

APRIL 1-3, 2021  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
HOLY SATURDAY

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

All of us have strayed from Jesus.

## HOLY WEEK BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Holy Week observance.

Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Jesus washes disciples' feet
Friday	John 18:1–19:42	The crucifixion of Jesus
Saturday	Psalm 31	Prayer for deliverance

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR HOLY WEEK

*They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." John 19:15 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for Holy Week:

Holy God, help us to recognize that we need Jesus as Savior and Lord, who died on the cross for the sins of the world. Open our hearts to this great love for us. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, during this Holy Week, just as we receive this gift of food with thanksgiving, give us hearts that are open to your goodness and mercy, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ surround you with love that you may love one another. (John 13:34)

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## HYMN FOR HOLY WEEK

*They Crucified My Lord*



## HOLY WEEK MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time you did something that hurt another person.
- Why is it easy at times to blame others instead of accepting our own mistakes?
- What is it in your life that needs the power of Jesus' love and forgiveness?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* John 18:1–19:42.

Those who are prejudice against Judaism, have used the crucifixion story to accuse Jews of killing Jesus. However, Jesus and his followers were also Jews. The Jews spoken of specifically in John are religious leaders, people with a religious voice defending God against Jesus' claim to be the Son of God. Jesus is alone and on trial as Peter is in the courtyard of the high priest.

Peter is also on trial by denying his Lord. In a parallel fashion, the religious leaders in their zeal to oppose Jesus blaspheme: "*We have no king but the emperor*" (19:15). Hatred, fear, religious zeal, protection of the people from the violence of oppressors (the Romans, in Jesus' day), all lead "the religious," the Jews, to denounce Jesus and their own heritage that would never in a calmer moment proclaim the emperor of Rome as their one and true king. Through our continuing fear and hate, like the Jews in John, all people throughout history are just as guilty as the people who were there. Apart from Jesus, no one is righteous. Jesus stands alone as the Savior and righteous one. In what ways do we still join the Jews in the Gospel of John and say, "Crucify him"?

*Pray:* Almighty and merciful God, we misjudge people and avoid opportunities to love those who are different from us. We ask forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for us. Amen.

## SERVICE



Jesus washed his followers' feet to symbolize how he would serve them and cleanse them through his death on the cross. In what ways do you follow the example of Jesus to serve others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Liturgy from Thursday to Saturday turns somber and reflective after singing *Glory to God in the Highest* on Maundy Thursday. Joyous church bells are silenced. In European countries it is a tradition to have noisy processions using rattles and drums as a way to focus on the change of mood. During these three days, pray and reflect on Jesus' sacrifice. Make noise by using a drum, rattle, or thumping fingers on a table as a reminder of this solemn time.