

Saturday

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the World.

John 19.38-42 - The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

1. *Why do you think it was important For Jesus to be buried in a garden?*
2. *Are you good at waiting?*
3. *Do you know anyone in mourning at the moment and how could you help?*

Lord, you dwell within the limits and press beyond them all for borders are not borders with you and death is a gateway to life: take us to the places where hearts fear to tread, and guide our feet to the place where we may sing a new song; through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.



Holy Week Readings and Reflections East Central Rotherham Mission Area

This booklet contains readings for each day in Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday, to help focus your prayers and thoughts as we move towards Easter.

You may find it helpful to set aside 15 minutes a day and read the Bible passage and use the questions for quiet reflection and finish with the prayer. You may also find it helpful to light a candle as you do this or use a picture of Jesus to help you focus.

Palm Sunday

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Mark 11.1-11 - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

1. *What do you think people thought seeing Jesus riding a donkey instead of a great horse?*
2. *How do you best praise God?*
3. *What are you most looking forward to celebrating and who with?*

Humble Lord, while people called for a warrior-king, the colt revealed your servanthood: as you face the way of tears, the tearing of the temple veil, take us from the baying mob to place our faith in you, Jesus Christ, our victim and our saviour. Amen.

Monday

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John 12:1-11 - Mary Anoints Jesus

¹² Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfil what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." ²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

1. *How do you think the soldiers were feeling compared to the women in this scene?*
2. *What is the biggest sacrifice you've made for another person?*
3. *Which people are having their lives taken from them unjustly around the world today?*

Lord, you are punctured, knowing in your flesh the sharp violence that kills what it fears: take us through this day of darkness into a new world where life always flows into a new body – wounded but unafraid; through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.

though not all of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?” ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

1. *Why do you think Peter wanted Jesus to wash all of him?*
2. *Do you prefer to be served or to serve others?*
3. *Who are people that serve others that need more recognition?*

Lord, you are always breaking open our communities, our identities, our images of you: open our hearts to receive the gift you offer, and open our hands so that we might not cling to it selfishly but offer it too all, washed or unwashed; through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.

Good Friday

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the World.

John 19.17-30 - The Crucifixion of Jesus

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ 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

1. *What do you think the mood was like in the room whilst Mary anointed Jesus, do you think it changed when Judas spoke?*
2. *What is the most precious thing you own, how could you use it to give glory to God?*
3. *Who are people in your community that need recognizing for the good they do?*

Lord, you bring us into being and let our lives touch your heart: may the fragrance of our worship draw us closer to your open heart and free us from our clinging to the things we can control; through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.

Tuesday

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John 12.20-36 - Jesus Speaks about His Death

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

1. *Do you think Jesus is hopeful about his death here?*
2. *What emotions do you feel when you see pictures of Jesus on the Cross?*
3. *Where are places in the world that need Christ's Light?*

Lord, you make a gift of death to bring us to new life:
free us from our need to fix and own your name so we may look for the
day when you are lifted high and all are drawn into the arms of love;
through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.

Wednesday

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John 13.21-32 - Jesus Foretells His Betrayal

²¹After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. ²³One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; ²⁴Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

1. *What do you think the different disciples were feeling here? How might that change throughout the reading?*
2. *Have you ever been betrayed by someone? Have you ever betrayed another? How does it feel?*
3. *Do you know people who are hard to trust? How might God view those people?*

Lord, you let us convert you into currency and commodity so that you can pay the price beyond all accounting: may we offer our misused powers to you knowing that you can transform them, knowing that even this betrayal is still a kiss; through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.

Maundy Thursday

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John 13.1-17 - Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean,