



HOLY WEEK

5 - 12 April, 2020

The following readings and prayers are your guide to worship during Holy Week

As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's resurrection, we pray these historic prayers and liturgies engage our collective heart, mind, and body in worship of our risen King, Jesus.

The daily prayers have been modified for all ages from The Book of Common Prayer, while the readings model historic Holy Week liturgies in the Anglican and Catholic churches. May the word of God, through his indwelling Spirit, fill your homes with adoration as we prepare for Resurrection Sunday.

4.5 | PALM SUNDAY

READ | Matthew 21:1-11

PRAY | *Almighty and eternal God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take up our nature and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility. Would you teach us by your mercy to suffer as Jesus did, and also how to share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Worship with The Oaks; take a walk and imagine the scene in Matthew 21.

4.6 | HOLY MONDAY

READ | Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 26:6-13

PRAY | *Almighty God, it is astounding that your most dear Son suffered great pain before he entered into joy; that he would be willingly crucified before he entered into glory. Would you give us, by your mercy, a life of peace as remember the cross? This is only possible through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Fill a jar with oil or water. Imagine the liquid cost an entire year's wages. Discuss what could have been done with your own wages for a year. Then, pour out the contents of the jar as you pray for all of your life to come under Christ's lordship.

4.7 | HOLY TUESDAY

READ | Psalm 71:1-16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

PRAY | *O God, the passion of your blessed Son turned a shameful death into the means of life for us. Would you, by your mercy, help us learn to worship in the cross of Christ, that we may also be able to suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Think of the strongest people you know (real or fictional). What about them is similar to Jesus? What is different? Consider the backwards nature of the cross; that what seemed weak and foolish to the world would be our sure and strong salvation.

4.8 | HOLY WEDNESDAY / TENEBRAE (LATIN FOR "DARKNESS")

READ | Isaiah 53:3-6; Matthew 26:1-3, 14-16

PRAY | *Lord God, your blessed Son gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon. Give us grace to joyfully accept the sufferings of the day, confident of the glory that will be revealed through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Hold a miniature tenebrae service: Have dinner by candlelight (ideally 6-8 candles), or simply light candles and sit before them. Then, read today's reading aloud, 1-2 verses at a time, extinguishing one candle after each. Imagine and discuss the utter darkness of betrayal, loneliness, and death that Jesus experienced on our behalf.



4.9 | MAUNDY THURSDAY

READ | Luke 22:14-23; John 13:1-19

PRAY | *Almighty Father, your dear Son gave us the gift of communion the night before he suffered on the cross. Would you, in your mercy, help us to receive it thankfully in as we remember Jesus Christ our Lord, who in this holy and mysterious practice gives us a promise of eternal life. We pray in his name who now lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Wash the feet of your family or roommate. Share a meal with loved ones, remembering the Body and Blood of Christ as you eat with reverence and gratitude.

4.10 | GOOD FRIDAY

READ | Psalm 22:1-24; John 19:1-37

PRAY | *Almighty God, we praise you for adopting us into your family by your grace. For us, Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross. We praise him who now lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Worship at The Oaks (Evensong, 6:00pm)

4.11 | HOLY SATURDAY

READ | Psalm 130; Matthew 27:57-61

PRAY | *O God, Creator of heaven and earth: as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, help us to wait with patience, and to rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Take time to sit in silence either before the sun rises or after the sun goes down. Imagine the painful confusion of the disciples after Jesus' crucifixion. Imagine, also, the work of salvation being done by Christ between the cross and the resurrection. Spend time in reverently thankful prayer.

4.12 | RESURRECTION SUNDAY

READ | Matthew 28; Psalm 33

PRAY | *O God, you gave your only Son to the death of the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection we have been saved from the power of our enemy: We rejoice in your love! Help us to die daily to sin, that we may live forever with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

OBSERVE | Worship with The Oaks (online streaming begins at 9:00a)



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | STREAMING @ 9:00A

RESURRECTION SUNDAY WORSHIP SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | 9:00A & 11:00A