walk us through each of Jesus' final days and will invite us to read what happened on that given day and then pray using the events of that day as our guide. Our pastoral staff has written the following prayers with the intention of them being a *starting place* for your time of prayer this week. After praying the prayer provided, take a few moments to pray on your own, reflecting on what you've read.

You are encouraged to use this resource however you would like, whether privately, with your family, or with your small group. Our ultimate desire is that by following along with Jesus' life this week, that you would become more like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead (Phil. 3:10-11).

Have a blessed Holy Week,
CHCC Staff

Palm Sunday

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11

Lord Jesus, you knew this day was coming and yet you moved forward, completing the mission your Father gave you.

On that day you set into motion the reasons for your coming; to seek and to save the lost.

Thank you for making your way into a city filled with people; many of which who shouted, "Hosanna," who a few days later would shout, "Crucify."

Thank you for providing us with an example of obedience, and we pray that our lives will be filled with obedience to you. Thank you for showing us that you are "the Son of David"!

May our lives be a reflection of your love to others as we thank you for sacrificing your life for us so we can have freedom from sin and death.

In the powerful name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Holy Monday

Jesus clears the temple

Read Mark 11:15-18

Lord Jesus, just as You cleared the temple of money changers and those preoccupied by greed or legalism, clear our hearts of every impure motive. Eliminate every distraction that tries to draw our focus away from You. Let our hearts and our church building be places of prayer for all nations. Show us any barriers we have constructed that prevent the poor or marginalized from seeing You and worshiping in our fellowship, and help us welcome them into Your house and family.

Prepare our hearts to faithfully proclaim Your good news as we remember Your death, burial, and resurrection this week. By Your cleansing blood we pray. Amen.

Holy Tuesday

Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives

Read Matthew 24

Heavenly Father, we thank You, Lord, for Your Son, Israel's Messiah, who will one day return. Even though no one but You knows the day or the hour, we faithfully trust and wait on our Shepherd. We know that His prophecy of the destruction of the Temple did come to pass, but that Your true Temple, our Lord, was raised to life and will return in glory, to be with us forever. In the meantime, by Your grace, may we follow the leading of Your Holy Spirit, that we might endure to the end. Empower us to go and proclaim the Good News of Your Kingdom in our city, in our nation, and in our world, so that You might draw more people to Yourself. And when all the love of the world grows cold, may Your Son remind us what love is like. To Him we say, "Come, Lord Jesus," and it's through His name that we pray. Amen.

Holy Wednesday

Jesus and Judas make preparations

Read Luke 22:1-6

Jesus, just as you spent the Wednesday before your death preparing for Passover with your disciples, prepare our hearts to worship you well the remainder of this week as we reflect on your death and coming resurrection. We also pause to recognize that while you were preparing for Passover, your disciple, Judas, was preparing to betray you to the Sanhedrin. On this day of opposing preparations, help us to stay close to you in your work, not wandering off for selfish gain. Purify our intentions as we seek to be faithful disciples of you this week. It's in your life-giving name that we pray. Amen.

Maundy Thursday

Jesus in the upper room and the garden

Read Matthew 26:17-75

Jesus, we pause now to remember the last meal you ate with your disciples before you went to the cross.

We remember that at that meal, you foretold what would take place the very next day, but your disciples could not yet understand what you meant.

We also remember that you shared that last meal with your closest friends, but also those who would betray you, deny you, and desert you. Thank you for extending an invitation to us to remember you through the bread and cup when we have wandered from you. Thank you for the love and the grace you show to everyone, even when you know that we will fail you again and again. We pray that through the Holy Spirit's power in us we can share your love and grace with those around us each day. We want to follow in the example you have shown us by washing the feet of and sharing meals with those who will hurt us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, whose love never ceases to amaze us. Amen.

Good Friday

Jesus' trial, crucifixion, death, and burial

Read Mark 15

Suffering Savior, on this Good Friday, we pause to remember the great lengths you went to in redeeming us and for the humble example you gave us in going to the cross. We praise you for standing silent in the face of false accusations, wrongful convictions, mocking, torture, and humiliation. We praise you for allowing the Roman authorities to crucify you, freely giving up your life on our behalf. And we praise you for dying and being placed in the tomb, burying our sin along with you. Lord, help us not to miss the gravity of this day, recognizing that for a moment, all hope seemed lost and that evil appeared to have won.

We sit in that unsettling reality today, but not without hope. We can call today “good” because your sacrifice for our sin brings us forgiveness, new life, and reconciliation with the Father. It’s in your good and sufficient name that we pray. Amen.

Holy Saturday

Jesus in the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

Jesus, we come to you on perhaps the saddest day of all time. On this day, your disciples and followers woke up to you, Lord and Savior, God of all creation, dead and in the tomb. It's difficult to imagine the heartbreak, confusion, doubts, questions, and sadness they experienced on that day. Each year we experience this day knowing what Sunday will bring, but on that first Holy Saturday, they did not know. On this day, we have time and space to feel a lot of emotions. We have time to ask you questions of things we have experienced that don't make sense. We have space to lift up our doubts to you and cry out to you with any sadness we are currently holding onto. We feel the emotions the disciples felt about the things in our lives and in our world that don't make sense. But while we feel these things, we do remember what tomorrow holds and we rest in the promise that Saturday is not the end, and tomorrow the stone will be rolled away. You will bring life to the things in our hearts and lives that are dead, but we have to wait for you to roll the stone away. Thank you for giving us this space to pour out our hearts to you, and we praise you that even when you are silent, you are still present. Remind us of your nearness today, Jesus, and it's in your name we pray. Amen.