



A Guide for Worship,
Devotional Reflection & Family Activity



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Hardysbc.net/holyweek

Dear Church Family,

The week before Easter Sunday, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, is known worldwide as "Holy Week". This is a time to remember Jesus' crucifixion and the events immediately leading up to it. Our pastoral leaders are thrilled to bring you this "Holy Week @Home" Guide! This worship, devotional, and activity guide is designed to help families maximize the spiritual impact of Holy Week!

While there is nothing intrinsically holy about particular days, for most of church history Christians have set aside eight days between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday for solemn focus (Romans 14:5–6). This string of days provides an annual interval for us to focus intently on the greatest events in human history, the acts of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our encouragement to you is that through these activities, devotional thoughts, and services at Hardy Street Baptist Church, you will encounter the love, the sacrifice, and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ!

We urge you to read through the guide in the days ahead and make plans for your family to celebrate the days of Holy Week.

He is risen, indeed!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Hanberry".

Dr. Scott Hanberry, Pastor
Hardy Street Baptist Church

What are the days of Holy Week?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday) | Sunday, March 28 |
| • Maundy Thursday | Thursday, April 1 |
| • Good Friday | Friday, April 2 |
| • Silent Saturday (Black Saturday) | Saturday, April 3 |
| • Resurrection Sunday | Sunday, April 4 |

2021 Hardy Street Holy Week Activities

- **Wednesday, March 24th at 6:00 p.m.** Faith Factory Egg Hunt
Easter Outreach Goodie Bags will be ready for our Faith families to pick up. Normally we reach our community by inviting them to our community wide egg hunt. Since we can't do that again this year, we will have goodie bags available for all of our Faith Factory families to pick up. Each family is invited to deliver these bags to their neighboring children and families as an outreach ministry.
- **Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday)**
9:00 Sunday school and 10:30 Worship - "The Road to Easter" Sermon Series
- **Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday)**
5:30 Doors open for silent reflection
6:00 p.m. Lord's Supper Service
A service of somber reflection (enter and exit in silence)
- **Friday, April 2 (Good Friday)**
Virtual Devotional & Worship Experience - Dr. Hanberry will be leading a pre-recorded "virtual" worship experience that you and your family can watch "on demand" as your schedule allows. Email instructions and a video link will be sent out on Good Friday morning.
- **Sunday, April 4 (Resurrection Sunday)**
9:00 Sunday school and 10:30 Worship
(Overflow worship in the Chapel)

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.

More about Holy Week

(Holy Week Events Explained)

Biblical accounts of the final week of Jesus' life are found in all four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books offer a relatively full record of the final words and deeds of Jesus' life.

SUNDAY

The Sunday before Easter is known as *Palm Sunday*. It marks Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem—what is sometimes called “the triumphal entry.” This day earned its name because the crowds that welcomed Jesus into the city covered his path with palm branches.

Jesus' supporters viewed him as a promising messianic candidate, one who could restore military and political power to Israel. The people's use of palm branches—an ancient symbol—reflected their hope that Jesus would restore Israel to prominence, reminiscent of Israel's greatest king, David.

MONDAY

Jesus was one of thousands who entered Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. As such, the temple was buzzing with activity, including price gouging for the purchase of sacrificial animals & currency exchange. Jesus was deeply offended by the greed of these opportunists, who were placing personal gain over the value of a godly ritual. In anger, Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers & those who sold sacrificial animals.

Jesus had entered the temple not as a religious pilgrim looking to make a sacrifice—he himself would, in only four days, be the ultimate sacrifice—but as one who had divine authority to purify the house of God. The Jewish leaders interpreted Jesus' actions as an affront to their religious authority—rightly so.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

Between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper on Thursday, the Gospels report that Jesus spent much of this time within the temple. There he taught and preached to the crowds that gathered.

Feeling threatened by his influence and teachings, the Jewish chief priests and Pharisees confronted Jesus and "laid plans to trap him in his words." They asked him a series of difficult, tricky questions in the hopes that Jesus would blaspheme, contradict himself, or simply have no answer. It was at this time that Jesus spoke many of his famous parables, discussed the signs of the end of the age, and revealed the greatest commandment.⁸

THURSDAY

Within the Christian calendar, this day is known as *Maundy Thursday*. On Thursday evening, Jesus ate a final meal—often called the Last Supper or the Lord's Supper—with his disciples. The meal took on great significance as Jesus communicated to his disciples a divine awareness of his imminent death and knowledge that one of his own disciples, Judas, would be his betrayer.

It is in the Lord's Supper that Christians find the tradition now known as Holy Communion: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

In this exchange, Jesus worked to explain the significance of his death to his disciples. Just as food is integral as physical nourishment, a relationship with Jesus is essential to spiritual sustenance and growth.

John records that during the meal Jesus also washed the feet of his disciples, an act reserved for the lowest of servants. A teacher serving his disciples in such a way was highly unusual and an act of deep humility. Jesus explained, "*I have set you an example that you should do as I have*

done for you.” Following supper, Jesus took three of his disciples with him to a garden to pray. Moving away from them to a more secluded area, Jesus prayed to his Father. The Gospel of John reports that Jesus prayed for himself, for his disciples, and for all believers.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke show us that though Jesus may have wished there was another way to save humanity, he ultimately yielded to the will of God, committing himself to God’s plan. After he prayed, an armed crowd and Judas, the betrayer, appeared. Charged with blasphemy and being a revolutionary bent on usurping both Jewish and Roman authority, Jesus was arrested.

FRIDAY

After undergoing a series of tribunals and enduring extensive torture and mockery, Jesus was nailed to a cross—crucified—at approximately 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning.

Crucifixion was a deliberately slow and excruciating form of execution in which a condemned person was nailed to a cross and left there until they died. After hanging on the cross for a few hours, the offender would become unable to lift themselves up to breathe. They would eventually perish from slow suffocation.

After six hours of intense suffering, Jesus died at around three in the afternoon. His body was taken off the cross and he was buried in the borrowed tomb of a wealthy man named Joseph of Arimathea.

It is difficult to overstate the significance of the crucifixion within Christian tradition. Christians believe that when Jesus—who had lived a sinless life—died, he took on all of humanity’s sin and the full force of God’s wrath toward it.

Within Christian understanding, Jesus’ death allows each of us to pursue a personal relationship with God. We can ask for forgiveness of our sins, receive it, and be spared the punishment for our iniquities. The apostle

Paul explains, *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Seven hundred years earlier, the prophet Isaiah foretold the event: *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

It is no wonder that Christians are deeply moved when they remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice—a sacrifice made for each of us.

SUNDAY

The following Sunday—known as *Resurrection Sunday*—commemorates the event that truly separates Jesus from other martyrs: His resurrection from the dead. The Gospels record that through divine power, Jesus was raised to life and left the tomb, though it was guarded by soldiers and sealed with a large stone.

As with the crucifixion, the resurrection of Jesus is of utmost importance to Christians. Christians believe that by rising from death, Jesus overcame sin and death for all of us. In this act, Jesus demonstrated that sin and death do not have ultimate power and offered eternal life to his followers.

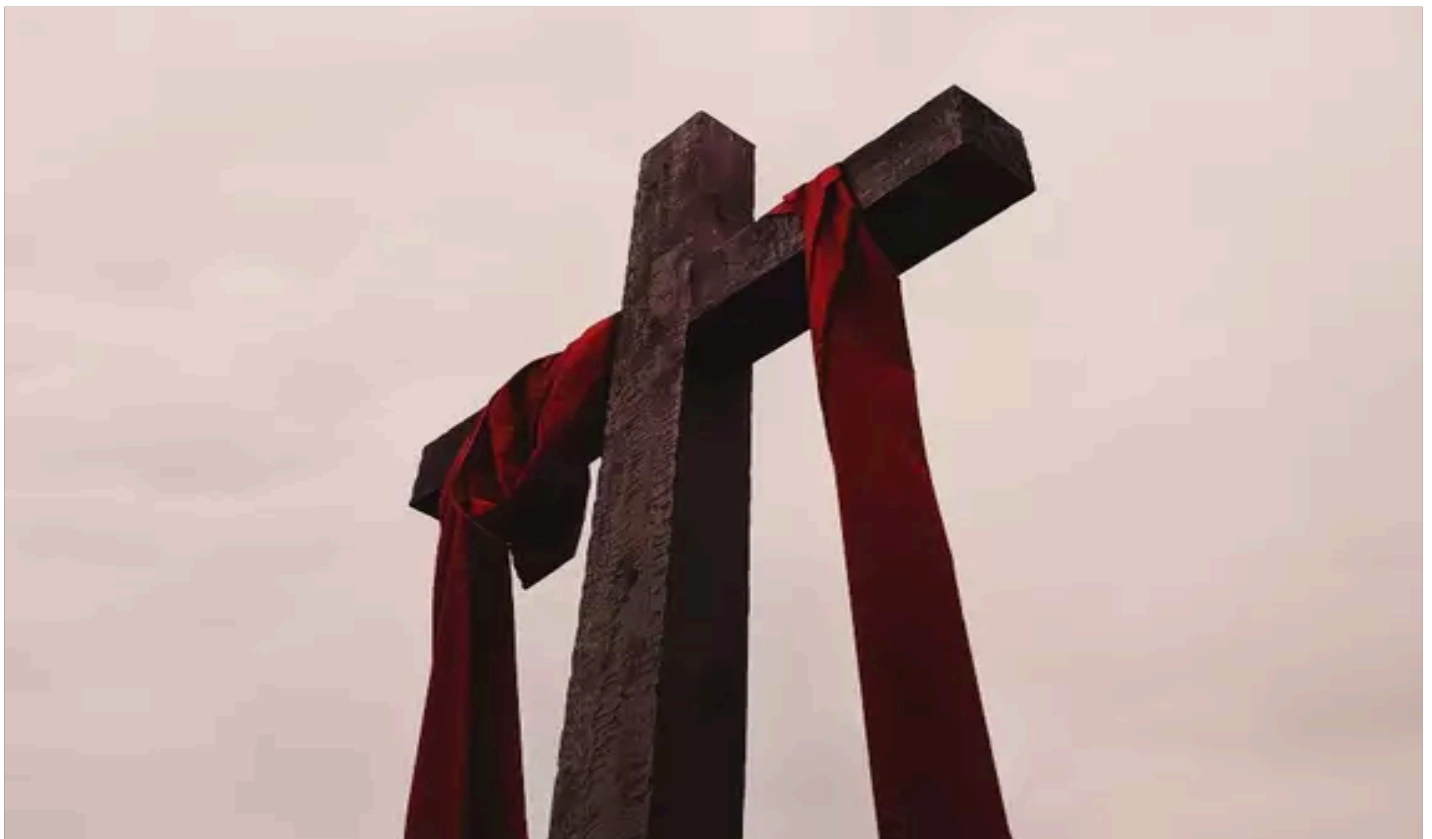
Jesus later appeared to his disciples and other believers over a period of time, demonstrating his divinity to them.

Finally, he instructed his disciples in what Christians call the Great Commission: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* The Bible tells us that, after all this, Jesus was taken up into heaven.

What about now?

But the resurrection is not quite the end of the story. According to Christian understanding, Jesus will return to the earth at the end of days. At this time, the earth will be restored and “‘there will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things [will have] passed away.”

Until then, modern believers are not left without Jesus’ presence. Christians believe that God is still actively involved in each person’s life. A few of Jesus’ last words during his final hours on earth remain particularly reassuring and empowering to his followers, even thousands of years later: “And surely ***I am with you always***, to the very end of the age.”



HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL



PALM SUNDAY- INTRO *"Then the crowds who went ahead of Him and those who followed shouted: 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*

And with those words... Holy Week began. As we begin Holy Week 2021 and look toward Easter Sunday, you are invited to join the entire Hardy Street family in remembering the events leading to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection and meditate on their meaning. The Sunday before His crucifixion (Palm Sunday), Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with coats and palm branches laid at His feet and people praising Him. Those shouting "Hosanna!" or "save us" were looking for an earthly king to deliver them from the harsh rule of Rome.

Holy Week is about remembering the only One who is truly holy - Jesus. This week, let's take time to gratefully remember and keep alive in our hearts what Jesus, the perfect Lamb and the risen Savior, has done for us. He came. He lived. He died. And He rose again, to give us life abundantly, a personal relationship with Him and the promise of eternity with a God who loved us enough to die for us.

As you journey through Holy Week, you will walk with Jesus through His final days. You will see what mattered to Him, what He focused on. You are encouraged to revisit the details of His teaching the disciples, His last time in the Temple, weeping in Gethsemane, humiliation, suffering, crucifixion, death and resurrection. Take your time this week to read slowly. Linger over every verse. Thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the events recorded here and their deep and life-changing meaning for you.

MONDAY - HOLY ZEAL

And He [Jesus] was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." Mark 11:17

Scripture: Mark 11:12-19

FOCUS What are you passionate about? What really matters to you? What wakes you up and gets you going each morning? One way to discover your passion is to ask yourself these two questions: "What makes me really angry? What moves me to action?" As you consider Jesus' actions on Monday of Holy Week, evaluate your zeal for your faith.

DEVOTIONAL After being paraded through the streets of Jerusalem on Sunday and hailed as a king, the first place Jesus went was the Temple, the same Temple He visited as a child (Mark 11:11). Mark records that He looked around at everything. What He saw must have broken His heart.

After spending Sunday night in Bethany, about 2 miles out of Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples made their way back to the crowded city on Monday morning. On the way, Jesus taught them an object lesson using a fig tree that looked healthy but offered no fruit for a snack for travelers. Perhaps something about a tree with no fruit reminded Him of what He saw in the temple the evening before. So He does to the tree what He will do to the temple later that day. He curses it. He is angry at what the fig tree represents: performance without purpose and show without service. The cursing of the fig tree is a sobering reminder of just how much Jesus hates hypocrisy. As Christians, we must consistently live out what we say we believe. An unbelieving world is watching; therefore, let it only see those who practice what they preach.

Combine High Attendance Day, Mother's Day, Easter & Christmas in our churches and you have a picture of what Passover Week was to the Temple

in Jerusalem. Thousands of people packed the streets to take part in the holy celebration. To participate, they had to meet two requirements: an animal sacrifice and a temple tax. So in one section of the Temple (The Court of the Gentiles) merchants and money-changers had set up their stores. The Court of the Gentiles was to be a place of prayer where people of all nations could enter and worship the One True God. Picture a flea market with some tax collectors and government oversight sprinkled in. It was not as God intended and what Jesus saw made Him angry. It ignited His passion and it drove Him to action.

Watch as Jesus turns over tables, and people begin to scatter. But not before Jesus stung them with His words: *"What was intended to be a house of prayer for all nations, you have turned into a den of thieves."*

God is not impressed with our outward show of religion without an inward change. Those who exploit the privilege or the place of worship invite the anger, passion and holy zeal of God.

FOLLOW Jesus said in Revelation 3:15-16 that a lukewarm faith makes him sick. C.S. Lewis wisely observed, "The only thing Christianity cannot be is moderately important." Examine your passion and your motives. Ask yourself: "Am I passionate for the same things Jesus is passionate for?"

PRAYER May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. Father, help me to take an honest look at what I am passionate about. Teach me to be an authentic worshiper. Forgive me for equating busyness with a relationship with You. Help me to focus on what really matters. Help me to be a contagious Christ-follower.

TUESDAY - HOLY AUTHORITY

And they said to Him, "By what authority are you doing these things..."

Mark 11:28

Scripture: Mark 11:20 - 12:38

FOCUS It is the most important question you will ever answer. After three years of absorbing His teachings, hundreds of miles walking with Him, and witnessing thousands of miracles, Jesus asked His disciples, *"Who do you say that I am?"* Every person who is confronted with the claims of Jesus must answer this question: *"Who is Jesus to you?"* As you experience Tuesday of Holy Week, will you, like Peter, answer, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"*? Will you be willing to allow Him to be the ultimate authority in your life?

DEVOTIONAL Tuesday morning Jesus and His disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the wilted fig tree on their way and Jesus again used it to teach them about the importance of faith in prayer. He reminded them that prayer is powerful because of the One we pray to. Prayer is not about who you are but who God is. Faith is obedience even when we don't have the details.

As Jesus began walking in the Temple courts He was approached by a group of chief priests and elders – the leaders of the Temple and of Jewish society. They were upset by Jesus' actions in cleansing the Temple on Monday and asked Him, *"Who gave you the authority to do this?"* After all, Jesus was just the son of a carpenter from Nazareth. What He did have was divine authority given to Him by God. He demonstrated that authority by His miracles, His teachings, even authority over evil and the God-given authority to forgive sins.

Jesus knew these self-righteous leaders were trying to trap Him (Luke 19:47) and find a way to have Him killed, because He was a threat to their

authority. Jesus responded to their question with a question of His own: "Before I answer, let me ask you a question. If you answer me, I'll answer you." And so He asks, "John's baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" The leaders discussed Jesus' question and quickly came to the conclusion that they were between a rock and a hard place. "If we say, 'From heaven,' Jesus will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe it?' If we say, 'from men' then all these Jesus-followers will cause a riot." So they came up with the only safe answer: "We can't answer. We don't know." Jesus replied, "Then I won't answer your question either."

These leaders had been given the responsibility to make God known to all people – poor, widowed, weak, Jewish and not. Yet, by trumping their own agenda over God's commands they rejected His (and Jesus') authority. With boldness, Jesus continued teaching in the Temple Tuesday afternoon using parables to expose the hypocrisy and wickedness of the religious leaders. Later that afternoon, He and His disciples left the city and went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus taught them about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age.

FOLLOW "Who do you say that I am?" There are two ways of responding to that question: 1) You dismiss Him as just a good man who lived 2,000 years ago, or 2) You acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord and live your life in a manner that reflects that. Recognizing Jesus' authority means we allow Him to be God of our lives in all we do and say. When we do this, every moment of our ordinary daily life worships God and gives glory to Jesus – in submission to His divine authority.

PRAYER Almighty God, You have given Jesus all authority. To Him belong all glory, honor, and praise in our lives. Help me to give You Your rightful place in my life. Transform my heart and my mind so that I live more and more each day under Your authority, submitting to Your will and doing Your work in the world. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY - HOLY SILENCE

Wednesday of Holy Week, as far as the Scriptural record is concerned, is a day of mystery, a day of silence. We are left – so to speak – in the dark of Jesus' actions.

Scripture: Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-6, Psalm 145

FOCUS "One of the costs of technological advancement," writes Don Whitney, "is a greater temptation to avoid quietness." Many are addicted to noise and have become so uncomfortable with silence that we have invented "white noise" to help us sleep, study, or relax. Do you find yourself thoughtlessly flipping on the radio every time you get in the car or keeping the TV on constantly even though no one is watching? Computers and smartphones with notifications, alarms, dings and alerts have increased the value of silence as a spiritual discipline. We need to get alone and be quiet more than ever before. What does this have to do with Holy Week?

DEVOTIONAL Luke 22:1-6 tells us that on Wednesday of Holy Week, Judas conspired with the chief priests and Temple police to hand Jesus over to them for thirty pieces of silver, so tradition has sometimes called it Spy Wednesday. The Bible doesn't say what Jesus did on Wednesday. Some scholars say He continued teaching in the Temple, while others speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples spent the day resting in Bethany in anticipation of the feast of the Passover.

For this reason, it is often called Silent Wednesday. Does the thought of Jesus being silent make you uncomfortable? We picture Jesus as busy, active, teaching, healing, performing miracles, meeting needs. It might stretch our imagination to think of Him as inactive, silent. All four gospel writers record instances of Jesus removing Himself from the busyness of ministry and getting alone to pray (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; John 6:15).

Today, on Silent Wednesday, take time to sit silently in the presence of God. Read Psalm 145 and praise Him for who He is. Meditate on what He has done for you. Then use the following guide as you continue in a season of prayer.

FOLLOW Ask yourself these questions. Mark the ones you struggle with. Ask God to bring to light those that need your fresh attention, and that His Spirit will guide you as you grow in Christ-likeness.

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to others what has been said to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give the Bible time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I disobey God in anything?
13. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
14. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
15. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?

16. How do I spend my spare time?

17. Am I proud?

18. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?

19. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

20. Do I grumble or complain constantly?

21. Is Christ real to me?

CLOSING PRAYERS

Pray for Hardy Street Baptist Church: Pray that each member would be committed to our mission of "Making Disciples among our Neighbors, the Nations, and the Next Generation". Ask God to strengthen and encourage each staff member as they serve in their callings. Pray for wisdom and a faithful spirit for our deacons as they serve the church. Pray that every ministry of H.S.B.C. will proclaim the name of Jesus so clearly, joyfully and loudly that it cannot be ignored.

Pray for our City, State, and Nation: Pray for our government leaders in Hattiesburg throughout the Pine Belt. Ask God to give them courage to make wise decisions. Pray for guidance for our governor and state legislature as they make laws that affect our lives. Pray for our president and national leaders. Plead with Him for a revival for the church and America.

Father, Your Word says there is a time to be silent. Help me make time to retreat from the noise of the world, to spend quiet time with You. As we approach Good Friday and Easter Sunday, create in us a greater desire to sit silently in Your presence in gratitude and reverence. Amen.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - HOLY SERVICE

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." John 13:12-14

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 34-35

FOCUS The disciples called Jesus "master" and "teacher," but He humbly and lovingly served them when He could have expected to be served. Jesus taught them by taking on the lowly task of washing their dirty, tired feet. This humble regard for others is what attracts people to the gospel. We need this lesson on service and humility. As the Passover meal was drawing to a close, Jesus instituted what we call The Lord's Supper.

DEVOTIONAL Thursday of Holy Week was busy as the disciples prepared to celebrate the Passover meal together. What they didn't understand was that this would be Jesus' last day with them. They must have been shocked when Jesus took a basin of water and began to wash their feet. It was a lowly task usually assigned to a house servant – yet He did it to teach them a lesson about serving others. Did they get it? Apparently not, because a few minutes later they were arguing over which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24-30). Jesus' simple act of washing their feet showed there is no room for selfishness and pride in the heart of a Christ-follower. At the end of the Passover meal He taught them a new way to receive the wine and bread as a memorial to Him. The disciples were surely troubled and confused at Jesus' words that one of them would betray Him. Jesus' farewell gift to His disciples was the promise that they shouldn't be afraid because the Holy Spirit would come to help them.

Later in the evening Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment. "Love one another. As I have loved you, you must also love one another" (John

13:34). Traditionally, churches began to call this day of Holy Week, Maundy Thursday. Maundy is the Latin word from which we get our word "mandate." This new command of Jesus carries a much heavier weight than the Old Testament command to love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). This thought shines a whole new light on how Christ followers see service. It completely negates the idea that church is the place you come to be a spectator, be entertained and have your needs met. Instead, church is the place where Christ-followers report for duty and use their gifts and talents to help spread the gospel.

Thursday ends with Jesus and His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane. His disciples were so tired they fell asleep while Jesus prayed. Jesus begged God to change His mind but accepted God's answer that there is no other way. It was in the garden where Jesus made the decision. It wasn't at Calvary where the battle was fought and won. It was late Thursday evening in Gethsemane.

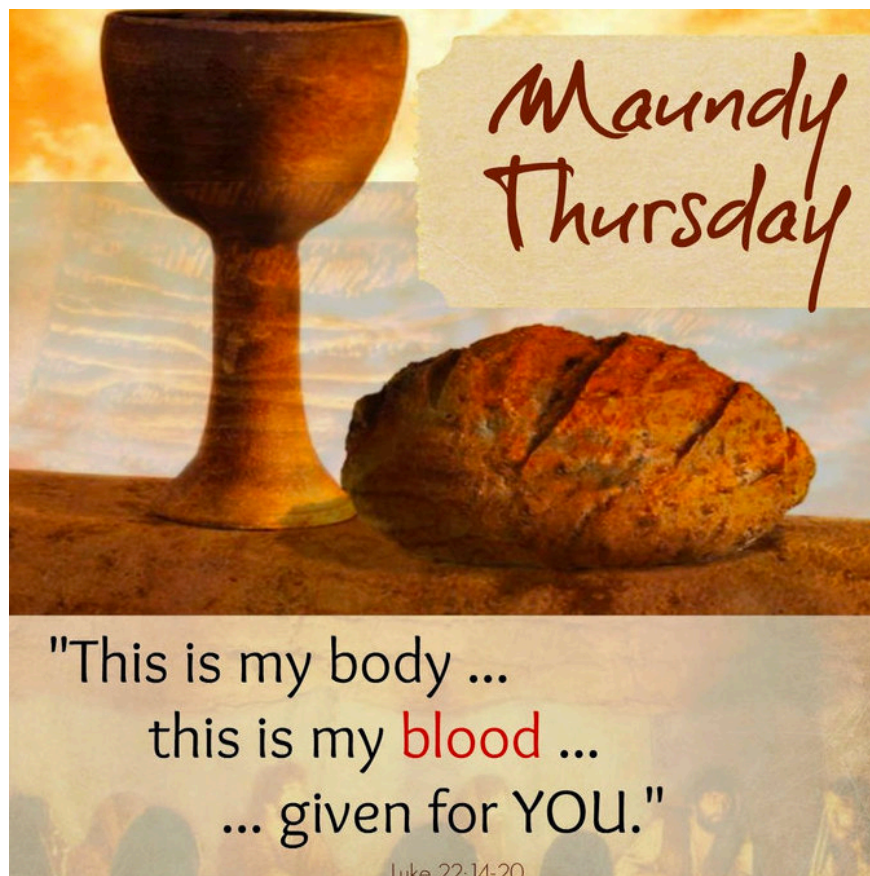
FOLLOW Most of the time service is not glamorous. It goes against our human nature since it represents a position of humility and a mindset of putting others first. So we must ask the Holy Spirit to change us. Remember Jesus' words, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). Then hear Him tell you, "Love others as I have loved you." Who is He calling you to serve today? How can you serve at Englewood? Determine your course of action: make a phone call, send a note, lend a hand, speak a kind word or wash some feet!

PRAYER Pray the words to this beautiful prayer song by Steve and Tim Archer. "Make me like You, Lord, please make me like You. You are a servant. Make me one, too. Lord, I am willing, do what You must do, To make me like You, Lord. Please make me like You.

MAUNDY THURSDAY LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE - WORSHIP WITH US -

We invite you to come to the worship center at 5:30 for a time of silent reflection as we consider the cross. The service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and we will observe the Lord's Supper together in this moving service that sets our expectation on the hope of resurrection!

We ask that you enter & exit this moving service in silence and reverent prayer. This service is a somber and sobering reflection on what Jesus would endure the following day. This service is an opportunity to contemplate all the events of His suffering, His scourging, His sacrifice. We know that "Sundays' Comin'" and we will celebrate, but we need to take time for reflection. The depth of His suffering on Friday raises the significance of the Celebration on Sunday!



GOOD FRIDAY - HOLY EXCHANGE

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Scripture: Mark 15:1-47, 2 Corinthians 5:21

FOCUS It is no coincidence that Jesus' crucifixion occurred during Passover. In the courtyard of the Temple, throngs of families each brought their Passover lamb. Chosen because it was without spot or blemish, it was a sinless substitute. After it was examined and approved by the priest, the lamb was slaughtered, and the blood was sprinkled on the altar to cover the sins of the family for that year. Meanwhile, just outside the city gates, Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, was crucified for our sins. Our sins, which separate us from God have been removed, and God accepts us because of the sacrifice of Jesus. God drops all charges against us, declares us forgiven, and dresses us in His righteousness. A holy exchange – our sins are laid on Jesus and His righteousness is laid on us.

DEVOTIONAL On Good Friday, Jesus' journey turned treacherous and painful in these final hours leading to His death. During three unlawful Jewish trials and three Roman trials, He endured the shame of false accusations, beatings, condemnation, and mockery. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion, a punishment reserved for criminals. As He was led away, soldiers spit on Him, tormented and mocked Him, piercing Him with a crown of thorns.

At Calvary, the mocking and insults continued as Roman soldiers nailed Him to the cross. Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. His sixth statement was three powerful words: "It is finished." In the Greek, "It is finished," is tetelestai. When the priest examined an animal sacrifice and found it acceptable he would announce, "tetelestai." Perhaps the most meaningful use of tetelestai was when a banker or lender said to the borrower, **"The debt is paid in full!"**

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid our debt in full. The blood sacrifices in the Temple that day in Jerusalem could not take away sins; they only covered sin. But the blood of the perfect Lamb of God can take away the sins of the world. When Jesus' mangled body uttered those words He was saying to God the Father, "I have finished what You sent me to do." Blood was shed. Sins were forgiven. Righteousness was exchanged. Your debt was paid. Salvation was secured! Every forgiven sinner added a new word to their vocabulary: Redeemed! When Jesus breathed His last and died, nature grieved and groaned; rocks tumbled, the sky blackened. In the Temple, the veil was torn from top to bottom. At that moment, man was reconciled with God. He no longer had need of a priest. Jesus' death on the cross completed the most difficult chapter in the story God had been writing since Genesis, chapter 3.

FOLLOW The crowds in Jerusalem that Passover had come to take care of their sins. But the Lamb of God was walking among them, and they missed Him. This holy exchange becomes ours, not by works, but by faith alone. You can't take care of your sins. Our only response to this gift of grace is to kneel at the cross. Linger there and look at what He did for you. How does the cross change the way you live?

PRAYER Oh God, the cross just doesn't make sense. I guess it's because grace doesn't make sense. But out of the ugliness of the cross You brought the beauty of forgiveness. My only response to such grace and mercy is gratitude and surrender. Thank you that because of your sacrifice I can live free. Thank you that sin and death have been conquered. Thank you that we can say with great hope, "It is finished..."

** Visit hardysbc.net/goodfriday on April 2 for a Virtual Devotional & Worship Experience - Dr. Hanberry will be leading a pre-recorded "virtual" worship experience that you and your family can watch "on demand" as your schedule allows. Email instructions and a video link will be sent out as well.

SATURDAY - HOLY MYSTERY

"The mystery [of the gospel] is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of Him all their lives stand on the same ground before God. They get the....same promises in Christ Jesus....Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all..." Ephesians 3:5-6; 6:19 (The Message)

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-66

FOCUS Jesus is dead. Buried in a borrowed tomb. The disciples never thought He would be crucified. Imagine the shock, the pain, the fear, and the confusion they were feeling. Was all that He said true? Were they fools for leaving everything to follow Him? Personal pain can be so traumatic that we lose our vision; lose our focus. Human doubt comes face-to-face with the mystery of the gospel. The disciples were looking at the situation from the mindset of the here-and-now. But God the Father always had the mindset of eternity.

DEVOTIONAL Only four verses in the whole Bible (Matthew 27:62-66) give us a picture of what happened on Saturday. Joseph and Nicodemus claimed the body of Jesus and buried Him in a garden tomb. The religious leaders went to Pilate on the Sabbath (Saturday) to request that he place extra guards at Jesus' tomb. They feared the disciples would try to steal Jesus' body and claim He had risen. But the disciples weren't plotting a way to steal Jesus' body. They were grieving the loss of their friend and teacher, humiliated they really believed He was the Messiah. God's plan had not gone haywire. The problem was the disciples' focus. They were looking at things from their perspective, while God always sees things in light of eternity. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the Church was not a divine afterthought. God gave us the gospel of salvation so we could share it and shout it. He gave us the Church as the vehicle, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to take the gospel to everyone. God's vision is all people united together in one body – the body of Christ – the unity of

the church. Paul writes a few chapters later "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

FOLLOW So how are we doing? Are we looking at the Church through our own eyes or through the eyes of Jesus? Are we living out our faith according to our own understanding or according to God's plan? Do we believe the mystery of the gospel demands that all people, everywhere, need to hear that Jesus died for them and that we need to tell them?

PRAYER Father, forgive us when we look at Your plan, the gospel, and the church through our own eyes. Forgive us for being like Your disciples on that Saturday long ago, full of doubt, questions, and fear. Give us eyes to see people as You see them. Empower us so that whenever we open our mouth, words may be given us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

In Silence We Wait



RESURRECTION SUNDAY - HOLY VICTORY

Scripture: Luke 24:1-35

FOCUS This journey through Holy Week began last Sunday as Jesus was hailed as a king in the streets of Jerusalem. You have traveled with Him this week as He taught the disciples, returned to the Temple for the last time, prepared the disciples for His death and their ministry at the Lord's Supper, wept and prayed in Gethsemane, endured the humiliation and suffering of the crucifixion and then death and burial. So we end up here on the last day of Holy Week in a cemetery – a place of death. But death is not the end of this story. Today is the death of DEATH. It is RESURRECTION DAY!

DEVOTIONAL The day after a funeral dawns like no other day. How do you go on? Many of us have been there. That's how it must have felt to the group of women who had spent the past three years in ministry with Jesus. All four gospels list different names, but we know these: Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Mary the mother of Jesus, Salome, Joanna (Luke adds, "and others"). Imagine their surprise when the stone had already been rolled back by an earthquake and an angel. Warren Wiersbe says, "The tomb was open, not to let Jesus out, but to let the witnesses in." One of the angels gently rebuked the women by asking why they had come to the cemetery to look for Someone who was alive. Recovering from their shock, they ran to tell the disciples. Luke writes that the disciples thought they were talking nonsense. But Peter and John raced to the tomb. John won the race but didn't go in. Peter barged right in, inspected the folded grave clothes, then John joined him. John 20:8-9 shares a revealing insight: "Finally the other disciple (John), who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the grave)." Luke says that "Peter went away 25 wondering what had happened" (24:10). Complete understanding of Scripture is not required to have a believing heart. So these people were eyewitnesses to the resurrection. And they never got over it. They never got over the fact that on Easter Sunday when they went to the tomb, Jesus

was gone. He is alive! A little over a month later, that resurrection message was fuel to the 120 believers gathered to celebrate Pentecost. A Holy Spirit revival brought 3,000 new believers and the rest of the New Testament is a record of how “they never got over the resurrection.”

Jesus’ resurrection shows:

- That Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The only One to conquer the power of death.
- That Jesus’ sacrifice for sin has been accepted and the work of salvation is complete. Someone has said that the resurrection is God’s “Amen” to Jesus’ “It is finished.” Because He is alive, His children can “walk in newness of life” because His Spirit empowers them.
- That His resurrection is the proof and promise of our resurrection. One day your heart will stop. That will be the end of your body. But it will not be the end of you. God made you to last forever. What God did for Jesus, He will do for us. “By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also” (1 Corinthians 6:14). Ultimately, it is the proof of a coming day of examination & rewards, followed by eternity in the presence of God.



PRAYER Father, we just can’t get over the resurrection. We celebrate today Your holy victory. May we be known as a church that just can’t get over the resurrection. We echo these powerful lyrics written by Bill Gaither: Hang out the banners and shout the news! Blow the trumpets and horns ‘Til there is no one who hasn’t heard “We shall not die anymore! ” I’m here to tell you that Jesus lives As He lives, so shall we Dying and fear have all passed away Swallowed in victory!

Holy Week Resources for Families

For a variety of activities, discussion starters,
free printable, recipes and more visit:

hardysbc.net/holyweek

EasterNow App

Download the “EasterNow” App through the App Store or Google Play. Experience the events of Passion Week in real time. EasterNow provides step-by-step notification of Easter events and locations from Palm Sunday until Easter Morning.



Resurrection Eggs

Family Life Ministries created an incredible teaching resource for families. “Resurrection Eggs” are a great way to connect your kids/grandkids with the story of easter. If you visit the H.S.B.C. Holy Week Page, you’ll find instructions for making your own, or a link to purchase a pre-made set.

Easter Cookies

Check out this great “hands on” lesson approach to teaching the story of the resurrection. hardysbc.net/cookies

Holy Week for Kids: 7 Activities

We want to encourage and equip you to start Christ-Centered Easter Family Traditions this year! Holy Week offers so many amazing teachable moments to pass along a legacy of faith! Here are a few simple ideas.

1. Make a Palm Sunday craft. Celebrate and discuss Palm Sunday with this simple craft of handmade palm leaves. All it takes is green paper, scotch tape, a popsicle stick and a little hand tracing fun! Palm Sunday is a time when Christians remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate the Passover meal with His disciples. Crowds of people cast their clothing on the road and waved palm branches in the air. The palm branches were a symbol of victory and celebration. On Palm Sunday, some churches pass out freshly cut palm branches and wave them in the air in celebration. Many children's ministries also have palm branch crafts for kids, but you can easily make these on your own!

2. Act out the Resurrection Story, or Passion Play, as a family. Gather props from around the house and assign characters to tell the story from their perspective. Possible characters: the disciples, a donkey, Pilate, Mary, the angel, Roman soldiers, and of course, Jesus. The website Sunday-School-Center.com has a few free skits, ranging in length (from 5-12 minutes) and age-appropriateness (from preschoolers to teens), that you can download for free if you want to put on a fun skit and act out the story with your kids.

3. Read the Biblical account of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Mark 14-16) You can highlight a few verses each night during Holy Week, or read it all at once with your kids. (For families with older children, use the devotional guide included on pages 11-27. For families with younger children, stop by our hardysbc.net/holyweek page for devotional choices) For younger children, The Jesus Storybook Bible is a wonderful way to introduce the life of Jesus to young hearts.

4. Find ways to serve each other on Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday, like Jesus did for the disciples before the Passover meal. The Thursday before Easter commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ.

You can discuss with your kids how Jesus washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper and how serving others glorifies Christ. Find ways to serve each other in your home anytime this week, but especially on Thursday, and look for opportunities to serve in your community.

5. Read the Passover story in Exodus 12. Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays, and there are many reasons Christian children should know and understand the significance of this event in the last days of Jesus. You can describe the significance of Christ as the Lamb of God, and how our Passover Lamb bought us our freedom. For further ideas, author Ann Voskamp has a lovely blog post explaining how to celebrate a Christian Passover meal with your children.

6. Honor Good Friday with a somber and quiet evening. Good Friday, also called Holy Friday or Great Friday, is the Friday before Easter and the day when Christians around the world remember when Jesus died. Many churches have special services to remember the time when Jesus suffered on the cross. It is a time to pray, and to remember that Jesus loved us so much He was willing to die for us. At home, you can have a dimly lit Good Friday dinner and leave the lights low all evening in observance of the death of Christ. Also, Dr. Hanberry will be leading a "virtual" worship experience that will release on Good Friday.

7. Create the Jelly Bean Prayer Poem and craft! The rainbow jelly bean craft is a great way to illustrate the Story of Jesus' death and resurrection for kids.

Red is for the blood He gave, Green is for the grass He made, Yellow is for the sun so bright, Orange is for the edge of night...



If you love jelly beans, this activity will be a hit in your home! It is a favorite for explaining Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in a simple manner for my children. Go to the hardysbc.net/holyweek page for a *Jelly Bean Prayer Poem* free printable that you can use at home or attach and distribute with Easter baskets to share the story of God's love with others through a gift packet of jelly beans.